

The International Federation of Sports Chiropractic

A POWERFUL FORCE FOR PROMOTING CHIROPRACTIC

Noel Patterson

It's my pleasure to be able to write this guest article for such an international magazine as "DC". As the new incoming President of the Federation Internationale de Chiropractique Sportive (FICS), I would like to take this opportunity to give an updated report on FICS and our goals for the next four years.

When FICS began in 1986, I did not think it possible that four years later we would have 48 nation members. In fact, there are only two other chiropractic nations of any numerical significance that have not joined the FICS, and both have now indicated their desire to join this international world governing body on sports chiropractic.

The saying, "There is strength in numbers" is very true; this is one of the reasons why FICS was founded. It is a truly international body. By representing 48 different nations, doors open for the FICS, which is not the case with individual sports chiropractic associations. FICS already has hundreds of individual members, but within a year this will swell to over a thousand individual members. However, it should be noted FICS is completely apolitical and is involved only in sports chiropractic. The statutes (laws of the FICS) prevent any one country controlling the FICS. Each country has a senator; it is the senate that controls the FICS. On the FICS commissions there are some of the top scientists and educators in the world, and they are working harmoniously for the benefit of chiropractic.

The FICS is officially recognized by many world agencies, such as the Soviet Sports Committee and the Supreme Council on Olympic Committees of Africa. Several of our member's national associations enjoy close working relationships with their national Olympic committees. We have already had formal discussions with the International Olympic Committee and a formal submission for IOC recognition is now pending. FICS is accepted as a International Federation Member "Category B" by the International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) which is itself recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

FISC also has a very close working relationship with the other truly international chiropractic body, the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC).

During its first four embryonic years of international life, FICS naturally had many teething problems. However, FICS has solved these problems and is now "up and running." Sports chiropractic is the fastest growing area of chiropractic and the FICS is now established as the world governing body of sports chiropractic. The FISC will help give consistency to the chiropractic profession in regulating the standards of sports chiropractic. All properly trained DCs are eligible to join the FICS as an associate member. To become full members they must reach a required skill level. This standard is set by the FICS Education Committee. Associate membership can be achieved through post graduate sports chiropractic education; experience as a team doctor; attending accredited educational seminars, or writing articles in referee journals, etc. Once a DC has reached the full member status, the FICS knows they can function as a team doctor for any level of sports, anywhere in the world.

The FICS now receives many invitations to send DCs to act as team doctors for major sporting events around the world, hence the importance of having the consistency of high standards for its members. This is one of the biggest advantages of becoming a FICS member, as previously very few people ever had the opportunity of being a team doctor at an international sports event. The FICS has also been invited to such places as the Soviet Union and China to participate in sports lectures; this has opened further doors for chiropractic. Sports chiropractic has by far the greatest potential to obtain excellent public relations for chiropractic as up to 25 percent of our daily media deals with sports, and the FICS is there to use the sports media to promote the chiropractic profession.

The subspeciality of sports chiropractic is a natural branch of the profession, as chiropractors are already trained to give emphasis to drug-free enhancement to enable the body to maximize its potential in performance. Sports chiropractic is based on the same chiropractic philosophy that has enabled our profession to prosper against all odds in the last 95 years.

To sum up, it's the intention of the new FICS Executive Council to see that the FICS goes from strength to strength in this fast expanding area of sports chiropractic.

Noel J. Patterson, MIR, B.Sc, DC

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