



National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc.

Code of Ethics

Preamble

One outstanding characteristic of a profession is that its members are dedicated to rendering service to humanity. Also, they are committed to the improvement of standards of performance. In becoming a member of the athletic training profession, the individual assumes obligations and responsibilities to conduct himself/herself in accordance with its ideals and standards. These are set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws and are emphasized in the CODE OF ETHICS. Any athletic trainer who does not feel that he/she can or does not deem it necessary to comply with the principles set forth in the CODE should have no place in this profession.

The members of the athletic training profession must adhere to the highest standards of conduct in carrying out their significant roles in athletic programs at all levels. It is for this reason that the Board of Directors of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. has continually revised the CODE which has been in effect since June, 1957.*

In approving the CODE, the Board of Directors recognizes and believes that unless the standards and principles that are set forth in this document are accepted in good faith and followed sincerely, it will not be

* 1971, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983
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effective in continuing to improve the contributions of the profession and its members to athletics and sports medicine.

Ethics is generally considered as conduct in keeping with moral duty and making the right actions relative to ideal principles. Let it be understood that all members of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. will understand and apply the principles set forth in the CODE and make every effort to do the right thing at the right time to the best of their ability and judgement.

Purpose

The Purpose of this CODE is to clarify the ethical and approved professional practices as distinguished from those that might prove harmful or detrimental and to instill into the members of the Association the value and importance of the athletic trainers' role.

Objectives

The stated objectives of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. in its Constitution are:

1. The advancement, encouragement and improvement of the athletic training profession in all its phases and to promote a better working relationship among those persons interested in the problems of training.
2. To develop further the ability of each of its members.
3. To better serve the common interests of its members by providing a means for free exchange of ideas within the profession.

4. To enable the members to become better acquainted personally through casual good fellowship.

Article I — Basic Principles

The essential basic principles of this CODE are Honesty, Integrity and Loyalty. Athletic trainers who reflect these characteristics will be a credit to the Association, the institution they represent and to themselves.

When a person becomes a member of this Association he/she assumes certain obligations and responsibilities. A trainer whose conduct is not in accordance with the principles set forth in the following sections shall be considered in violation of the CODE.

Section 1 — Athletics in General

An athletic trainer shall show no discrimination in his/her efforts while performing his/her duties.

Section 2 — Drugs

The membership of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. does not condone the unauthorized and/or non-therapeutic use of drugs. The Association recognizes that the best and safest program is comprised of good conditioning and athletic training principles.

Section 3 — Testimonials and Endorsements

In any endorsement in which the trainer's name and/or reference to the athletic training profession is included, the wording and illustration, including any implications of the endorsement, shall be such that no discredit to the training profession may be construed. (Any endorsement that is not in keeping with the highest principles and standards of the athletic training profession shall be considered unethical.) The NATA, Inc. name, logo, trademark and/or insignia may not be used in any testimonials and/or endorsement service products, programs, publications and facilities by individual members or groups of members of the Association.

Section 4 — Sportsmanship

Members of this Association shall not condone, engage in or defend unsportsman-like practices.

Section 5 — Fellow Trainers

Any trainer who by his/her conduct or comments, publicly discredits or lowers the dignity of members of the profession is guilty of breach of ethics.

Section 6 — Membership

It is unethical for a member to sponsor a candidate for membership in the National Athletic Trainer's Association, Inc. who does not know the candidate and his/her qualifications.

Section 7 — Misrepresentation

It is unethical for a member to misrepresent his/her membership status and/or classification.

Article II — Educational Preparation & Certification

Any certified member of this Association must be considered an educator if he/she is involved with the professional preparation of students pursuing National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. Certification through any of the approved certification routes.

Section 1 — Educational Standards

The athletic trainer-educator must adhere to the

educational standards and criteria set forth by this Association.

Section 2 — Selection of Students

The athletic trainer-educator is responsible for the selection of students for admission into a professional preparation program and must insure that policies are non-discriminatory with respect to race, color, sex, or national origin.

Section 3 — Publication and Representation

Publication and representation of the professional preparation program by the athletic trainer-educator must accurately reflect the program offered.

Section 4 — Evaluation of Students

Evaluation of student achievement by the athletic trainer-educator must be done in a prudent manner.

Section 5 — Recommendation for Certification

It is unethical for a member to knowingly recommend a candidate for the national certification examination who has not fulfilled all eligibility requirements as specified by the Board of Certification.

Section 6 — Confidentiality of National Certification Examination

It is unethical for any member to reproduce in written form or reveal in any other manner, any part of the written or oral-practical examination for the purpose of aiding certification candidates in passing the examination.

Article III — Enforcement

Section 1 — Reporting of Unethical Conduct

Any member of the Association who becomes aware of conduct that he/she considers unethical and that he/she believes warrants investigation, shall report the incident(s) in writing to the President and the Executive Director of the Association, who will in turn initiate investigation through the Ethics Committee. He/she shall include in the communication all pertinent data.

Section 2 — Investigation and Action

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Association, the Ethics Committee investigates reported incidents of unethical conduct and if, in the judgement of a majority of the committee members, it finds that the accused person has violated the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. CODE OF ETHICS, it communicates its decision to the accused and to the Board of Directors in writing and recommends to the Board one of the following disciplinary actions:

1. *Letter of Censure*

Copies to immediate supervisor and District Director

2. *Period of Probation:* (This shall be determined by the Board of Directors.) During the period of probation the member shall not be eligible for any of the following:

- a) Hold an office at any level in the Association.

- b) Represent NATA, Inc. in the capacity of liaison with another organization.

3. *Initiate Procedure for Cancellation of Membership*

Section 3 — Action by the Board of Directors

The decision of the Board of Directors in CODE OF ETHICS is final, except that if the decision is to initiate cancellation of membership. This shall be done as prescribed in Article VI, Sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution. +