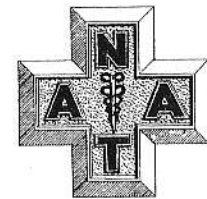


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CONSTITUTION  
BY-LAWS  
CODE OF ETHICS



NATIONAL ATHLETIC  
TRAINERS ASSOCIATION

**CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ATHLETIC  
TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION**

(Revised and Approved June 1960)

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

**ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this association shall be:

- (1) The advancement, encouragement, and improvement of the athletic training profession in all of 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 interest of its members by providing a means for a free exchange of ideas within the profession.
- (4) To enable the members to become better acquainted personally through casual good fellowship.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

There shall be six classes of membership and no individual shall be eligible for more than one class of membership at one time.

- |              |               |             |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| (a) Active   | (b) Associate | (c) Allied  |
| (d) Advisory | (e) Honorary  | (f) Retired |

**Section 2.**

Each member shall have the respective rights and duties as provided for in the By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF MEMBERS

##### Section 1.

Application: Each applicant for any class of membership shall sign an application stating his desire and intention to become a member of the association, to advance its best interests in every reasonable manner and to accept as binding upon himself its constitution and by-laws.

##### Section 2.

The By-Laws shall prescribe further procedure by which eligibility for and election to membership shall be effected.

#### ARTICLE V - DUES

##### Section 1.

The dues of all classes of members shall be as prescribed by the By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE VI - SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

##### Section 1.

Membership cancellations may be recommended by any member of the association for a cause and the membership of any member be caused to cease by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present at the annual meeting.

##### Section 2.

Appeals: Any member whose membership is cancelled shall be allowed either in person or through some member of the association to appeal to the membership committee. This information shall be presented to and acted upon by the Board of Directors.

(6) months after January 1, should be considered suspended, and will not be entitled to a vote at the following annual meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII - VOTING POWER

##### Section 1.

Active members shall be entitled to one vote upon all questions submitted to the association for decision.

#### ARTICLE VIII - ORGANIZATION

##### Section 1.

National: The governing body of this association shall be a Board of Directors, made up of the Directors of the nine districts of the association. This term of office shall run from the termination of the National Convention and runs for one year.

- (a) The Board of Directors will elect one of its members as Chairman of the Board. Nominations shall be made from the floor. Such elections shall be held annually.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall meet immediately preceding and after the annual convention.
- (c) The Board of Directors shall have an Ex-Officio member. He shall be voted on a one-year term and appointed each year by the Board.
- (d) A past member of the Board of Directors may be appointed by the Board as an Ex-Officio member.
- (e) For the transaction of business, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.
- (f) Any special meeting may be called by the Executive Secretary. A quorum shall consist of five members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Secretary.

#### Section 2.

Regional: The Regional Trainers' Association will be self-governing as per its own specific constitution and by-laws. In its relations with the National Organization the Regional Association will be under the jurisdiction of the National Athletic Trainers' Association constitution and by-laws.

- (a) For the purpose of facilitating the work of this association the Regional Trainers' Association shall be divided into nine geographic districts. A desired alteration by the affected local region must be approved by the Board of Directors of the National Organization.
- (b) Each district elects a Director to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association. This Director acts in full authority for the district at the Board of Directors' meetings.

#### Section 3

There shall be an Executive Secretary of this organization. He shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its annual election. Nominations shall be made from the floor.

#### Section 4.

Removal of Officers: All national officers may be impeached and convicted on the following grounds; embezzlement, malfeasance in office, and actions contrary to or in violation of this constitution and its by-laws. Before impeachment proceedings can be instituted, a brief containing the charges shall be drawn up and presented by a Board member to the Board of Directors sitting in executive session. The afore-mentioned brief must then be adopted by a majority vote prior to the formal presentation of the charges. Impeachment of any officer shall require a two-thirds vote of the entire voting membership of the Association.

### ARTICLE IX - POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### Section 1.

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to transact the business and administer the affairs of the National Association. It may transact such part of said business as it may deem wise by correspondence - such action, however, to be noted by the Secretary in his minutes and reported to the National Association at the annual convention. It shall have complete authority to manage the funds and property of the Association.

#### Section 2.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at any meeting of the National Association, as its presiding officer. He shall supervise the working of the Association.

#### Section 3.

The Executive Secretary shall have the following duties:

- (a) He shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and shall keep records of attendance of members.
- (b) He shall conduct correspondence of the Association with other organizations and individuals and shall receive all reports of committees.
- (c) He shall send out notices of the regular and special meetings and attend to all duties as may pertain to the office.
- (d) He shall keep the Chairman of the Board informed as the status of the members.
- (e) He shall receive and deposit all Association monies in the name of the Association.
- (f) He shall issue receipts and shall pay all accounts as authorized by the executives of the Association.
- (g) He shall furnish a detailed statement of the financial

- affairs of the Association at the annual meeting. This information shall also be made available to the officers of the Association at any time they may request it.
- (h) He shall be custodian of all records, books, and papers belonging to the Association.

#### ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES

##### Section 1.

- (a) All committees, standing and special, shall be appointed or dissolved by the Board of Directors at its discretion.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall function as a Committee on Committees. The outgoing chairman of the board shall act as the chairman of the Committee on Committees. The present chairman shall instruct the chairman of the Committee on Committees as to their specific functions and duties.

#### ARTICLE XI - MEETINGS

##### Section 1.

The annual meeting shall be held each year at a time and place set by the Directors.

##### Section 2.

Quorum: The quorum shall consist of one-fifth of the Association's active membership

#### ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

##### Section 1.

All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Association at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting. The Executive Secretary will distribute copies of the proposal to all voting

members at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

##### Section 2.

The proposed amendment shall be read and a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present shall be necessary for the adoption of the said amendment.

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### BY-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

Revised and Approved June 1960

#### ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

##### Section 1.

Eligibility for membership, conditions and obligations of membership, classes of membership, termination of membership, and re-instatement for membership are governed by Articles III, IV, and VI of the Constitution of the Association.

##### Section 2. Active Membership:

- A. Athletic Trainers from Universities, Colleges, Junior Colleges, Professional Football, Baseball, Basketball, Ice Hockey, High Schools, Preparatory Schools and Military Establishments, who are at present and have been actively engaged in the profession of athletic training for a period of five years and who are acceptable to the organization, shall be eligible for active membership. Each active member shall have the privilege of one (1) vote.

- ✓B. As of June 1, 1957, anyone making application for active membership in this organization shall submit evidence of graduation from an accredited college or university or certified from a school of physical therapy.
- C. Active members, as long as they remain in good standing, and so desire, may retain active membership classification for a period of two years after leaving the active athletic training field.

**Section 3. Associate Membership:**

Any individual who has engaged in preparation for the athletic training profession for at least two years or who is a member of the athletic staff of any high school, preparatory school or military school, and does not qualify for active membership, is eligible for associate membership in this association. Associate members may take part in discussions or debates, and, in general, have the privilege of the floor, but shall not be entitled to vote.

**Section 4. Allied Membership:**

This class of membership shall be open to business concerns and commercial enterprises who are interested in athletics in general.

**Section 5. Advisory Membership:**

Team physicians for universities, colleges, junior colleges, high schools, military schools, professional football, baseball, basketball, or ice hockey clubs, who are directly associated with and actively engaged in aiding the Athletic Trainer in his work, and who are acceptable to the organization shall be eligible for membership in this class in any advisory capacity. There is to be no active vote or dues. An active member must nominate a prospective candidate for this membership, and this nomination must be received through the committee on membership and is subject to their judgment.

**Section 6. Honorary Membership:**

Honorary members shall be elected only through the National chapter and by a majority vote of the active members present at the annual meeting. Proposals for honorary memberships shall come only through the chairman of the committee on honorary memberships. Any person, who, by virtue of his acts or speech, shows a profound interest in the training profession shall be eligible for this class of membership. Nominations for this class of membership must be received through the committee on honorary membership and are subject to their judgment.

**Section 7. Retired Membership:**

Any active members upon retiring because of age, shall retain an active membership with all voting privileges without payment of dues.

**ARTICLE II - ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

**Section 1.**

Election of candidates for membership to the National Athletic Trainers' Association shall be proposed and recommended by at least one member within the applicant's respective district. The application shall then be passed on or rejected by the membership committee of the respective District Athletic Trainers' Association.

**ARTICLE III - RE-INSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

Any member suspended from the association for failure in payment of dues six (6) months after January 1, must make application for re-instatement through the membership committee of the district in which he held membership.

Section 2. Transfer:

Any member of this association who is in good standing and who moves into another district other than that in which he holds membership may be eligible for membership in the new district by filing a request with the secretary of the district to which he is going.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Section 1.

The annual dues for membership of the National Association shall be four (4) dollars for all types of membership except honorary, advisory, and retired. Honorary, advisory, and retired members shall pay no dues.

Section 2.

All dues are payable only through the district office on or before January 1, for the ensuing year.

Section 3.

For each district to remain in good standing it must send the National Association four (4) dollars for all active, associate, and allied members.

Section 4.

The Constitution of the Association provides for suspension of membership upon failure of a member to pay dues six (6) months after January 1.

ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATION

Section 1.

For the purpose of facilitating the work of this association it shall be divided into nine geographic districts as follows:

1. Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

2. Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.
3. Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia.
4. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and University of Iowa.
5. Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and University of Colorado.
6. Arkansas, Texas.
7. Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico.
8. California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska.
9. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1.

There shall be the following committees established by the Association:

- (a) Membership
- (b) Code of Ethics
- (c) Honorary Membership and Awards
- (d) Twenty-five Year Award
- (e) Publicity
- (f) Constitution and By-Laws
- (g) Injury
- (h) Recognitions
- (i) Convention Program
- (j) Exhibitors
- (k) Professional Advancement
- (l) Registration
- (m) Hall-of Fame

Section 2.

Composition and functions of the committees are as follows:

- (a) Membership: Chairman and eight members. To act upon

applications for membership in the National Athletic Trainers' Association as per constitution and by-laws of the association. To categorize all applications and to review and present facts to annual meeting in regard to suspension or revocation of membership for reasons stated in the constitution and by-laws.

- (b) Code of Ethics: Chairman and five members. To investigate all violations of the Code which are brought to their attention. To collect all data pertaining to any reported violation, consider all sides of any controversial issue, and to forward a report of their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors for final action.
- (c) Honorary Memberships and Awards: Chairman and two members. To award honorary memberships and bestow appropriate awards to deserving persons associated with athletic training or athletics in general.
- (d) Twenty-Five Year Award: Chairman and two members. To investigate and approve the professional record of nominees for twenty-five year awards. To devise and present to qualified recipients an appropriate certificate at the annual meeting.
- (e) Publicity: To be handled through the districts. To secure and supply editorials and other articles for publication. To secure articles and papers for the "Journal of the National Athletic Trainers' Association."
- (f) Constitution and By-Laws: Chairman and two members. To be responsible for classification of legislation enacted by the association and incorporation of that legislation into the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (g) Injury: Chairman and five members. One member from each regional association. To compile statistical data concerning athletic injuries as directed by the Board of Directors. To publish and distribute such data to organizations and individuals only at the direction of

the Board of Directors.

- (h) Recognitions: Chairman, twelve active members, and five advisory members. To acquire recognition with other associations. To gain affiliate membership with other desired organizations.
- (i) Convention Program: Chairman and two members of the host district. To establish a program for the annual convention subject to approval of the Board of Directors. To plan and carry out the details of the annual convention.
- (j) Exhibitors: Chairman and two members. To be responsible for all exhibitors and contracts for all exhibitors at the National Meeting. To make all arrangements for displays.
- (k) Professional Advancement: Chairman, twelve members, and five advisory members. An educational committee to promote professional aspects of the association in all areas of gaining recognition and the promotion of the association.
- (l) Registration: Chairman and two members. To be responsible for all details pertaining to registration at the national convention. A registration fee shall be required at each National meeting.
- (m) Hall of Fame: Chairman and six members. To receive, screen, and select nominees to the Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame.

#### Section 3.

Committee chairmen and committee members named by the Board of Directors must be active, advisory, or honorary members of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

#### Section 4.

All committees are set up on a rotating basis.



Section 5.

There shall be the following special committees established by the Association:

- (a) Memorial Resolutions Committee: District Directors shall appoint a Memorial Resolutions Committee to write an appropriate memorial for any member of the association who has died during the past year to be presented for approval at the National business meeting.

Section 6.

Special committees shall only report to the Board of Directors. The reports shall be finalized whenever possible by March 15 of each year.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1.

The annual meeting shall be held in June of each year.

ARTICLE VIII - SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1.

The usual Order of Business procedure is as follows:

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Reading or the disposal of any unapproved minutes
- (c) Reports of Officers
- (d) Report of Board Chairman
- (e) Committee Reports
- (f) Unfinished Business
- (g) New Business
- (h) Adjournment

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These By-Laws may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present without previous notice, provided said amendment has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Association.

ARTICLE X

All parliamentary procedures and matters not included in this Constitution and By-Laws shall be governed by the Roberts Rules of Orders.

**NATA CODE OF ETHICS**  
**PREAMBLE - PURPOSE OF CODE - AUTHORIZATION**

Adopted June 1957

The outstanding characteristic of a profession is that its members are dedicated to rendering services to humanity. Financial gain or personal reward must be secondary. In choosing the athletic training profession the individual assumes obligations and responsibilities to conduct himself in accord with its ideals and standards. These are listed and emphasized in the CODE OF ETHICS. Any trainer who does not deem it necessary to comply with the principles set forth in this CODE should have no place in this profession.

Athletics have gained prominent ground in our educational institutions and are maintaining an important position in our American way of life. The members of the athletic training profession must be vigilant in carrying out their small, but very necessary and significant role in our national athletic program. It is for this reason that the Directors of the National Athletic Trainers Association, at the Annual Meeting (June 20, 1954) authorized the preparation of a CODE OF ETHICS.

In formulating and presenting this CODE, the Committee on Ethics recognizes and believes that unless the standards and principles which this instrument represents are accepted whole-heartedly, it will be ineffective in solving our problems.

The reputation of any profession depends to a great degree upon the manner and conduct of its members in living up to the spirit and letter that its code of ethics represents. Ethics is generally defined as a science of moral duty, or

making the right actions relative to ideal principles. Let it always be said that all members of this trainers association will understand and apply the principles enumerated in this CODE, and make every effort to do the right thing at the right time to the best of their ability and judgment.

The primary purpose of this CODE is to clarify the ethical and approved professional practices as distinguished from those which might prove harmful and detrimental. Its secondary purpose is to instill into its members the value and importance of the athletic's trainer's role in the entire athletic field.

**ENFORCEMENT**

It is suggested that the Committee on Ethics be empowered to investigate all violations of the CODE which are brought to their attention. It is the duty of this Committee to collect all data pertaining to any reported violation, consider all sides of any controversial issue, and then forward a report of their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors for final action.

It is further suggested that a written report of any unethical conduct be sent directly to the Chairman of The Board of Directors.

**OBJECTIVES**

Among the stated objectives of the National Athletic Trainers Association are the following:

"The advancement, encouragement, and improvement of the athletic training profession in all its phases----develop further the ability of each of its members---- provide a means for a free ex-

change of ideas within the profession---promote good fellowship among the members." (Art. II By-Laws)

## **ARTICLE I - BASIC PRINCIPLES**

When a man becomes a member of the athletic training profession, he assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to the following:

- (1) Athletics in its broadest sense
- (2) Players
- (3) Physicians and Medical Advisors
- (4) Parents
- (5) Administrative Officials
- (6) Coaches
- (7) Fellow Trainers

The essential basic principles in this CODE OF ETHICS of the NATA 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. Such conduct will bring respect from all the people listed in the following sections.

### **SEC. 1. ATHLETICS IN GENERAL**

An athletic trainer should do all in his power and ability for all branches of athletics and show no discrimination in his interests or efforts.

### **SEC. 2. PLAYERS**

Each and every member of an athletic squad is a potential varsity player and should be treated without favoritism or

partiality. An athletic trainer can wield a great amount of good influence on his charges by the proper conduct and use of good judgment in dealing with the various personalities and characters.

In prevention and treatment of injuries, the trainer must be very thorough in carrying out the accepted procedures and instructions. Any carelessness or laxity on the part of the trainer in his responsibility to the players in his charge is a breach of ethical practice.

### **SEC. 3. PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL ADVISORS**

The athletic trainer should cooperate completely with the team physician or any other Medical advisor assigned to the organization. The trainer must carry out the minute details of the doctor's orders, but not overstep his bound. Under no circumstances shall a trainer do medical or surgical procedures without specific instruction and consent of the physician in charge. Any deviation from the orders of the doctor, or failure to cooperate shall be considered unethical conduct.

### **SEC. 4. PARENTS**

In most every instance, a player on any athletic team is the parents' pride and joy. It is the responsibility of the trainer, by his conduct and interest, to assure all parents of the boys in his care that they are being properly cared for in every manner that is possible.

### **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS**

It is the athletic trainers responsibility to create a harmonious relationship between himself and all administrative officials. Suggestions and ideas should be freely discussed, but any controversial matters should be taken care of confidentially on a friendly basis. Decisions, business procedures and established standards, should be given

complete support by the trainer.

#### **SEC. 6 COACHES**

There should be a close harmonious relationship between the trainer and all coaches based on mutual respect. Cooperation must be the key note — between coaches and training department in maintaining esprit - de - corps, proper conditioning of athletes, prevention methods, treatment of injuries, decisions relative to welfare of players and in every way possible for the good of all concerned.

#### **SEC. 7 FELLOW TRAINERS**

The relationship of the trainers is partially set forth in the objectives. However, it should be stated further that in the process of extending courtesies and assisting our fellow trainers, we should abstain from so called "second guessing" them in the care and treatment of their charges. Any suggestions should be given, or taken, in the spirit of constructive cooperation. Any trainer, who by his conduct or derogatory comments discredits or lowers the dignity of members of his profession is guilty of a breach of ethics. Any report of unethical conduct should go through the proper channels and kept within the confines of this association.

### **ARTICLE II - CONDUCT - ATTITUDES - ACTIONS**

The elements and subject matter in the following sections are of an abstract nature but are definitely to be considered in the realm of the athletic trainers responsibilities and obligations.

#### **SEC. 1 SCHOLARSHIP**

A fundamental responsibility of the trainer in an educational institution is to promote and inspire scholastic achievement. This may be accomplished by suggestions, example, and arranging study periods and tutoring.

#### **SEC. 2 TESTIMONIALS AND ENDORSEMENTS**

When an athletic trainer accepts an offer for an endorsement of commercial items and commodities, he must realize that the offer being made is mainly because he is a successful representative of the training profession. In all endorsements where the training profession and the trainers name is included, the phrasing and text of the testimonial should be such that it does not bring discredit to athletics in general, or to the training profession. Accepting money or of any thing of material value, for an endorsement of any item which is not in keeping with the highest principles and traditions of the athletic training profession, shall be considered unethical.

#### **SEC. 3 PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

The ideal situation is for the director of publicity to handle all releases to the press. However, if the trainer is authorized to answer questions of newswriters and commentators, and provides them with news about the players, good judgment should be the key note. Answer direct questions honestly, or not at all. If there is a possibility that an honest answer might be misleading or involve a detrimental interpretation, good judgment may prompt a "no comment,

answer", Sports writers, broadcasters, and commentators should be treated with courtesy, honesty and respect.

Magazine articles, newspaper columns and any information for the public press, radio and television given by a member of the training profession is strictly that individual's responsibility. Good judgment should indicate that no statements be said or written that reflects discredit to athletics in general or the athletic training profession. Any professional problems that arise would be settled within the association, and not in the public press.

#### **SEC. 4 PRE-GAME - GAME - POST-GAME ACTIVITIES**

Meet the visiting trainer and offer any available services that he may desire. Meet and exchange greetings with the manager and coach. Make arrangements for any medical assistance that is necessary for the visiting team during the entire time they are your guests. During the warm-up period and game, carry on the training activities, but be as inconspicuous as possible. After the game, determine if there is any emergency service that the visiting team needs and give assistance in any way possible. Always have a respectful attitude to officials, visiting players and coaches.

#### **SEC. 5 SPORTSMANSHIP**

The athletic trainer is in a position to aid the coaches in instilling fair-play and good sportsmanship in the players. Any athletic trainer who permits, condones or defends unsportsmanlike practices which are dangerous to a player shall be considered guilty of a serious breach of ethics.