

Guidelines for AMSSM Position Statements

PURPOSE:

The American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM) publishes position statements on active topics in the sports medicine field to give evidence-based expert recommendations on the treatment of the athletic population. The AMSSM position statements:

1. Address active and potentially controversial topics in sports medicine
2. Represent the organization's stance on sports related topics
3. Express definitive recommendations on treatment or course of action to guide present and future decisions regarding these topics

TOPIC AND WRITER SELECTION:

Development of the AMSSM position statement is overseen by the Publications Committee with final approval by the Board of Directors. Potential topics may be selected by an individual member, committee, or the Board and submitted to the Publications Committee using the "Intent Form for AMSSM Position Statements." The intent form is available on the website and should be submitted before January 1st of each year. The Publications Committee will review intent forms submitted and select 1-2 topics annually to forward for approval to the Board of Directors.

Once a topic has been accepted, 2-5 AMSSM members whom have expertise in the topic of interest are contacted to provide lead authorship on the Position Statement. A writing group is formed, including these experts, a member of the Publications Committee, and if possible, a member of the Pronouncement Committee. The determined group then compiles evidence-based data regarding the topic. This is reviewed and expanded upon by the group into a position statement. The statement is then submitted to the Publications Committee, within 1 year of intent approval, for review before submission to the Board. Once released, the Position Statement represents the AMSSM's stance and recommendations on the chosen sports medicine topic.

FORMAT:

The document is 4-12 double spaced, typed pages in 12-point font written in accordance with the publishing expectations of *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*. These expectations can be found at <http://edmgr.ovid.com/cjasm/accounts/ifaauth.htm>. The following sections should be included:

- Title
- Introduction: The introduction should include statements as to the relevance of the paper to the AMSSM's mission and to the health of our athletic

population, as well as reasons why this particular sports medicine topic needs to be addressed.

- Background: This section should include a review of the current literature and treatment options regarding the topic being addressed. The level of evidence-based data reviewed needs to be described. This section is the body of the statement.
- Recommendations: Specific guidelines for treatment and medical planning should be given in this section, based on review of the evidence-based literature and the experienced expert panel opinion regarding the current sports medicine topic. Formal rules of evidence should be used in the development of this section.
- References: References need to be listed consecutively in the order that they appear in the text.

REVIEWER:

The AMSSM Position Statement is initially reviewed by the Publications Committee, and if acceptable, sent to the Pronouncement Committee and the Board of Directors, respectively, for final review and approval.

PUBLICATION:

AMSSM Position Statements will be published in the *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine* and electronically posted. Member authors are identified in the position statement. A press release will be distributed by the Public Relations Committee.