

Aims:

- To support, encourage, serve, and develop the Christian, curious (spiritually/religiously), and crisis stricken sports person
 - Christian athlete - via Bible studies, group devotions, prayer times, and one-on-one mentorship
 - Curious athlete - usually starts with one-on-one mentorship but can develop into the sportsperson attending a provided service, or bible study
 - Crisis stricken athlete – provide support, and professional help when needed
- To provide the sportsperson with practical needs and serve them with the love of Christ – Matthew 20:28 “Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”
- To build and deepen relationships for the purpose of sharing the gospel and for inducing holistic growth
- To provide a ring of prayer around the event, and all involved
- To lay a foundation for Christian Sports Chaplaincy for future events

Note: This presentation on Major Event Chaplaincy is not exhaustive

Presenting the Christian life and message at a Major Sporting Event

- Who do we minister to?
 - Athletes (Christian, curious and crisis stricken)
 - Volunteers and contract personnel
 - Organisers
 - Team officials
 - Media

Multi-Faith Centre

- IOC criteria calls for the five major faith groups (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism) to be represented in a Multi-Faith Centre
- Special religious days or periods which coincide with a major event are to be taken into consideration

Participation as a Major Event Chaplain

- Participating as an official, accredited Sports Chaplain at a major sporting event gives you the opportunity to serve hundreds or even thousands of sportspeople, leaders, trainers, and staff from different countries.

- A Sports Chaplain can also become a service provider in the Athletes' Village, where many sportspeople mingle and are in need of practical help with varying needs.

Degree of mobility

- The level of accreditation of a Sports Chaplain determines what areas of the Village they may access and privileges they are granted e.g. Multi-Faith Centre, dining rooms and training and practice areas. Other privileges vary based on accreditation e.g. uniform, meals, venue access

Logistics

- Generally the Organizing Committee provides offices within the Village Faith Centre for the Sports Chaplains to serve from. Best practice for the coordinating Chaplain is to work with the organisers to situate the Faith Centre in a strategic place with good traffic flow
- IOC criteria call for designated rooms for the various faith groups to have services, prayer and private discussion. In addition, the Faith Centre is to have a welcoming area, chaplains office and counselling room
- It is important to know where in the Village it is strategically best to interact with athletes and team officials. This can be a door opener to ministry
- Ministry can take place...
 - In the Faith Centre
 - In living quarters via invitation
 - In dining halls when permitted
 - Casually in the Village
 - Off site at venues and other public areas
- Contacts with athletes and officials can arise from pre-event communication with teammates, family, church leaders and other sports chaplains.
- Proselytizing is NOT allowed in the Village. Chaplains are allowed to respond to the questions and the interest expressed by athletes and team officials
- Chaplains need to be praying for and available for 'divine appointments'

Questionable ministry

- Misuse of accreditation including gaining access to day passes under false pretences
- False accreditations; ignoring boundaries (quarters) that various delegations may have made off limits
- Unauthorised distribution of Christian literature or media

- The taking of photos or asking for photos with athletes and the distribution of photos through social media is not recommended. Athletes may ask for or welcome photos when a relationship is established.

Remember - Credible ministry makes future chaplaincy possible!

A typical daily schedule includes:

- Team coordination : review of responsibilities for presence at the Faith Centre, other appointments or events
- Daily Bible study leadership with prayer and praise for athletes, team officials, and volunteers NOTE – often gatherings are held morning and evening
- Sunday morning service is usually planned for a larger audience and involves both chaplain and athlete participation. Depending on the context of the event, there may be multiple services to reflect the diversity of the denominations represented
- Ministry to athletes, volunteers, team officials and others, both in the Faith Centre and other Village contexts
- Providing other volunteer services within the Village when requested
- Meal break
- Administrative functions including keeping records of service attendances, visitors and significant incidents

Materials

- IOC criteria call for Bibles to be available in the Faith Centre. In addition, approval may be granted by the Organisers for other Christian resources such as DVD's and literature to be available at the request of the athletes and team officials. Unapproved distribution of resources is forbidden within the Village.

Costs

- Generally the Sports Chaplain bears the responsibility personally or through their organisation to finance their expenses, including travel, meals when off shift, and other personal expenses. Accommodation may be provided by host families or at a reduced cost, as arranged by the host community.

Qualifications for consideration as a Major Sports Event Chaplain

- Former sports person
- Experience in sports represented at the Event
- Languages spoken
- Represent a country that is at the Event
- Experience as a Chaplain at a Major Event or other high profile event
- Ongoing ministry in serving the people of sport with the ability to provide follow up
- Contacts with those involved in the Event (Athletes, team officials, organisers etc)
- Gifting to lead and mentor
- Involvement with a church community
- Denominational diversity
- Provide gender and ethnic diversity
- Additional skills that are considered include critical incident training and experience, music skills – singing, playing an instrument and mentoring skills

NOTE – for major Para sporting events, consideration should be given to those who have experience, aptitude and skills in working with persons competing with disabilities

Procedure for selection as a Major Event Chaplain

- IOC criteria calls for the Organising Committee to develop a multi Faith Centre in the Village and determine who is accredited within the Village as a faith representative (chaplain)
- The local Christian community liaises with the Organising Committee to indicate their willingness to help organise the Faith Centre and to provide referrals for those who would serve as sports chaplains
- Representatives of the local Christian community contact the International Sports Coalition for referrals from the ISC for chaplains appropriate to their event
- Applications are requested from sports chaplains and then processed by the ISC who then provide a list of recommended chaplains to representatives of the local Christian community
- Representatives of the local Christian community then interact with the Organising Committee to authorise accreditation of the recommended local and international chaplaincy team

Credits: Paul Kobylarz' documents on Chaplaincy from Vancouver and Turin Olympics – Sport for Life; Traders Point Christian Church