

## **AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE (ABEM)**

### **SPORTS MEDICINE (SPM) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ABEM AND AOBEM DIPLOMATES**

Sports Medicine is a clinical subspecialty that is concerned with physical fitness and the diagnosis and treatment of injuries sustained in sports activities.

Certification in the subspecialty of Sports Medicine is available to diplomates of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) and American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM), who fulfill the eligibility criteria and pass the subspecialty examination. ABEM co-sponsors this subspecialty with the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), and the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR).

Physicians who are ABEM or AOBEM diplomates submit their applications to ABEM. Physicians who are diplomates of both ABEM and ABFM, ABIM, ABP, or ABPMR may submit an application to the board through which they wish to become certified in Sports Medicine.

Physicians who expect to complete their fellowship training by the day of the examination may submit an application during the application period that is conducted for the examination administered in the year they graduate.

The SPM eligibility criteria for ABEM diplomates were mutually determined by ABFM and ABEM. These criteria cannot be appealed.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The general criteria for emergency physicians seeking certification in SPM are as follows:

- The physician must be a diplomate of ABEM or a diplomate of the AOBEM diplomate. (For AOBEM diplomates, see Special Considerations for AOBEM Diplomates, page 2)
- The physician must be participating in the ABEM MOC or the AOBEM Osteopathic Continuing Certification (OCC) program at the time of application and throughout the certification process.
- The physician must fulfill the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

Additionally, the physician must fulfill the eligibility criteria of the Fellowship Training Pathway.

#### **Fellowship Training Pathway**

Physicians must complete a minimum of one year in an ACGME-accredited Sports Medicine fellowship program associated with an ACGME-accredited residency in Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, or Pediatrics.

If the Sports Medicine fellowship is structured so that it is longer than one year, the diplomate must successfully complete the requirements of the fellowship program to apply through this pathway.

The physician must successfully complete the fellowship training by the date of the examination.

ABEM will independently verify with the fellowship program director, the applicant's successful completion of training at the Sports Medicine fellowship program.

### **Special Consideration for AOBEM Diplomates**

AOBEM diplomates may apply for subspecialty certification if all of their fellowship training occurs in an ACGME-accredited fellowship on and after July 1, 2015. This exception will be available to AOBEM diplomates who graduate from an ACGME-accredited fellowship before July 1, 2022. The ABEM eligibility criteria do not allow AOBEM diplomates who were enrolled, or who graduated from, ACGME-accredited fellowship programs before July 1, 2015, to apply for ABEM subspecialty certification.

### **TIMING CONSIDERATIONS**

Physicians seeking certification in more than one specialty or subspecialty may not apply the same postgraduate training period towards fulfilling the requirements of more than one specialty or subspecialty.

### **CERTIFICATION**

ABEM diplomates who have met the SPM eligibility criteria and who pass the SPM Certification Examination are recognized as being certified in the subspecialty of Sports Medicine. Certification is for a period of ten years.

Certificates are dated from the day the examination results are made available to the physician and expire December 31, ten years thereafter. Physicians certified in SPM are not required to maintain their Emergency Medicine certification, but are required to participate in the SPM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program in order to renew certification beyond ten years.

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