

INFORMATION FOR THE SPORTS MEDICINE EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF ADDED QUALIFICATIONS

The Sports Medicine Examination process for certification of added qualifications is conjointly developed by interested osteopathic specialty boards and the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. A Sports Medicine Conjoint Examination Committee has representation from each participating specialty board and academy.

This process is designed to recognize excellence among those who provide care to persons who participate in athletics or exercise programs. The examination evaluates an understanding of the scientific basis of the problems involved in Sports Medicine, the familiarity with the current advances in Sports Medicine, the possession of sound judgment and of a high degree of skill in the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures involved in the practice of Sports Medicine.

Definition

Sports Medicine is that branch of the healing arts profession that utilizes a holistic, comprehensive team approach to the prevention, diagnosis, and adequate management of sports and exercise-related injuries, disorders, dysfunctions and exercise-related disease processes.

The specialty of Sports Medicine consists of the following:

- A. The comprehensive medical management of the athlete which requires an understanding across a broad scope of specializations.
- B. An understanding of performance aids, coaching techniques and training skills.
- C. The science of injury prevention and recognition, advanced rehabilitation techniques and epidemiology.
- D. The application of wellness through cardiovascular training of the general public as well as athletes with disability.
- E. The application of sports science in improving the health care of athletes.
- F. The recognition of the special medical problems of athletes.
- G. The application of osteopathic principles to athletes.
- H. The term athlete refers to an individual who is engaged in sport, exercise or physical activity at the recreational, competitive, industrial, professional or elite level.

Eligibility

The requirements include approved training. Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Hold primary certification awarded by the AOA upon the recommendation of a participating specialty board.
- Hold a valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in a state of the United States; applicants with a restricted, suspended or revoked license in any jurisdiction at the time of application will not be admitted to the examination.
- Current member in good standing in the American Osteopathic Association or the Canadian Osteopathic Association.
- Completion of one year of AOA-approved fellowship training in Sports Medicine evidenced by copy of Sports Medicine certificate and letter of recommendation from program director. Eligibility for examination will be six years from the date of completion of the fellowship training program.

Substantiation of Clinical Competence

The application must contain substantiation of the Diplomate's satisfactory clinical competence in Sports Medicine. This substantiation must be provided by the program director in the Sports Medicine approved fellowship training program.

Examination

Dates/Location

The CAQ examination in Sports Medicine will be offered at a time and site as determined by the Committee, but no less than once every two years.

Fees/Deadlines

The nonrefundable application fee of \$50 must accompany the application by the published postmark deadline date. The registration period ends at least ninety days prior to the examination date. The examination fee will be \$750 and payment is requested after approval of a candidate for examination and is due by a published postmark deadline date of at least 45 days prior to the examination date. There is a nonrefundable penalty fee of \$100 for withdrawal later than at least 14 days prior to the examination date.

Format

The examination will be a proctored half-day examination consisting of 200 multiple-choice questions of the "one best answer" type. Questions will cover the following four major categories:

Basic Science – 15%

- A. Anatomy
- B. Physiology
- C. Pharmacology
- D. Nutrition

Injury Management/Prevention – 20%

- A. On-site immediate acute care
- B. Post event care
- C. Sports knowledge, sports rules
- D. Protective equipment

Diagnostics – 30%

- A. History
- B. X-ray & lab
- C. Performance
- D. Consultation

Treatment – 25%

- A. Pharmacological
- B. OMT
- C. Rehab modalities (acute and reinjury prevention)
- D. Psychological

Miscellaneous – 10%

Preparation

No specific recommendation about study methods or review courses may be made. However, extensive self study of Sports Medicine in texts and journals and participation in continuing medical education programs and review courses in Sports Medicine should be useful.

Results

Candidates will be informed of the results of the examination within 90 days following the examination date. Successful candidates will receive a certificate for Certification of Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine notating an expiration date of ten years thereafter. The certificate will be awarded after the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists gives final approval of the exam process for each candidate. This approval process may take about six months following the notification of successful completion of the examination. Upon written request and payment of a fee of \$50, candidates may obtain rescoring of the examination within a year of receiving the results. The answer sheets of candidates will be destroyed three years after administration.

Reexamination

Candidates may reapply for the next scheduled examination upon submitting a letter of intent, updated application information and the examination fee of \$750. The overall CME hours and those specifically in Sports Medicine that are required when you re-apply will be prorated based on the number of years post-fellowship training. At least 25 hours Sports Medicine and 25 hours of AOASM hours.

Application Process

Applicant files will be reviewed by the Sports Medicine Conjoint Examination Committee after the close of the registration period. Candidates will be notified in writing of their eligibility.

Training

5. Training in Sports Medicine? Yes _____ No

Dates of training _____ to _____

Training institution _____

Program Director _____

Hospital Affiliation

6. Principal hospital staff membership(s). Please list the name and address of the medical director at the institution where you hold your staff membership(s).

A. _____
Medical Director Institution

Address Membership Dates

City State Zip Code

B. _____
Medical Director Institution

Address Membership Dates

City State Zip Code

Professional Affiliations

7. List professional society memberships -

Society Membership Dates

8. Please answer each of the following questions. If the answer to any is yes, please append full details to this application.

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Has your license to practice, in any jurisdiction, ever been revoked, restricted or suspended?	_____	_____
Have you been the subject of any disciplinary action by any medical society or staff within the past five years?	_____	_____
Has a hospital appointment been terminated or restricted or have you resigned after being notified you would be terminated or restricted within the past five years?	_____	_____
Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation?	_____	_____
Have you ever been involved in a proceeding in which professional malpractice on your part was alleged?	_____	_____
Have you been subject to disciplinary action for substance abuse?	_____	_____

**American Osteopathic Conjoint Sports Medicine Examination Committee:
Fee Payable via check or credit card**

Make check payable: AOA - Certifying Boards Services

Credit card type: _____

Name on credit card: _____

Account number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security code (3 numbers found on the back of your credit card): _____

Permission to Report Scores - Waiver

The Sports Medicine Residency/Program Directors routinely request a copy of all exam score information regarding their graduates.

If you agree to permit Certifying Board Services (CBS) to send your scores to your respective Residency/Program Director – please sign/print your signature and date this waiver.

Print Name: _____

Signature

Date

APPLICANT RELEASE STATEMENT

The following statement of release is required of each applicant by the AOA.

I hereby make application to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Division of Certifying Board Services (CBS) for examination leading to certification of added qualifications in Sports Medicine. This action is made in accordance with and subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulation and Requirements of the CBS and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). I understand that the examination is a proprietary document of the CBS and the AOA and that I do not and will not have the right to review the examination or any examination questions at any time prior to or following the administration of the examination.

I agree to disqualification from examination or from issuance of CAQ status or to the surrender of such certification as directed by the CBS and/or the AOA in the event that any of the Bylaws, Rules, Regulations and Requirements governing such examinations are violated by me or in the event that I did not comply with any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations and Requirements of the CBS and/or the AOA.

I agree that my professional qualifications, including my moral and ethical standing in the osteopathic medical profession and my competence in clinical skills, will be evaluated by the Committee and that the Committee may make inquiry of the persons named in my application and of other persons, such as authorities of licensing bodies, hospitals, program directors or other institutions as the Committee may deem appropriate with respect to such matters; and I agree that the sources and all information furnished to the Committee in connection with its inquiry shall be confidential and not subject to disclosure, through legal process or otherwise, to me or to any person acting on my behalf. I agree that the Committee and the American Osteopathic Association shall be the sole judges of my credentials and qualifications for admission to the examination and for certification of added qualifications.

I hereby authorize the CBS to release my grade or grades given with respect to any examination in accordance with the guidelines as set forth within the Handbook of the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists and the CBS.

I hereby release, discharge, exonerate and agree to hold harmless the American Osteopathic Association, the American Osteopathic Association Division of Certifying Board Services, their members, examiners, trustees, officers, representatives and agents and free from any action, suit, obligation, damage, expense, claim, demand or complaint by reason of any action they or any one of them may take in connection with this application, such certifying examinations, the grade or grades given with respect to any certifying examination and/or the failure of the CBS to recommend issuance to me of such CAQ status, or the revocation of any certification issued pursuant to this application. It is understood that the decision as to whether my performance on any certification examination qualifies me for certification rests solely and exclusively with the CBS and the AOA, and that their decision is final.

In the event that any dispute shall arise concerning the CAQ examination's content and/or administration, or any other issue relating to the certification process, I understand that the AOA has an administrative appeal process available and I agree to first pursue all available administrative appeals and internal reviews before pursuing any other forms of relief.

I further agree that Illinois law shall apply to the resolution of any dispute that I may have with the CBS or the AOA. I have this day carefully read and agreed to full compliance with the foregoing.

I have hereunto set my hands this _____ day of _____, 200 _____.

Signature

APPEALS POLICY OF THE
AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC CONJOINT SPORTS MEDICINE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

The American Osteopathic Conjoint Sports Medicine Examination Committee (AOCSMEC) is committed to assuring that aggrieved candidates for certification have access to an appeal process to address concerns regarding all certification and recertification examinations and other decisions of the AOCSMEC. In accordance with the policies of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), candidates for certification may appeal decisions of the AOCSMEC to the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS). Thereafter, where necessary, candidates may appeal the decision of the BOS to the Board of Trustees. BEFORE PURSUING AN APPEAL WITH THE AOA, CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION FROM THE AOCSMEC SHALL FIRST APPEAL DECISIONS RELATED TO ANY EXAMINATION TO THE AOCSMEC AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING POLICY.

- I. Scope of Appeal
 - A. Appealable Issues. Candidates may appeal to the AOCSMEC to raise concerns relative to the examination's administration (i.e., alleged bias/prejudice/unfairness of the exam or of a member of an examination team or failure to follow established examination procedures).
 - B. Non-Appealable Issues. The AOCSMEC will not consider appeals based on examination content, sufficiency or accuracy of answers given to examination questions, scoring of the examination, scoring of answers to individual questions, and/or the determination of the minimum passing score.
- II. Procedure for Appeal.
 - A. Appeal Request Form. In order to appeal concerning the examination, a candidate must set forth the basis for his/her appeal on an Appeal Request Form and submit the form to the Examination Proctor. Appeal Request Forms will be provided to all certification/recertification candidates prior to the commencement of the examination. Additional copies of the Appeal Request Form will be available upon request to the Examination Proctor. The appellant must submit the completed Appeal Request Form to the Examination Proctor within two hours after he/she has completed the examination.
 - B. Late Appeals. All appeals submitted after the two hour deadline for submission of the Appeal Request Form will be denied.
 - C. Evaluation of Appeal. Each appeal submitted on an Appeal Request Form within two hours of completion of the examination will be considered by the AOCSMEC. A majority vote of the Committee will determine whether the AOCSMEC accepts or denies the appeal.
 - D. Notification of Candidates. Candidates will be advised by the AOCSMEC of the decision by certified mail.
- III. Effect of Decision.
 - A. Decision to Accept Appeal.
 1. No Scoring or Recording of Exam. If the Committee accepts an appeal, then the candidate's examination will not be scored and recorded.

2. Right to Retake Examination. A candidate whose appeal is accepted shall have the right to a new examination at the next scheduled examination date at no additional application or examination fee. (All other fees incurred are the responsibility of the candidate.) At that time, the examination will be conducted by a different examination team. The candidate's original log may be utilized and the examination will be conducted in accordance with the format for the current examination.
 3. Failure to Retake Examination. If for any reason the candidate elects NOT to retake the examination at the next scheduled date, his/her appeal shall be considered null and void and the candidate will be required to reapply for the certification/recertification examination and his/her application shall be considered in accordance with the criteria in effect at the time he/she submits the new application. Exceptions (for good cause) to this stipulation will be considered on an individual basis by the Committee.
 4. Further Appeals.
 - a. Current Examination. The candidate whose initial appeal is accepted by the committee shall not have the right to further appeal of the current examination results, either within the AOCSMEC or to the AOA.
 - b. Subsequent Examination. The candidate whose initial appeal is accepted shall not have the right to appeal the next scheduled examination to the AOCSMEC under this Policy. However, the candidate shall have the right to appeal to the AOA.
- B. Decision to Deny Appeal. If the initial appeal is denied by the AOCSMEC, the candidate shall have the right to appeal to the AOA. Candidates interested in appealing to the AOA should contact the American Osteopathic Association, Department of Education, Division of Certification, and 142 East Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand the above:

Print Name:

Signature:

Date:

RETURN ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS WITH POSTMARK DEADLINE DATE OF NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010 TO:

American Osteopathic Association Division of Certifying Board Services
142 East Ontario Street, 4th floor
Chicago, IL 60611-2864
Ellie Kraynak : (312) 202-8195

NOTE:

2nd Application Deadline Postmark - Friday, February 12, 2010 (with an additional \$100 late fee)

3rd Application Deadline Postmark - Friday, February 26, 2010 (with an additional \$200 late fee)

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Application fee in the amount of \$50 (check made payable to AOA – Certifying Board Services)
- Completed legible application signed and dated by applicant
- Two (2) original passport-size photos
- Copy of unrestricted state medical license(s) with expiration date
- Copy of Sports Medicine fellowship certificate
- Appropriate letter of recommendation from Program Director in Sports Medicine
- If Allopathic, provide a copy of your program training complete letter
- Written verification from the AOA confirming membership in good standing for two consecutive years; contact AOA Membership Services Dept. (800) 621-1773
- If applicable (retake applicant), AOA Activity Reports for 2007-2009 and current cycle outlining required 120 CME hours (inc. 50 Sports Medicine hours; minimum of 25 hours AOASM hours)
- Questions: Once your application is approved, question topics will be sent to you via email by Certifying Board Services. Each applicant must submit five (5) multiple choice Sports Medicine questions with references and page numbers