

AT Perspective

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Executive Director's Report

As many of you are aware, the AT Section amended the continuing education rule to require all licensees to complete one hour of ethics continuing education per renewal cycle. I want to provide you with some insight into the Section's decision to amend the rule.

According to Webster's, ethics is defined as "the rules or standards of conduct governing the members of a profession." As trained and

licensed individuals, it is important that athletic trainers conduct themselves not only professionally, but also in an ethical manner. The addition of the ethics requirement ensures that all licensees will spend at least one hour every two years reflecting on the laws and rules governing their practice in Ohio and on ethical decision making that may impact the integrity of their profession.

The Section made this change to assist you in remaining current with professional standards and to promote excellence among the licensed athletic training population in Ohio.



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Athletic Trainers Section Welcomes Dr. John Lombardo

On August 28, 2004, Governor Bob Taft appointed Dr. John Lombardo, to the Athletic Trainers Section for a term ending on August 27, 2007.

Dr. Lombardo replaced Dr. Randell Wexler, who did not seek reappointment after his term ended in August 2004. The Section thanks Dr. Wexler

for all of his years of service and dedication to the practice of athletic training.

Dr. Lombardo is currently the medical director of the Max Sports Center in Columbus.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Pre-medicine and Physical Education from the University of

Dayton and received his medical education from the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Please join the Section in welcoming Dr. Lombardo.

In addition to Dr. Lombardo, Kurt McClurg, from Bowling Green, was reappointed to the Section for a term expiring on August 27, 2007.

2005 Rule Changes

The Section recently reviewed its administrative rules and made the following changes that will go into effect on May 1, 2005.

Please remember that it is your professional responsibility to remain current with the laws and rules governing the practice of athletic training in Ohio.

Renewals will now be mailed in February to streamline the athletic training renewal process.

4755-40-01 Notice of meetings

The Section amended this rule to update the methods of contacting the Board in the event a member of the public wishes to attend a regularly scheduled meeting.

4755-43-01 Application for licensure

The changes to this rule clarified the initial licensure application process.

4755-43-02 Examination requirements

This rule was amended to clarify that all applicants for Ohio licensure must score a 90% on the Ohio laws and rules examination.

4755-43-06 Reinstatement of licensure

The changes to this rule clarified the license reinstatement process.

4755-43-08 Biennial renewal of license

The amendment to this rule simplifies the athletic training renewal process.

Several of the major changes include changing the date that renewal applications are mailed and the date by which licensees must return the application. Under

the new rule, license renewals will now be mailed in February of the year the license expires.

In addition, the renewal will be considered late if not post-marked by April 15. The late fee not to exceed \$45 and the May 15 expiration date remain the same.

4755-45-01 Continuing Education

The Section made significant changes to the continuing education required for athletic training license renewal.

The rule now states that at least one contact hour of professional ethics is required to renew an ath-

letic training license.

The rule also is more specific on the requirements an athletic trainer must meet to qualify for continuing education credit when giving a presentation.

4755-47-04 License fee

This is a new rule dealing with the fee required for licensure as an athletic trainer. The fee charged by the Section remained the same.

4755-47-05 Reinstatement fee

This is a new rule dealing with the fee required for athletic training license reinstatement. The fee charged by the Section remained the same.

4755-47-06 Biennial renewal fee

This is a new rule dealing with the fee required for the biennial renewal of an athletic training license. The fee charged by the Section remained the same.

Completion of one hour of ethics education is now mandatory for athletic training license renewal.

Licensure vs. Certification

State licensure is required for anyone who practices athletic training in Ohio. Certification is a voluntary credential that many athletic trainers choose to maintain.

In order to obtain Ohio licensure, every athletic trainer must pass the BOC certification examination. Once an individual passes the BOC examination, they become a certi-

fied athletic trainer, or an ATC. The initials ATC are copyrighted by the BOC and should not be used to denote state licensure in Ohio.

After much discussion, the Section decided to encourage all athletic trainers to begin using LAT, in addition to ATC, to

denote licensure. For example, an athletic trainer should use LAT on documentation and paperwork to demonstrate state licensure, not just the "C" used to demonstrate national certification.

At this time, the Section decided to only encourage, not require, the use of LAT.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The Athletic Trainers Section receives numerous letters requesting interpretations of the Athletic Training Practice Act. These letters typically reflect current issues and problems experienced by licensees in the delivery of services.

The following is a list of frequently asked questions and general responses given by the Section. This is by no means a complete list. If you have any questions related to athletic training practice, please do not hesitate to contact the Section in writing.

Can an athletic trainer start an IV under the direction of the team physician?

Section 4731.053(D) of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) states, "The [Medical] board shall not adopt rules that do any of the following: (3) Except as provided in divisions (D)(4) to (7) of this section, authorize a physician to delegate the administration of anesthesia, controlled substances, drugs administered intravenously, or any other drug or category of drug the board considers to be inappropriate for delegation."

Can an AT start an IV?

According to section 4729.01 of the ORC, anything administered via injection is considered a dangerous drug. Therefore, even a simple solution of dextrose and water is considered a dangerous drug under this law. Since the ORC prohibits a physician from delegating the administration of intravenous drugs, it is illegal for an athletic trainer to start an IV.

The Section recommends contacting the State of Ohio Medical Board for information regarding the delegation of tasks by a team physician, specifically the administration of intravenous drugs.

What is the referral relationship between an athletic trainer and team physician?

It is the position of the Athletic Trainers Section that section 4755.60 of the ORC and rule 4755-42-02 of the Administrative Code (OAC) requires that a referral relationship must exist between a team physician and an athletic trainer for care of that team's athletes participating in interscholastic, intercollegiate,

or professional athletics. Athletic trainers employed by a college, university, high school, or other scholastic institution, as well as professional organizations/clubs function under this team physician/athletic trainer referral relationship

This relationship should consist of a protocol of care communicated between the team physician and the athletic trainer, and should include procedures for prevention, recognition, assess-

ment, management, treatment, disposition, and reconditioning of athletic injuries.

What is the referral relationship between an AT and team physician?

A referral relationship between a team physician and an athletic trainer requires interaction by both parties. In general practice, athletic trainers

administer first aid and team physicians initiate referrals for continued treatment. This relationship is maintained by ongoing telephone and written communication.

Census Count

As of April 28, 2005 there are:

1,691 athletic trainers;
3,788 occupational therapists;

260 occupational therapists in escrow;

2,166 occupational therapy assistants;

191 occupational therapy assistants in escrow;

6,272 physical therapists; and

4,215 physical therapist assistants with active Ohio licenses.

2005 Meeting Dates

All Board meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact the Board at board@otptat.state.oh.us or (614) 466-3774 to verify the time and place of any meeting you wish to

attend.

The following is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

May 5, 2005

June 22, 2005

August 3, 2005

September 22, 2005

November 16, 2005

The meetings are typically held at the Vern Riffe Center for the Government and the Arts, 77 South High Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, Ohio.

Disciplinary Actions

To obtain additional information regarding the actions taken by the Board, you may submit a public records request to the Enforcement Division via mail, email, or fax. Please include the individual's name and license number, and your name and address or fax number.

Pursuant to section 149.43 of the Revised Code, individuals who wish to have the documents forwarded to them via mail will be charged a fee not to exceed the actual cost of record dupli-

cation and postage. There is no charge for records returned via fax.

All enforcement actions are now posted monthly on the Board website.

The Enforcement Division conducts investigations of complaints filed against athletic trainers. The Board requires that all complaints be submitted in writing. You may access a complaint form on the Board website.

Upon receiving a written complaint, the Enforcement staff sends notification that the complaint

has been received. After an investigation has been conducted, the Athletic Training Investigative Committee reviews the information to determine if a violation of the Athletic Trainers Practice Act occurred. If the individual is found to be in violation, the Committee will determine whether or not disciplinary action is warranted.

Please be advised that no specific information can be released regarding the outcome of the investigation, unless disciplinary action is taken.