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STATEMENT OF ARMY POLICY ON THE PITCHSIDE MEDICAL COVER REQUIRED AT SPORTS EVENTS

Reference:

A. LAIT Report DB1296 dated 15 Nov 2004 (NOTAL).

1. Reference A, generated following an incident in Cyprus, required a formal expression of policy on the question of pitchside cover for sport. In conjunction with HQ LAND, HQ ATRA, AMD, APHCS and LAIT, the following statement has been agreed as appropriate pan-Army policy:

> 'Before any organised sporting event occurs, it is to be subjected to a risk assessment carried out in compliance with JSP 375, Leaflets 11 and 23. When considering the provision of pitchside medical cover, the availability of appropriately qualified staff[1], both military and civilian, is to be assessed. ***If the risk assessment leads to a requirement for such personnel and they are not available, the event is not to proceed without modification to ameliorate the risk***. At all events, an HSE-compliant first aid kit appropriate to the scale of the event is to be held at the pitchside, together with the means to make contact with the emergency services[2]. Players requiring medical attention are to be assessed at the pitchside; ***if any doubt exists about the advisability of moving an injured player, the emergency medical services should be called without delay[3].*** All other Service players who require medical attention should be moved (walked or driven) to the nearest medical facility, and civilian players[4] who require medical attention should be advised to report to their own doctor or the nearest A&E Department at their earliest convenience.'

2. This policy takes effect from 1 Jan 06 and is to be promulgated widely.

1 'Appropriately qualified' means trained and current in cervical spine stabilisation and other life support. Examples of such personnel include (but are not limited to) RMOs, CMTs, RMAs, BATLS and BARTS trained personnel, and sports trauma management trained personnel.

2 The means to contact the emergency services will vary and will be included in the risk assessment. For example, this could be via an adjacent guardroom or it may require the provision of a mobile phone.

3 Event organisers are to ensure that the emergency services can have unimpeded access to the pitch.

4 To cover those events where military teams compete against civilian teams and where civil/military combined teams exist.

Original signed

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