SAJ SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA National Center for Sports Science and Research, IGSC, New Delhi – 110002

File No.: 71/6/2023-NCSSR

02/01/2024

CIRCULAR

Subject: - Implementation of Return-to-Play (RTP) guidelines to return an injured or ill athlete to practice or competition without putting the individual at undue risk for injury or illness

Return-to-play (RTP) is the decision-making process of returning an injured or ill athlete to practice or competition. As per the directions of the competent authority, the RTP guidelines with regard to all the Sports streams, which have been prepared in consultation with all the stakeholders, are being released for implementation across all the centres of SAI with immediate effect. (Attached herewith).

All centres in charge are requested to ensure the immediate implementation of these guidelines at their respective SAI Centers. Compliance and regular updates regarding the implementation progress will be intimated to this office.

This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.

Naresh Kumar Director NCSSR 02.01.24

To,

All center incharge
 Copy to: -

DD to DG SAI
 DDG Stadia, DDG OPs.
 RD/Divisional Heads
 Office Copy







National Centre for Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR)

Standard Operating Procedure for Return to Play

Return-to-Play (RTP) is the decision-making process of returning an injured or ill athlete to practice or competition. This ultimately leads to medical clearance of an athlete for full participation in sport. This consensus statement will focus on the process that addresses non-game day RTP decisions.

Goal:-

The goal is to return an injured or ill athlete to practice or competition without putting the individual at undue risk for injury or illness.

To accomplish this goal, the RTP decision making team should have knowledge of and be involved with:

- Establishing a RTP process.
- Evaluating injured or ill athletes.
- Treatment and rehabilitation of injured or ill athletes.
- Returning an injured or ill athlete to play

The objective of this guideline is to provide team who are responsible for the health care of athletes with a decision process for determining when to return an injured or ill athlete to practice or competition. Individual decisions regarding the return of an injured or ill athlete to play will depend on the specific facts and circumstances presented to the medical and decision-making team. Adequate insurance should be in place to help protect the athlete, the sponsoring organization, and the physician.

RTP decision is a multiple steps process and establishment of RTP by evaluation and assessment is the essential first step process in deciding when an injured or ill athlete may safely return to practice or competition. This process should include evaluation of the athlete's health status, participation risk and extrinsic factors.







The final RTP decision is made by using 3 Steps Model

An Overview of Health status of Injured or Ill Athletes will examine by the Medical, Injury & Illness Factors and Scientific evaluation factors. The impact of these evaluation factors computed by using the following examination and assessment protocols.

The Athletes Examination for Medical Factors Evaluation of Injured or Ill Athletes done by the following ..





BASIC FORM						
Personal Particular						
Name						
Fathers Name						
Sports						
Contact No						
Date of Birth						
Height						
Weight						
Blood Group						
Last Inter-National Competition						

Athlete RTP Checklist

S.	Assessment	Description	Responsibility	Cleared	Signed
IN.	Area			(Y/N)	off (incl date)
1	RTP Evaluation	Anamnesis MSK Screening	Physiotherapist		
2	RTP Evaluation	Resting ECG ECG stress test Echocardiography Medical Examination	Sports Medicine Doctor ± Sports Physiologist		
3	RTP Evaluation	Functional Movement Score	Strength & Conditioning Experts		
4	RTP Evaluation	Interview Questionnaires POMS Rest –Q PRIA-RS Tempa Kinesiophobia	Sports Psychologist		
5	RTP Evaluation	Blood Analysis	Nutritionist± Sports Medicine Doctor		
6	RTP Evaluation	Anthropometry Spirometry Gaz Exchange	Anthropometrsit ±Physiologist		
7	Technical	Coach recommendation	Head/ Chief Coach		
8	Clearance Certificate	Final Sign off for RTP	Signed by RTP Team members		





Department of Sports Physiotherapy

MUSCULOSKELETAL SCREENING

Athlete to be addressed to the physiotherapy department /Sports Medicine Department

COMPETITION HISTORY

Weight Category -

Dominant hand/leg \Box left \Box right

Number of matches/fights / competitions in last 12 months

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

	ury lead	ng to more than 4 weeks	of limited participation	n or absence from	playing/training
⊔ NO	Body				.
	Left	Right	Lasted o	ccurrence	Intervention
		\Box head/face	When	(year)	
		□ cervical spine	When	(year)	
		□ thoracic spine	When	(year)	
		□ lumbar spine	When	(year)	
		□ sternum/ribs	When	(year)	
		□ abdomen	When	(year)	
		□ pelvis/sacrum	When	(year)	
Details:					•
□ NO	Upper l	oody			
	Left	Right	Lasted occu	rrence	Intervention
		□ shoulder	When	(year)	
		□ upper arm	When	(year)	
		□ elbow	When	(year)	
		□ forearm	When	(year)	
		□ wrist	When	(year)	
		□ hand	When	(year)	
		□ fingers	When	(year)	
Details:			·	<u> </u>	
□ NO	Lower	body			
	Left	Right	Lasted occu	rrence	Intervention
		□ hip	When	(year)	
		□ groin	When	(year)	
		□ thigh	When	(year)	
		\Box knee	When	(year)	
	_	- 1 1	W/hen	(vear)	
		\Box lower leg	When	() () ()	
		□ lower leg □ Achilles tendon	When	(year)	
		□ lower leg □ Achilles tendon □ ankle	When When When	(year) (year)	





Surgical in	terventions / operations	of the musculoskeletal syst	em:	
□ NO	Body			
	Left Right	Lasted	occurrence	Intervention
	□ □ head/fac	e When	(year)	
	\Box \Box cervical s	pine When	(year)	
	\Box \Box thoracic s	spine When	(year)	
	\Box \Box lumbar s	bine When	(year)	
	□ □ sternum/n	ribs When	(year)	
		n When	(year)	
	□ □ pelvis/sa	crum When	(year)	
Details:				
\Box NO	Upper body			
	Left Right	Lasted	occurrence	Intervention
		When	(year)	
	\Box \Box upper arr	n When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Elbow	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Forearm	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Wrist	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Hand	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Fingers	When	(year)	
Details:				
□ NO	Lower body			
	Left Right	Lasted	loccurrence	Intervention
	□ □ Hip	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Groin	When	(year)	
	□ □ Thigh	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Knee	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box lower leg	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Achilles	tendon When	(year)	
	\Box \Box Ankle	When	(year)	
	\Box \Box foot, toes	When	(year)	
Details:				





Current	complaint	s of the musculoskeletal s	ystem		
NO	Body				
	Left	Right	Lasted occurrence		Intervention
		□ head/face	When	(year)	
		□ cervical spine	When	(year)	
		□ thoracic spine	When	(year)	
		□ lumbar spine	When	(year)	
		□ sternum/ribs	When	(year)	
		□ abdomen	When	(year)	
		□ pelvis/sacrum	When	(year)	
Details:					
NO	Upper	body			
	Left	Right	Lasted occur	rence	Intervention
		□ shoulder	When	(year)	
		□ upper arm	When	(year)	
		□ elbow	When	(year)	
		□ forearm	When	(year)	
		□ wrist	When	(year)	
		□ hand	When	(year)	
		□ fingers	When	(year)	
Details:					
NO	Lower	body			
	Left	Right	Lasted occurrence		Intervention
		🗆 hip	When	(year)	
		🗆 groin	When	(year)	
		□ thigh	When	(year)	
		□ knee	When	(year)	
		\Box lower leg	When	(year)	
		□ Achilles tendon	When	(year)	
		□ ankle	When	(year)	
			When	(voor)	





MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

A. SPINAL COLUMN AND PELVICLEVEL

Spine form	normal		 ☐ flat ☐ hyper-kypho ☐ hyper-lordo ☐ scoliosis 	osis sis		
Pelvic level	even		cm hi	gher	□ left	□ right
Sacroiliac joint	normal		□ abnormal			
Spinal Flexion						
Distance fingers to floor		_cm				
Cervical rotation						
Right		_degs	Painful	□ no	□ yes	
Left		_degs	Painful	□ no	\Box yes	
Thoracic rotation						
Right		_degs	Painful	□ no	\Box yes	
Left		_degs	Painful	□ no	□ yes	

B. EXAMINATION OF THE SHOULDER, ELBOW AND FOREARM

Flexibility of the SHOUL	DEI	<u>R</u>				
SHOULDER JOINT A	XIS	5				
Right		normal	Anteriorly translated			
Left		normal	Anteriorly translated			
CLAVICLE MOBILIT	ГΥ					
Right		normal	Posteriorly rotated			
Left		normal	Posteriorly rotated			
SCAPULA MOBILIT	Y					
Right		normal	limited	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal	limited	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
FLEXION						
Right		normal	limited	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
Left		normal	limited	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
ABDUCTION						
Right		normal	limited	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal	limited	□ Paint	🗆 no	□ yes





<u>C.</u> EXTERNAL ROTATION (in 90 degs)

Right	□ normal		limited	Painful	no 🗆 no	\Box yes
Left	□ normal		limited	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
INTERNAL ROTAT	TION (in 90 degs)					
Right	□ normal		limited	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
Left	□ normal		limited	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
HAWKINS & KENN	NEDY					
Right	□ normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++		
Left	□ normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++		
EMPTY CAN TEST						
Right	□ normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++		
Left	□ normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++		
FULL CAN TEST						
Right	□ normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++		
Left	□ normal	\Box +	\square ++	\Box +++		
LIFT-OFF TEST						
Right	□ normal	\Box +	□++			
Left	□ normal	□+	□++	□+++		





Muscles

UPPER TRAP	EZIUS				
Right	\Box normal	□ shortened	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left	□ normal	\Box shortened	Painful	□ no	□ yes
PECTORALIS	S MUSCLES				
Right	□ normal	□ shortened	Painful	□ no	\Box yes
Left	\Box normal	□ shortened	Painful	□ no	□ yes
INFRASPINA	TUS				
Right	\Box normal	□ shortened	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left	\Box normal	□ shortened	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Flexibility of the EL	BOW				
FLEXION					
Right	□ normal	□ limited	Painful		□ no
Left	□ normal		Painful		\Box no
					□ yes
ELBOW					
Extension					
Right	□ normal		Painful		□ no
Left	□ normal	□ hyper-ext			⊔ yes
		\Box limited	Painful		🗆 no
					\Box yes
		□ hyper-ext			
VALGUS STR	ESS, IN 30degs FLEX	ION			
Right	□ normal	□+ □++	\Box +++		
Left	□ normal	□+ □++			
VARUS STRE	SS, IN 30degs FLEXI	ON			
Right	□ normal	□+ □++			
Left	□ normal	□+ □++	\Box +++		





Flexibility of the WRIST WRIST

FLEXION					
Right	□ normal	□ limited	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left	□ normal	□ limited	Painful	□ no	□ yes
WRIST EXTENSION					
Right	□ normal	□ limited	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left	□ normal	□ limited	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
HANDS					
Right	□ normal	□ limited	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left	□ normal	□ limited	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes

1.2 EXAMINATION OF THE HIP, KNEE AND ANKLE

Flexibility of the HIP

FLEXION								
Right		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
ABDUCTION								
Right		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
EXTERNAL ROTATI	ON	(in 90 degs)						
Right		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal	□ limited		ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
INTERNAL ROTATIO	ON (in 90 degs)						
Right		normal		limit	ed	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
FABER								
Right		normal	□+	-	\Box ++	\Box +++		
Left		normal	□+	-	\Box ++	\Box +++		
TENDERNESS ON GI	ROI	N PALPATION	N					
Right		normal	□+	-	\Box ++	\Box +++		
Left		normal	□+	-	\Box ++	\Box +++		
EXTENSION								
Right		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal		limit	ed	Painful	□ no	\Box yes





Muscles ADDUCTOR

Right		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	□ no	□ yes
HAMSTRINGS (AK	ET)							
Right		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
ILIOPSOAS (Thoma	ıs Te	st)						
Right		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	□ no	□ yes
Left		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
RECTUS FEMORIS	(Th	omas Test)						
Right		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
TENSOR FASCIA L	ATA	AE/ ILIOTIBL	AL	BAND	(Ober's Te	st)		
Right		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left		normal		shorter	ned	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Flexibility of the KNEB	<u> </u>							
KNEE JOINT AXIS								
Right		normal		Gen	u varum	🗆 Genu	valgum	
Left		normal		Gen	u varum	🗆 Genu	valgum	
FLEXION								
Right		normal] limit	ted	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
Left		normal] limit	ted	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
EXTENSION								
Right		normal] limit	ted	Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
				hype	er-ext	-		
Left		normal] limit	ted	_ Painful	🗆 no	□ yes
LACHMAN TEST			_	_ nypt		-		
Right		normal	Г	1+	\Box_{++}	\Box +++		
Left		normal]+	 □++	\square +++		
ANTERIOR DRAW	ER S	SIGN						
Right		normal	C]+	□++	\Box +++		
- Left		normal]+	□++	\Box +++		
Lett								





POSTERIOR	DRAWER	SIGN
ODIEMON	DIANER	DIGIN

Right		normal	□ +	□ ++	□ +++
Left		normal	□ +	□ ++	□ +++
VALGUS STRESS, I	N E	XTENSION			
Right		normal	□ +	□ ++	□ +++
Left		normal	\Box +	\Box ++	□ +++
VALGUS STRESS, I	N 3(degs FLEXIO)	N		
Right		normal	□ +	□ ++	□ +++
Left		normal	□+	\Box ++	□ +++
VARUS STRESS, IN	EX	TENSION			
Right		normal	□+	□ ++	□ +++
Left		normal	\Box +	\Box ++	□ +++
VARUS STRESS, IN 30degs FLEXION					
Right		normal	□+	□ ++	□ +++
Left		normal	□ +	\Box ++	\Box +++

Flexibility of the ANKLE /FOOT

TENDERNESS OF A	ACH	ILLES TEND	ON		
Right		🗆 no	□ yes		
Left		□ no	□ yes		
ANTERIOR DRAW	ER S	SIGN			
Right		normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++
Left		normal	\Box +	\Box ++	\Box +++
DORSIFLEXION					
Right		degs	Painful	🗆 ne	o 🗆 yes
Left		degs	Painful	🗆 ne	o 🗆 yes
PLANTARFLEXIO	N				
Right		degs	Painful	🗆 ne	o 🗆 yes
Left		degs	Painful	🗆 ne	o 🗆 yes
TOTAL SUPINATIO	ON				
Right		normal	□ decrea	sed	□increased
Left		normal	□ decrea	sed	□increased





TOTAL PRONATION						
Right		normal	decreased	□increased		
Left		normal	decreased	□increased		
FOOT JOINTS						
Right		normal	decreased	□increased		
Left		normal	decreased	□increased		
KNEE TO WALL						
Right		<u></u> cn	1			
Left		<u></u> cn	1			
PROPRIOCEPTION (single leg 45 second hold)						
Right						
Left						

Remarks:

Physiotherapist (Signature)





Department of Sports Medicine

Athlete to be addressed to the Sports Medicine Department

General Physical Examination			
Date of examination:-			
Height:cm/	inches	Weight:	kg
Built of bodyPallorlcterus			
Thyroid gland			
Lymph Nodes/Spleen			
Lungs			
Breath sounds	normal	abnormal	
Please specify			
Abdomen Palpation Please specify	normal	abnormal	
Genitourinary (males only)			
5Kiii			
Eyes visual acuity R . (corrected/unc	L orrected)		equal pupils R. L
Dental			
DMF Index = Number of decayed	l, missing or filled t	eeth :	

Oral Hygeine assessment: Good Fair Poor Visible Oral Infection: . No Yes Presence of Worn, Broken or Loose/Mobile teeth: No Yes Dental appliances (bridge, plate, braces or orthodontic appliance): No Yes





CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Rhythm	normal	arrhythmic
Heart sounds	normal	abnormal, please specify: split
Heart murmurs	no	yes, please specify
Peripheral oedema	no	yes
Jugular veins (45-degree position)	normal	abnormal
Hepatojugular reflux	no	yes
Circulation /blood vessels Peripheral pulses (<i>i.e. radial, femoral arteries</i>)	palpable	notpalpableplzspecify:
Vascular bruits (i.e. carotid artery)	no	yes, please specify:





MEDICAL HISTORY

PRESENT AND PAST COMPLAINTS

(A) Comorol	No	Yes, within	Yes, prior to	
(A) General	INU	the last 4 weeks	the last 4 weeks	
Flu-like symptoms				
Infections (esp viral)				
Rheumatic fever				
Heat illness				
Concussion				
Allergies to food, insects				
Allergies to drugs				
		Within the last 4 weeks	Within the last 4 weeks	
(B) Heart and Lungs	No	at restduring/after	at restduring/after	
		exercise	exercise	
Chest pain or tightness				
Shortness of breath				
Asthma				
Cough				
Bronchitis				
Palpation/ Arrhythmias				
Other heart problems				
Dizziness				
Syncope				
	No	Yes, within	Yes, prior to	
	INU	the last 4 weeks	the last 4 weeks	
Hypertension				
Heart murmur				
Abnormal lipid profile				
Seizures, epilepsy				
Advised to give up sport				
More quickly tired than other team mates				
Diarrhea illness				

FAMILY HISTORY

Male relatives < 55 years / Female relatives < 65 years

	NO	FATHE	MOTHE	SIBLIN	OTHE
		R	R	G	R
Sudden cardiac death					
Sudden infant death					
Cardiomyopathy					
Hypertension					
Recurrent syncope					
Arrhythmias					
Heart transplantation					





Heart surgery			
Pacemaker/Defibrillator			
Marfan syndrome			
Unexplained drowning			
Unexplained car accident			
Stroke			
Diabetes			
Cancer			
Others			

ROUTINE MEDICATION WITHIN THE LAST 12 YEARS

	NO	YE
		S
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs		
Asthma medication		
Anti-hypertensive drugs		
Lipid lowering drugs		
Anti-diabetic drugs		
Psychotropic drugs		
Others:		

HOSPITAL VISIT

To be done by Medical Doctor

- □ Blood grouping & RH Type
- \Box CBC with ESR
- □ Blood Glucose (including fasting)
- □ Lipid profile
- □ Liver Function Tests
- \Box CRP
- \Box DLC
- □ Kidney Function Tests
- □ Thyroid Function Tests (TSH, Free T3 & T4)
- □ Electrolytes
- □ Vitamin D
- □ Vitamin B12
- \Box Iron
- □ Ferritin
- □ % Transferrin saturation
- □ Folate
- $\hfill\square$ Ionic Calcium
- □ Magnesium





- \Box Iodine
- \Box Albumin
- □ Prealbumin

Cardiac Screening:

- \Box ECG
- □ Colour Doppler

• GENERAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- <u>CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM</u>
 - 12 LEAD RESTING ECG
 - ECHOCARDIOLOGY
- BLOOD SAMPLING

TO BE COMPLETED IN HOSPITAL

• VERIFICATION THAT EXAMS HAVE BEEN DONE AT HOSPITAL

Consultation	12 lead ECG	Echocardiography	Blood sampling
yes - no	yes - no	yes - no	yes - no

rks:	
Medical Offi	icer
(Signatu	ıre)
Date:	





Department of Strength & Conditioning

Athlete to be addressed to the Sports Medicine Department

Test	L/±	R/±	Raw Score		Final	Comments
			L/±	R/±	Score	
DEEP SQUAT						
HURDLE STEP						
INLINE LUNGE						
SHOULDER MOBILITY						
SHOULDER CLEARING Test						
ACTIVE STRAIGHT- LEG RAISE Test						
TRUNK STABILITY PUSHUP						
Extension						
CLEARING TEST						
ROTARY STABILITY						
FLEXION CLEARING TEST						
Total Screening Score						

*Raw Score: This score is used to denote right and left side scoring. The right and left sides are scored in five of the seven tests and both are documented in this space.

Final Score: This score is used to denote the overall score for the test. The lowest score for the raw score (each side) is carried over to give a final score for the test. A person who scores a three on the right and a two on the left would receive a final score of two. The final score is then summarized and used as a total score.

Clearing Test: A positive indicates pain. A negative indicates no pain. If pain is present (+), the score for that test would result in a 0.

Remarks:

Strength & Conditioning Expert

(Signature)

Date.....





Department of Sports Psychology

Athlete to be addressed to the Sports Psychology Department

Assessment Name	Remarks
RESTQ – sports (Recovery Stress	
Questionnaire)	
POMS (Profile of Mood States)	
PRIA-RS (Psychological Readiness of Injured	
Athlete to Return to Sport)	
Tempa Kinesiophobia Scale	
Conclusion:	
	Psychologist
	(Signature)
	Date