The University of Southern Mississippi
Sports Medicine
Catastrophic Emergency Action Plan

Definition of a Catastrophic Emergency
A catastrophic incident occurs with any sudden death of a Student Athlete, Coach, or Athletic Staff member at any time, including any accident or illness. Also, disabling and/or quality of life altering injuries or illnesses such as severe head injuries, spinal cord injuries, loss of a paired organ, or an illness that may render the person incapable of normal function are considered catastrophic. Any other injury or illness considered catastrophic will warrant the Catastrophic Emergency Action Plan.

Catastrophic Incident Management Team
The members of this team are the persons in charge of the situation and the only people that will disseminate any and all information regarding a catastrophic incident. Information will be distributed to family members and the media by appropriate members of the team under the guidelines of all medical information privacy rules, including HIPAA. Each member of the team will perform their role as assigned, so as to assure proper care of the person and proper dissemination of information. No information will be released to the media until family members have been reached and given consent for information to be released by the Sports Information Department. Family members of the person should learn of the catastrophic incident from Athletic Department Staff and not from the media.

Members of the Catastrophic Incident Management Team include:

- Director of Sports Medicine (Head Athletic Trainer)
- Team Physicians
- Director of Athletics
- University President
- Associate Athletic Directors
- Compliance Coordinator
- Staff Athletic Trainers
- Sports Information Director
- University Media Relations
- Head Coach of the sport

These Catastrophic Incident Management Team members are the only persons allowed to distribute information about the incident, and only after family members have been notified.
**Catastrophic Incident Emergency Procedures**

1. The Sports Medicine personnel, including the Head Athletic Trainer, Staff Certified Athletic Trainers, and Team Physicians, will follow the Emergency Action Plan as laid out for the site of the incident.
2. If the Head Athletic Trainer is not present, they should be contacted as soon as possible following the incident.
3. A Staff Certified Athletic Trainer will travel with the injured/ill person to the hospital and will stay in contact with the Head Athletic Trainer to inform of the person’s condition. This person will also act as a University Representative. If a Staff Certified Athletic Trainer is unable to go with the person, a Coach will act in this position.
4. The Head Athletic Trainer will notify the Catastrophic Incident Management Team of the incident, beginning with the Team Physicians if none are present. The Head Athletic Trainer will contact the Catastrophic Incident Management Team in this order: Team Physicians, Director of Athletics, Associate Athletic Director, Compliance Coordinator. The Director of Athletics should contact the University President.
5. The Head Athletic Trainer and/or Team Physician will proceed to the Medical Facility where the injured/ill person has been taken. They will consult with attending physicians. They will then contact the injured/ill person’s family to notify them of the incident. The Head Athletic Trainer will continue correspondence with the family, providing updates on the person’s condition.
6. After receiving permission from the injured/ill person’s family, the Head Athletic Trainer will then notify the Sports Information Director. The SID will then, in coordination with the Head Athletic Trainer, Team Physician, Director of Athletics, and injured/ill person’s family, release a statement to the media. The SID will also communicate with the University’s Media Relations department, as necessary.
7. The Head Athletic Trainer, Team Physician, Director of Athletics, and Head Coach will then address the team of the injured/ill person’s condition and status. The team members will be told that they should NOT talk to media about the incident.
8. The Head Athletic Trainer and Team Physician will then contact the appropriate personnel to provide grief counseling, psychologists, etc. for Student Athletes and Staff.
9. The Head Athletic Trainer and/or Staff Certified Athletic Trainer are responsible for collecting all equipment used during transfer of the injured/ill person. Also, they are responsible for all documentation of the incident.
### Catastrophic Incident Management Team

**Assistant Director of Athletics – Sports Medicine**

Todd McCall, MS, ATC, LAT

**Team Physicians**

- Dr. Lance Line
- Dr. Robert Dews
- Dr. Rocco Barbieri
- Dr. Stephen Beam
- Dr. John Kosco
- Dr. Michael Molleston
- Dr. Joe Farina
- Dr. Chad Diamond
- Dr. Paul Talbot
- Dr. Jenny Crawford

**Director of Athletics**

Bill McGillis

**University President**

Dr. Rodney D. Bennett

**Associate Athletic Directors**

- Jeremy McClain, Deputy Director of Athletics
- Kent Hegenauer, Senior Associate Athletic Director
- Soyna Varnell, Senior Associate AD/SAW
- Daniel Feig, Senior Associate AD/Compliance

**Compliance Coordinator**

Kristi Pierce

**Staff Certified Athletic Trainers**

- Yuji Katsuta MS, ATC LAT
- Katie Barker MS, ATC LAT
- Mark Waller MS, ATC LAT
- Ben Elliott MS, ATC LAT
- Melissa Chastang MS, ATC LAT

**Graduate Assistant AT’s**

- Adam Bennett ATC LAT
- Cody Tubbs ATC LAT
- Nikki Leathers ATC LAT
- Adrienne Murphy ATC LAT
- Reese Shivers ATC, LAT

**Sports Information Director**

Jack Duggan