

Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association

Competition Injury Protocol Policy



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Revisions in **RED**, approved February 5, 2024



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Introduction

For the safety and protection of any injured athlete at an SCA sanctioned competition, as well as the protection of the first-aid personnel we have an injured athlete protocol for all SCA sanctioned competitions. This will apply to injuries where the athlete requires additional assistance to move from the mat or performing surface, the athlete is unconscious, or the athlete is unable to move. This policy values the physical safety and mental health of the participant.

Event Producer Requirements:

1. It is required that all SCA sanctioned event, event producers have a procedure in place for cleaning up any bodily fluids from the competition (or warm-up) floor in a timely manner
2. A certified professional medical advisor (i.e. Saint John's Ambulance, athletic therapist) needs to be provided by the event producer and must be present for the duration of practice and competition and equipped and ready to handle emergencies. The Safety Judge reserves the right to cancel or postpone an event if medical advisors are not in attendance. **They** must be present in the competition area for all practice mat and competition times, and must have adequate supplies readily available.
3. It is required that all SCA sanctioned event, event producers follow the procedure below for all competition floor injuries.
4. **Event producers are responsible for informing competing teams of the injury protocol when competition information is released.**

Injury Protocol for Event Producers:

1. A large blanket/protection screen must be readily available to create a private space for the injury to be dealt with. There is a 30 second grace period from the point in time the injury is realized/performance music is stopped and the privacy screen is up on the performance surface. It is recommended that Event Producers communicate to coaches that it will be the responsibility of the team coaches to hold the privacy screen. This information should be communicated to event attendees no less than 30 days prior to the event. This is to be done under the direction of the event producer.
2. There is a 30 second grace period from the point in time the performance music is stopped and background music is played, it is imperative for athlete privacy that background music is played until the performance area is cleared and ready for the next performance. This is to be done under the direction of the event producer.
3. Stage lighting must be dimmed or turned off until the performance area is cleared and ready for the next performance. This is to be done under the direction of the event producer.
4. The fan zone and surrounding area of the injured athlete and performance area (within a 25-foot radius) must be cleared until the performance area is cleared and ready for the next performance. This is to be done under the direction of the event producer.
5. All other athletes must immediately clear the mat and/or performance surface. This is to be done under the direction of the event producer.
6. No additional athletes are permitted to enter the performance surface or mats where the injured athlete is (i.e. athletes from other teams at that club may want to see if that athlete is okay, but this creates confusion and more danger).
7. Coaches from that team and parents or guardians of the injured athlete can stay on the mat with the injured athlete. This should be limited to 3 people, in addition to the two people who have created a privacy barrier. **Other athletes from the competing team must leave the performing surface.**
8. Only the event medic can attend the injured person. Should the event medic require additional assistance they can specifically request it and the competition organizer and/or SCA will seek out an additional resource. (there may be spectators that are nurses, doctors, EMTs, etc., but too many people trying to help is ineffective and can create more danger)