

FORMIDABLE STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

SWIMMING SPECIFIC INJURY REHAB PROGRAM



EARLY INJURY MANAGEMENT GUIDE

for your

SHOULDER PAIN



EARLY INJURY MANAGEMENT GUIDE

When is the best time to start rehab? Right now!

Injuries can happen anywhere and anytime, so knowing what steps to take to get started on your recovery can make all the difference.

This Early Injury Management Guide is designed specifically for swimmers and offers essential tips to help you recover faster before you even step foot in the physiotherapy clinic.

Whether it's a sprain, strain, or any other common injury, our guide provides clear, actionable steps to minimise damage, reduce recovery time, and get you back in the water.

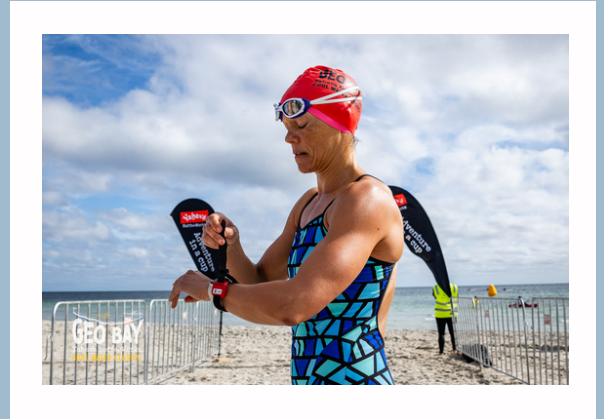
While these recommendations can be helpful, they are not a substitute for professional medical advice. It's crucial to consult with a qualified physiotherapist or healthcare professional to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment.

We believe that effective injury rehab starts from day one. So use this guide to equip yourself with the tools to handle your shoulder pain with ease, so you can get your training back on track.



WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS GUIDE?

This guide is best for those who are in the “acute” stage of their injury. This is the initial period from when your symptoms first start and lasts typically ~4 days



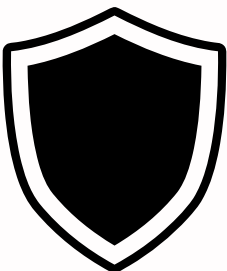
OUR *3 principles* OF POST INJURY CARE

1.

2.

3.

**PROTECT THE
AREA**



**PAIN
MANAGEMENT**



**PROMOTE
HEALING**





PROTECT THE AREA

Reduce Loading:

- This can look like a reduction in your training volume i.e. reduction in your number of sessions or reduced session length
- Dropping the speed/intensity of your sessions will also reduce your overall load
- Limit overhead movements in the gym
- When you're in the water consider limiting your pull only work, use your kick board and fins when needed

Support the Area:

- Consider your posture when you're going about your day. Being hunched over with your shoulders rolled forwards leads to suboptimal shoulder joint positioning, limits range of movement and perpetuates muscular imbalances
- Try to avoid sleeping on that shoulder
- Consider use of taping

Don't be a Silly Goose!

- All too often we ignore our pain and try and push through, even choosing to do activities that put extra stress on our injured shoulder.
- Now is probably not the best time for rearranging furniture or handstand competitions.



PAIN MANAGEMENT

Pain is Protective

- Pain is not the enemy! Its a really useful tool your brain uses to let you know that something isn't quite right
- Listen to your body, but remember that we're are incredibly resilient and capable of healing

Heat or Ice?

- This is a topic undergoing a fair amount of research and revision
- Apply either for 10-20 mins at a time several time throughout the day
- Remember to protect your skin!

Ice:

- Typically great for sprains, strains or joint injuries
- Its most helpful for pain relief as it can help numb the area (especially after training!)

Heat:

- Heat is great for pain relief, especially if discomfort is being caused by stiffness and muscular tightness

Should I Take Pain Medications?

- Over the counter pain relief is a great option to help with pain management, use as directed on the packet and check with your doctor if you're taking other medications or have other medical conditions.
- Avoid taking them before training so you don't overdo it, take them after instead

Remember to Breathe

- Anxiety can make your pain experience even worse, take some deep breaths and relax - try 5 seconds inhale and 7 seconds exhale
- This will also help your overactive and sore muscles relax
- Keep your shoulders down away from your ears as you breath!



PROMOTE HEALING

Movement is Medicine!

- Complete bed rest will be detrimental to your recovery.
Remember to modify not avoid! Keep moving and active to prevent detraining and stiffness, super important for shoulders!
- Movement will help increase blood flow which is important for delivering all the chemical and nutrients essential in the healing process

Sleep

- Sleep has so many important benefits especially when you're coping with an injury
- Release of growth hormones during sleep which is essential for the healing process
- A lack of sleep can increase pain sensitivity
- Regulates the inflammatory process

Hydration

- Hydration is essential for cellular function and healing
- Facilitates circulation and therefore the transport of important nutrients essential for tissue repair
- Maintaining fluid balance assists with inflammation and swelling
- Promotes good synovial fluid health which is important when a joint is injured

Nutrition

- Proper nutrition provides the essential nutrients needed for healing tissues. For example proteins and vitamin C are needed for tissue repair.

YOUR SHOULDER PAIN CHECKLIST

Shoulder pain is feared among swimmers, especially in the lead up to a big event or competition. Don't ignore it! The longer you leave it the longer the rehab. Here's a few things to look out for...



Severe, intense, debilitating pain that does not improve with rest or over-the-counter pain relief.



Radiating pain that spreads to your neck, back, arms or chest especially if accompanied by numbness or tingling.



Sudden weakness or inability to lift your arm



Loss of bladder or bowel control requires immediate medical attention.



Fever or chills



Loss of Range of Motion or difficulty moving your shoulder in any direction, especially if it suddenly worsens.



Noticeable swelling, bruising, or a change in the shape of the shoulder joint.



Recent injury or trauma to the shoulder, particularly if it results in sharp pain or dysfunction.



Pain that is accompanied by chest discomfort or difficulty breathing, which could indicate a cardiac issue.



Unexplained weight loss

If you are experiencing any of the above please seek help from a health care professional

NEXT STEPS

Book a call with our physiotherapist



Or...

Book now using this QR code for 50% off your initial appointment.



...and

Get out of pain, address underlying issues contributing to your pain, prevent re-injury, feel stronger than ever and get back to smashing your swimming goals.

START YOUR REHAB JOURNEY

Check out our swimming specific rehab program.

- Weekly physio appointments if needed
- An individualised exercise-based rehab program
- Regular assessments to ensure your rehab is heading in the right direction
- Unlimited supervised sessions with your rehab team
- A swimming specific strength training program to complement your rehab, allowing you to improve your swimming even when you're injured
- Access to recovery equipment that will help speed up the recovery process
- Free access to an initial appointment with a sports dietitian to go over their nutrition
- A community of other swimmers all there to support them on their rehab journey

All for the same weekly price of a standard physiotherapy consult. (and yes, in a lot of cases, you can get close to 80% of your rehab back through rebates).

