

## Code of Conduct

### **Article 1 - Duties of an SCA Member to an Athlete**

1. The chiropractor recognizes the multidisciplinary needs of the athlete and collaborates with other health care practitioners to benefit the athlete.
2. Before chiropractic care is given prior to an event the chiropractor shall consider the total systemic effects of the care. This is of particular relevance if the athletes are not familiar with the practitioner or have not received Chiropractic care previously. Consideration shall also be given to the modality of care that a given athlete is familiar with.
3. The chiropractor shall recognize the responsibility to render health services to any athlete regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, philosophical or political belief.
4. The chiropractor shall recognize the limitations of his or her expertise, and, when indicated, shall recommend to an athlete that additional opinions and services be considered.
5. The chiropractor shall respect an athlete's right to accept or decline care.
6. The right of an athlete to select professional health care, separate or complementary to chiropractic care shall be recognized.
7. An athlete, having been accepted for care, shall never be abandoned without due regard for the athlete's welfare. Sufficient notice of withdrawal shall be given to permit the athlete to secure another practitioner.
8. The chiropractor shall make sure that the athlete, and, with the athletes consent, those responsible for the athlete, have a clear understanding of the athlete's condition and recommendations for chiropractic or other care.
9. The support of intentional or unintentional doping practices at all levels is strictly prohibited. The provisions against doping in the World Anti-Doping Code shall be scrupulously observed.
10. Smoking: All treatment areas are considered non-smoking areas. Consumption of alcoholic beverages and the use of illegal drugs during event participation is strictly prohibited.
11. Sexual contact with athletes or patients is strictly prohibited, unless there is a relationship pre-existing the event. A strict code of moral conduct and behaviour between team members while in public view shall be observed at all times.

### **Article 2 - Duties of the SCA Member to the Profession**

#### **Personal and Professional Conduct**

1. The chiropractor shall report unethical conduct or incompetence on the part of a member of the profession or, when requested, shall assist an athlete to report such matters to those in authority.
2. The chiropractor shall abstain from political or social comment or self promotion while in his or her role as a practitioner or at other times when such activities might not reflect well on the profession.
3. The conduct of the chiropractor at all times shall merit the respect of the public for the profession.

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4. The best interests of the athlete shall be considered foremost in any given situation.
5. Chiropractors shall display the highest level of professional and ethical standards when representing Sports Chiropractic Australia.

### **Consultation and Examination**

1. Confidential information derived from an athlete, or any other source, may be divulged only with the consent of the athlete, except to safeguard society or when required by law.
2. The chiropractor shall respect the privacy of the athlete.
3. The chiropractor shall recommend only those diagnostic procedures deemed necessary to assist in the care of the athlete.
4. Professional responsibility and scope of practice shall be recognized in advising the athlete of findings and recommendations.
5. No guarantee of cure either by statement or implication shall be given by the chiropractor.
6. Appropriate informed consent for care, and records of care of an acceptable standard and format shall be kept at all times.

### **Consultation**

1. A primary chiropractor shall, when they deem necessary, or when requested to do so by the athlete, seek the opinion of another chiropractor and/or health care practitioner acceptable to the athlete. Having requested that opinion the chiropractor shall make available any relevant information and, following consultation with the athlete, shall clearly indicate whether their colleague is to assume the continuing care of the athlete.
2. The chiropractor shall, when their opinion has been requested by a colleague, report findings and recommendations in detail to the attending chiropractor or health practitioner, and may outline the opinion to the athlete. Care of the athlete shall be continued only at the specific request of the attending chiropractor or health practitioner, and with the consent of the athlete.
3. All care given to the athlete shall be consistent with the ethos of "best practice"

### **Care of the Athlete**

1. A chiropractor shall co-operate with those individuals who, in the chiropractor's opinion, may assist in the most appropriate care of that athlete.
2. A chiropractor shall strive to improve the standard of chiropractic services and health care in the athletic community and such services shall be consistent with the current standard of "best practice".

### **Article 3 - Duties of an SCA member to Society**

1. In the interest of providing competent and high quality chiropractic care, the chiropractor shall support the opportunity of colleagues to obtain recognition and health privileges in the community appropriate to their personal and professional qualifications.
2. Chiropractors working in sport shall make available any knowledge they acquire to their colleagues and profession to benefit all athletes, whilst maintaining the appropriate confidentiality and privacy standards.