

Aims:

- To introduce what a Sports Chaplain is.
- To define the role of a Sports Chaplain.
- To identify the key characteristics of a Sports Chaplain.
- To give examples of how Sports Chaplains can benefit sporting communities.

Vision:

Our vision for sports chaplaincy is to see pastoral care provided wherever sports are played, around the world.

Defining characteristics:

Sports Chaplains serve all sports people, providing pastoral and spiritual care wherever sports are played to people of all faiths and to people of no faith.

A Sports Chaplain is not essentially:

- A Sports Fan
- A Sports Psychologist
- A Sports Coach
- A Counselor

Sports Chaplains represent the Lord Jesus' presence and compassion with sports people.

Their ministry combines both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Important Values for Sports Chaplains to embrace include:

- Sacrifice
- A relational approach
- Humility
- Confidentiality
- Presence
- Discretion
- Discernment

The Profile of a potential Sports Chaplain:

- A Servant's Heart
- A Pastor's Heart
- Christian Character and Maturity
- Biblically trained

- Committed to a local church
- Passion for Sport and Sports People
- Willingness to receive basic training and supervision

We see Sports Chaplains as serving in these areas of sport:

- Teams (of every sport, both genders, and at every level of competition)
- Clubs – provides various pastoral services to different categories of people within the club.
- Major Sporting Events (of every sport, local, national, regional, and global in scope)
- Individual Mentoring (one to one relationships with sportspeople)
- Touring Sports (e.g. motor racing, golf, tennis, surfing, etc.)

We seek to develop Sports Chaplaincy via these equipping channels:

- Training (online, in print, in person, in seminars, etc.)
- Sports Chaplaincy Entities (various sports ministries who train sports chaplains in their spheres of influence)

The importance of having a Sports Chaplain to serve in a Sport Organization includes:

- The sports chaplain selflessly serves players, coaches, and support personnel.
- The sports chaplain can provide personal care and resources to teams and to individuals.
- The sports chaplain is someone who can be trusted with confidential information to provide counsel and care.
- The sports chaplain unconditionally accepts individual people from any background.

The benefits of having a Sports Chaplain to serve a Sport Organization:

- The sports chaplain serves as a mentor to help guide the lives of those served.
- The sports chaplain is a valuable resource in times of challenge or crisis.
- The sports chaplain provides long-term relational stability.
- The sports chaplain adds value to the sports organization.

The Uniqueness of Sports Chaplaincy:

- Sports Chaplaincy crosses all barriers of Religion, Caste and Colour.
- Sports Chaplaincy helps reach the largest number of people in the shortest possible time.
- Sports Chaplaincy helps reach and disciple the unreached people with the gospel.
- Sports Chaplaincy is a non-threatening way of sharing the gospel.

- Sports Chaplaincy is a culturally relevant way of reaching sports loving people of the world.
- Sports Chaplaincy helps reach people with the gospel in new, creative and innovative ways.
- Sports Chaplaincy has the potential to reach sports people of all ages and all sports over the world.
- Sports Chaplaincy builds harmony among churches as it crosses all barriers of denomination.
- Sports Chaplaincy brings together churches to work in partnership to reach out with the gospel.
- Sports Chaplaincy has the power and the potential to bring people who are outside the church, into the life of the church.

In summary:

Our vision for sports chaplaincy is to see pastoral care provided wherever sports are played around the world.

Acknowledgement:

The content of this module was given with compliments of In Sport Council of the International Sports Coalition.

Organizations contributing to the formation of the material in these 6 modules include:

- Sports Chaplaincy Australia
- Sports Chaplain Network (United States)
- Sport for Life (Sweden)
- Sports Chaplaincy New Zealand
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Sports Chaplains Roundtable (USA)
- Sports Chaplaincy United Kingdom
- Traders Point Christian Church (Indianapolis, Indiana, USA)