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CANADIAN ATHLETIC THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW ADVANCEMENT IN CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

The production of five new sport-related concussion assessment tools is a step forward for athletes of all levels and across all ages

CALGARY, AB | JUNE 20, 2023 - The Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA) is pleased to support the release and adoption of the updated Sport Concussion Assessment Tool-6 (SCAT-6), providing improved acute detection guidelines for concussion assessment. This long-awaited document includes regionally appropriate guidelines for concussion care across the world, including primary prevention, recognition of concussion, recommendations for removal from play, rehabilitation and return to sport strategies.

“Many of our members are the first responders on the field of play, and it is critical they are educated in how to prevent, recognize and assess sport-related concussion with tools like the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool,” says Kirsten Kidd, President of CATA. “These tools are an important resource for all Certified Athletic Therapists and will be instrumental in recognizing concussion injuries across all sporting populations, helping to reduce complications from concussion.”

The SCAT-6 and its associated tools, which will replace the SCAT-5, is intended for athletes of all levels, from grassroots to professional, and across all age groups, including children, adolescents and adults. Specifically designed to guide the subacute (>3 days from injury) assessment of sport-related concussions, this tool will help standardize sport-related concussion care around the world and positively impact the health and safety of athletes.

Accompanied by the latest Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport, the SCAT-6 was released alongside the updated CRT6, Child SCAT6, SCOAT6, and Child SCOAT6 to cover athletes of all ages. It was crystallized by 29 expert panellists who attended the sixth International Conference on Concussion in Sport in Amsterdam, with input from over 100 international healthcare professionals.

“We know that resources and access to care differ depending on geography or the level of sport,” says Kidd. “However, when it comes to the management of sport-related concussions, it is imperative that all Certified Athletic Therapists, physicians, trainers and other healthcare professionals are providing a consistent standard of care.”

The SCAT-6 has been adapted for local and national sport contexts worldwide. While its recommendations will evolve as new research emerges, the goal remains to define the optimal care of athletes with suspected or diagnosed sport-related concussions.

For more information on the Amsterdam 2022 International Consensus on Concussion in Sport, please visit <https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/57/11>.

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ABOUT THE CANADIAN ATHLETIC THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION

CATA is the certifying and governing body for Certified Athletic Therapists practicing in Canada. Established in 1965 by a group of Athletic Therapists working with professional hockey and football teams, CATA now represents nearly 3000 members. We are dedicated to the advancement and growth of the athletic therapy profession through advocacy, education, and research.

Website: <https://athletictherapy.org/en/>

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