

2023 AMG Infectious Disease Policy

As at 13 June 2023

Policy Objective

The aim and objective of this policy is to outline methods to reduce the risk of transmitting infectious diseases and guidelines for the handling and disposing of infectious waste.

Policy Key Principles

- A number of blood-borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during body contact and collision sports.
- The more serious include HEPATITIS and HIV (AIDS) infections.
- These diseases may be spread by contact between broken skin or mucous membranes and infected blood, saliva (not for HIV), semen and vaginal fluids.
- There is no evidence that sweat, urine and tears will transmit Hepatitis B or HIV.
- Additional Hepatitis B vaccination information may be obtained from government health agencies and medical professionals.
- All open cuts and abrasions must be reported to sports medicine personnel and treated immediately.

Procedures/Processes

Reducing risk of transmitting infectious diseases

All open cuts and abrasions must be reported and treated immediately. Responsibilities of parties are as follows.

Participants

- It is the responsibility of participants to maintain strict personal hygiene as this is the best method of controlling the spread of infectious diseases.
- Participants should be aware that sharing of towels, shaving razors, face washers and drink containers is strongly discouraged as these practices are known to increase the likelihood of the spread of infectious diseases.
- It is strongly recommended that all participants involved in contact/collision sports be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B. All participants with prior evidence of these diseases are strongly advised to obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to participation.

Team areas

- It is the responsibility of the respective host sports to ensure that the dressing rooms are clean and tidy.
- Particular attention should be paid to hand basins, toilets and showers.
- Adequate soap, paper hand towels, brooms, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants, must be available at all times.
- Communal bathing areas (e.g. spas) should be strongly discouraged and the practices of spitting and urinating in team areas must not be permitted.
- All open cuts and abrasions in team areas must be reported and treated immediately.
- It is strongly recommended that all personnel working in contact/collision sport team areas should be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B.

Referees and game officials

- Officials must report all open cuts and abrasions to sport medicine personnel at the first available opportunity.
- Officials must also be treated immediately for open cuts and abrasions.
- Should this occur the event shall be stopped until the official is treated or a substitute official is in place to resume the event.

- It is strongly recommended that those who officiate in body contact/collision sports should be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B.

General

- If bleeding should recur, the above procedures must be repeated.
- If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player must not continue in the game.
- Those handling bleeding players should wear disposable plastic or rubber gloves.
- Resuscitation bags or disposable mouth to mouth devices should be available.
- All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious.
- Contaminated clothing and equipment must be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume play.
- Household bleach in a 1:10 solution may be used to wash contaminated areas and white clothing should be soaked in 1:10 solution bleach for 30 minutes before washing. Bleach should be rinsed off after use. Colour clothing should be soaked in disinfectant for 30 minutes then washed at high temperature on a long cycle.

Education

- There is an obligation upon all relevant sporting organisations to provide suitable information on the associated risk factors and prevention strategies against these diseases. Additional information may be obtained from SASMA personnel or state Health Departments.
- The safe handling of contaminated clothing, equipment and surfaces must be brought to the attention of all players and ancillary staff.
- Although Hepatitis B vaccination is usually effective in raising immunity to Hepatitis B, it provides no protection against other blood-borne diseases, such as HIV. Vaccinations must not result in relaxation of hygiene standards.

Handling & disposing of infectious waste

Potentially infectious clinical waste is waste which is contaminated with human blood or body fluids, generated during the treatment or investigation of any person even though an infection is not known or suspected to be present.

Sharps are objects or devices having acute rigid corners, edges, points or protuberances capable of cutting or penetrating the skin. Common examples include: metal needles, disposable splinter probes, broken glass or hard plastic.

Handling procedures

- Disposable plastic or rubber gloves must be worn whilst treating participants, and whilst handling potentially infectious waste created as a result of that treatment.
- Potentially infectious waste is only to be handled by official sports medicine personnel.

Disposal procedures

- Potentially infectious waste must be double bagged immediately and sealed before being disposed of.

Related Documentation

- AMG Incident Report Form
- AMG Risk Management Plan
- AMG Sports Medicine Plan

Related Policies

- AMG Games Communications Policy
- AMG Incident Reporting Policy
- AMG Insurance Policy
- AMG Media Policy