

RISK MANAGEMENT IN COLLEGIATE SPORTS MEDICINE




What is Risk Management

- Cost
 - ▣ Settlement
 - ▣ Legal
- Death
- Embarrassment





Airline Models of Risk Management



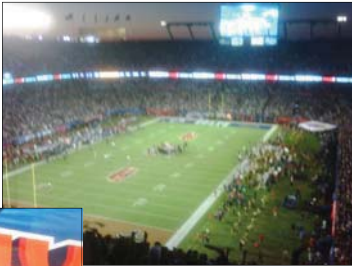

- ▣ Seat Belt Announcement
- ▣ Pre-flight announcements
- ▣ Plane Exit Rows

United Educators

- 9% of number of claims are athletically related
- 24% of value (\$\$\$\$) of claims are athletically related




“The Big Game” Risk Management

Case Study

- Event: FB player remains down on field during spring scrimmage, player unresponsive, 5 second delay to verbal stimuli, originally suspected C-spine but symptoms improved, athlete sat up and eventually walked off field
- When entering building confrontational, as he was escorted into ATR became LOC with vitals stable, transported to ER where following DX of subdural hematoma, surgery to release intracranial pressure and remained in ICU for 10 days



Story Continues

- Previous Event: 8 days prior to scrimmage athlete was involved in an altercation on campus and was stuck in the head with an object. Although asymptomatic for head injury, athlete refused tx for laceration on skull due to "lack of insurance".
- Actually had insurance but didn't want parents to see bill for ER visit

Case Continuation

- Player remained out of practice due to laceration and reported no symptoms related to head injury.
- Although school has concussion protocol and management software, no formalized testing was administered.
- No formal Team Physician due to retirement of previous physician

Thoughts



- EAP Considerations
- Concussion Protocol
- Role of Non-athletic Injuries
- Team Physician

Before and After

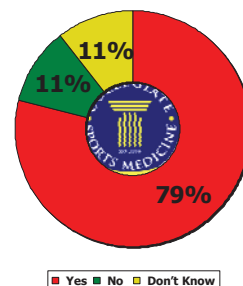


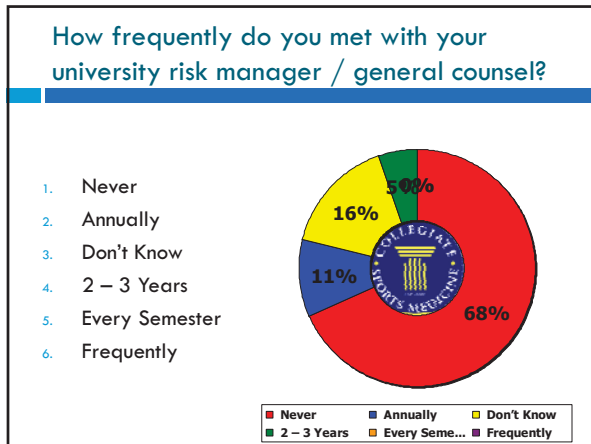
UNIVERSITY RISK MANAGEMENT
/ GENERAL COUNSEL

Ideals consistent with athletic trainers?

Do you feel that it would be helpful to meet with you RM / GC?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know





Case Example (Positive)

- ATC went to risk management with need for AEDs
- Risk Management determined to pay for 4 AEDs (\$6000) out of risk management budget
 - Cost of defending a wrongful death suit vs. \$6000 in AEDs (No Brainer)

Hesitation of ATCs to Meet with Risk Management

- Going over the head of supervisor
- Exposing Department Problems
- Fear of “going down a slippery slope”
- Will cause and increase in work load of me and the staff in development of polices, paperwork, meetings, etc.,

Issues Risk Management would be concerned about:

- Policies
- Supervision
- Documentation
- Training
- Corrective Action

Topics to Discuss with Risk Manager

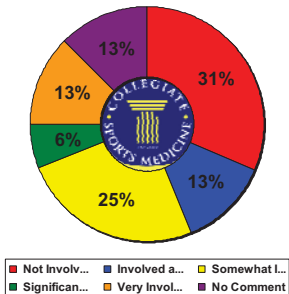
□ PPE	□ Special Population
□ Emergency Action Plan	□ Medical Disqualification
□ Infection Control	□ Team Physician
□ Medications	□ Environmental Issues
□ Human Resources	■ Lightning
□ Concussion	■ Heat
	■ Cold Weather

Policy and Procedure Development

What is university policy?

How involved is your university legal counsel / risk management in policy development?

1. Not Involved At All
2. Involved a Little
3. Somewhat Involved
4. Significantly Involved
5. Very Involved
6. No Comment



How involved is your university legal counsel / risk management in policy development?



How involved is your athletic department administration in policy development?



How involved is your team physician in policy development?



What determines Risk Management or Standard of Care

- Governing Bodies
 - Legislative Demands
- Schools of Likeness
- Position Statements
- Research
- Practice Act
- Job Description

Factors to Reduce Risk in Athletics

- Policies and Procedures
- Active Role of Team Physician
- Supervision Throughout Chain of Command
- Potential and / or Perceived Conflicts of Interest

Stages of Policy Development

- Establishing the Need
- Identifying and Establishing a Task Force
- Review of Materials / Resources
- Policy Development / Writing
- Submission of Policy to Administration / Legal Counsel
- Implementation
- Review

Establishing the Need

- What determines or warrants the need for a policy?
- Determining the Standard of Care
- Post-Event (Reactionary)
- Preventative

Establishing a Task Force

- Development Task Force vs. Approval Committee
 - ▣ Determined by Policy
- Considerations: Staff Athletic Trainers, Team Physician, Athletic Administrator, Health Services Personnel, EMS Liaison, Counseling Services, Coach Representative, Etc.,
- Mission, Goals, Objectives, Timeline, Budget Implications

Task Force Example: PPE

- Task Force: Team Physician, Staff Athletic Trainer, Health Services Director, Athletic Administrator
- Considerations: Forms, Timing, Personnel, Testing (EKG, Sickle Cell, Etc.), Cost, Frequency

Review of Materials / Resources

- Position Statements
- Schools of Likeness Practices
- Governing Bodies
- Research

Review of Materials Example: PPE

- Current Forms and Procedure
- Schools of Likeness Forms and Procedures
- NCAA / NAIA Legislation and Guidelines
- PPE Monograph
- 36th Bethesda Conference
- AHA Guidelines
- Position Statements

Policy Development / Writing

- Documenting of Discussion – Committee / Task Force Secretary
- Policy Writing

Submission of Policy to Administration / Legal Counsel

- Task Force Submission to Administration
- Approval Signatures
 - Task Force Chair
 - Head Athletic Trainer
 - Team Physician
 - Athletic Administration
 - University Legal Counsel / Risk Management



Implementation

- Communication
- Rehearsal and Dissemination of Materials
- Documentation of Implementation Process



Review

- Annual Review of Effectiveness (Maybe be more frequent depending on policy)
- Is it defensible?
- Documentation of review and recommendations



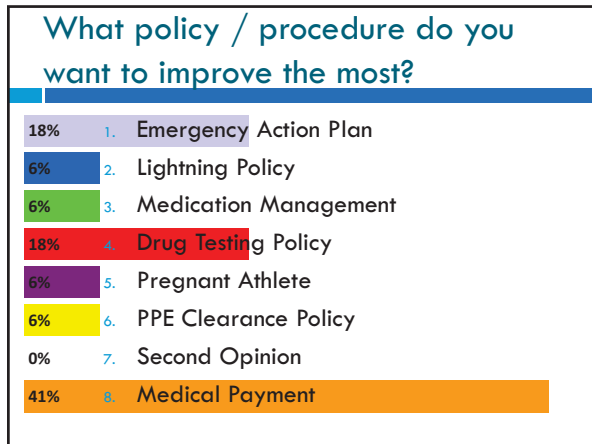
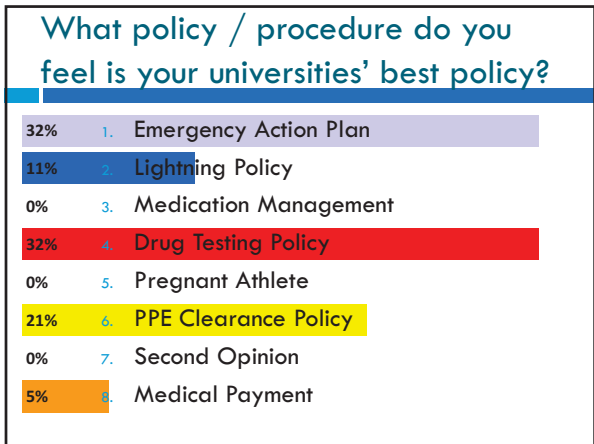
Considerations for Policy

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| □ PPE Policy | □ Drug and Alcohol Policy |
| □ Emergency Action Plans | □ Drug (Rx and OTC) Policies |
| □ Catastrophic Protocols | □ Epi-pen and Oxygen Protocols |
| □ AED Protocol | □ Second Opinion Policies |
| □ Concussion Protocol | □ Insurance Policies |
| □ Eating Disorders | □ Infection Control Policies |
| □ Special Populations (Asthma, Sickle Cell, Diabetes, Single Paired Organ, Pregnant Athlete Participation) | □ Non-Athletic Injury Policies |
| | □ Sports Coverage Policies |

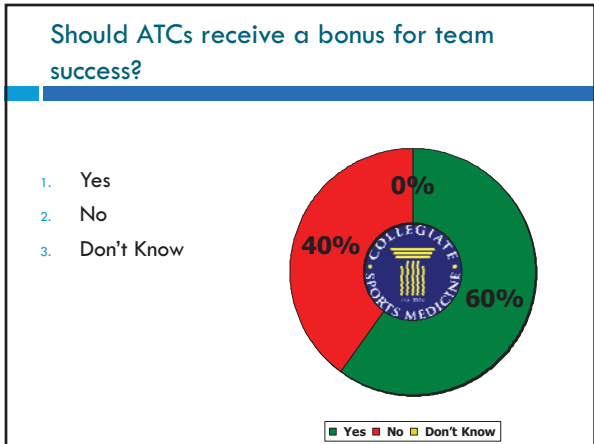
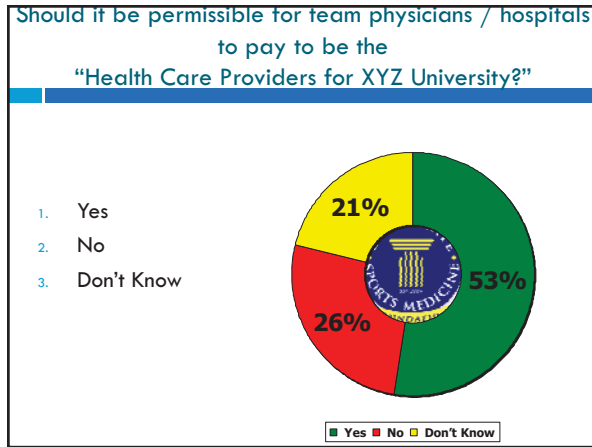
More Policies

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| □ Privacy Policies | □ Staff Medication and Treatment |
| □ Notification of Injuries | □ IV Administration |
| □ Heat and Hydrations Policies | □ Camp and Special Events |
| □ Lightning Policies | □ ??? |
| □ Air Quality Policies | □ ??? |
| □ Cold Weather Policies | □ ??? |
| □ School Cancellation Policies | □ ??? |

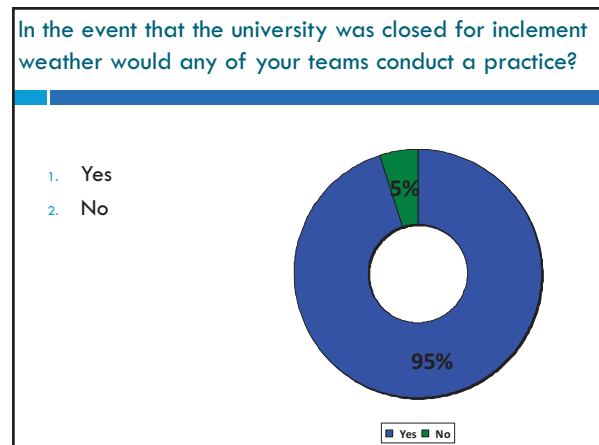
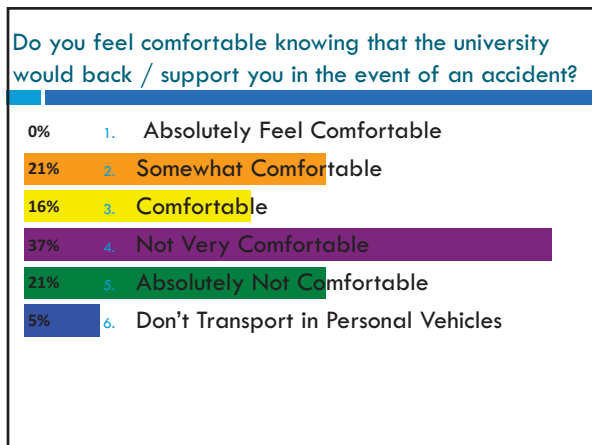
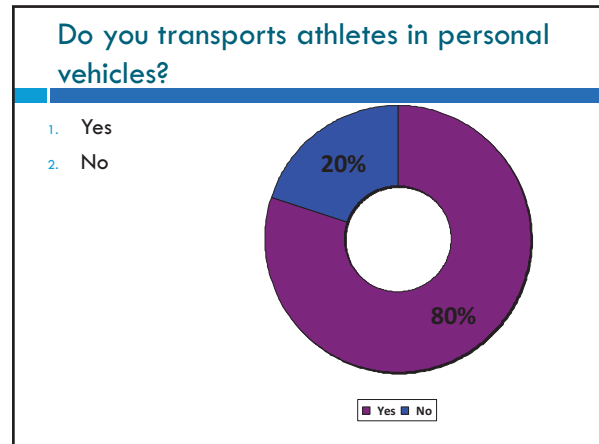
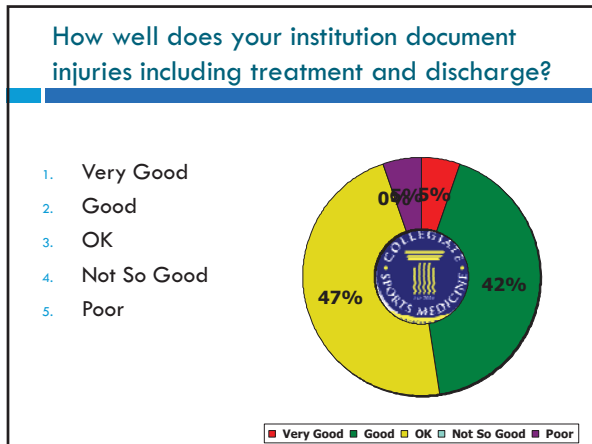




Potential or Perceived Conflicts of Interest



Other Risk Management Situations



- ### Casual Questions for you and RM
- Transporting Athletes in Personal Vehicles
 - Inclement Weather Scenario
 - Treatment of Non-Athletes
 - Role with Camps and Special Events
 - Role with Spectator Coverage
 - Significant # of AEDs

Thoughts / Comments / Questions