

**Department of Health
Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission**

Notice of Adoption – Policy Statement

Title: 2026 FIFA World Cup Events in Washington - Chiropractors | CH-01-08-26

Issuing Entity: Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission

Subject Matter: The Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission’s (commission) will exercise discretion to allow chiropractors with another U.S. state, territory, or country license to provide chiropractic care to players and staff participating in and supporting Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026 events in Washington state without holding a license in Washington or registering their intent to practice with the commission.

Effective Date: January 8, 2026

Contact Person: Betty Moe, Deputy Executive Director
Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission
Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov

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Policy Statement

Title:	2026 FIFA World Cup Events in Washington - Chiropractors
Policy Statement Number:	CH-01-08-26
References:	RCW 43.70.117, RCW 18.25.190, RCW 18.25.019, and RCW 18.130.190
Contact:	Betty Moe, Deputy Executive Director
Phone:	360-764-6251
Email:	Betty.Moe@doh.wa.gov
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Approved By:	Vanessa Wise, DC, Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission Chair

Policy

It is the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission's (commission) policy that the commission will exercise discretion to allow chiropractors with a United States (U.S.) state or territory, or another country license to provide chiropractic care to players and staff participating in and supporting Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026 events in Washington state without holding a license in Washington or registering their intent to practice with the commission. The commission takes this position because the care will be limited in both scope and duration.

Background

The Department of Health (department) received a request from FIFA to clarify the application of Washington law to health care providers with international licenses who will be providing care to players and staff while participating in and supporting FIFA World Cup 2026 events in Washington.

Applicable Laws

Under Washington state law, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.70.117, persons licensed as health care professionals in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, but not licensed in Washington, may practice in this state on a limited voluntary basis provided the profession they practice is substantially equivalent to a profession regulated in Washington. This exception does not apply to providers licensed in other countries.

Additionally, RCW 18.25.190 authorizes chiropractors licensed in another state, territory or country to practice for up to 30 days without being licensed in Washington provided they do not establish a practice open to the general public. However, the statute also requires that those chiropractors register their intention to engage in the temporary practice of chiropractic care in Washington with the commission before engaging in such practice.

RCW 18.25.019 provides that the Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA), chapter 18.130 RCW, governs the unlicensed practice of chiropractic care. Under RCW 18.130.190, the Secretary of Health has jurisdiction over unlicensed practice. The requirement in RCW 18.25.190 to register temporary practice of chiropractic services with the commission is subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

Analysis

Chiropractors with another U.S. state, territory, or country license will be allowed to provide care to staff and players participating in and supporting FIFA World Club 2026 events. Those chiropractors will not provide care to individuals who are not participating in or supporting FIFA World Club 2026 events, nor will they provide care in Washington on an ongoing basis. Thus, their practice will be narrow in scope and duration.

Moreover, the Secretary of Health issued a policy statement that the agency will exercise its discretion to allow health care providers with international licenses to provide care to players and staff participating in and supporting FIFA World Cup 2026 events without holding a license from Washington state or another U.S. state or territory.

Conclusion

The commission will exercise enforcement discretion to allow chiropractors licensed in another U.S. state, territory, or country to provide treatment to players and staff participating in and supporting FIFA World Cup 2026 events without holding a license in Washington or registering their intent to practice with the commission as would be required by RCW 18.25.190.