

MISSISSIPPI ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this organization shall be the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc., herein after referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Section 1. To promote, maintain, and develop high standards for the profession of Athletic Training in the State of Mississippi.

Section 2. To promote legislation for the public good and the betterment of Athletic Training within the State of Mississippi.

Section 3. To organize, cooperate with and aid other groups dedicated to safety in sports competition.

Section 4. To promote the exchange of knowledge and information within the profession of Athletic Training.

Section 5. To represent Athletic Trainers before governmental, professional, voluntary groups, agencies and the public.

Section 6. To support the concept of interscholastic competition within the framework of the total educational concept.

Section 7. To provide such services that will further the Association.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes of Membership

Licensed: Members in this classification will be licensed by the Mississippi State Board of Health. They shall be eligible to hold office and have full voting privileges.

Associate: Members in this classification shall be members of allied health professions. They will be ineligible to hold office and will have no voting privileges.

Student: Members in this classification shall be students in college or high school that are active as students of athletic training (under the direction of Coaches or School Physicians). They will be ineligible to hold office and will have no voting privileges. Students

of athletic training pursuing a bachelorette degree under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer shall be eligible for any or all scholarships which may be offered by this Association.

Honorary: Members in this classification will consist of those who have made significant contributions to athletic training, sports medicine, or athletics. Membership is obtained by a majority two-thirds vote of the entire Association's membership. They will be ineligible to vote or hold office.

Retired: Members in this classification will not pay dues. They will have voting privileges and will be eligible to hold office.

Corporate: This membership classification will be open to any corporation that is interested in the promotion of Athletic Training in the State of Mississippi.

Affiliate: This membership classification is open to schools, physician groups, or other professional organizations that are interested in the promotion of Athletic Training in the State of Mississippi.

Section 2. Applying for Membership

Membership forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Treasurer or website of the Association. Based on the information contained in the application, prospective members will be assigned a classification.

Section 3. Denial of Membership and Removal from Membership.

1. Any person will be denied membership if information on the application form is found to be false. Also, if the individual does not fulfill any of the classes of membership.
2. Any member may be removed from the Association when complaints concerning their conduct or ethical standards are found to be not in alignment with the NATA Code of Ethics and ideas upon which this Association is based. The Ethics Committee will decide whether or not to submit a vote on the individual's removal to the membership-at-large. Following a two-third vote of the membership-at-large in attendance, the individual's name will be removed from the Association's rolls.

Section 4. Continuing Education Requirements

Licensed members will be required to meet the Continuing Education Units as outlined by the Rules and Regulation Governing Athletic Trainers written by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Section 5. Membership Dues

Members dues are payable by February 1 of each year. If not received by the required date, the member's name shall be removed from the membership rolls.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers shall conduct official meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections of Officers.

- A. Nominations for officers shall be made by a licensed member in good standing with the Association. Nominations will be accepted by mail (electronic or standard) or in person prior to the last day of January of each election year.

- B. Elections shall be by a majority vote of the valid ballots received from the voting membership of the Association. Vote shall be by mail and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology through means of online voting. Election results shall be tabulated by an independent accounting agency retained by the Association. Elections will be held every two years for expiring offices. Newly elected officers shall begin their term of office at the summer State Advisory Council Meeting. Each officer shall serve a term of four years, for a maximum of two consecutive terms, with the exception of the treasurer which shall have a three (3) term limit.

- C. Special Elections.
 1. In the event that an officer is unable to complete the full term of the office, the President will call for nominations to elect an interim officer to fulfill the remainder of the term.
 2. The call for nominations of special elections is to be conducted within 30 days of the notification of the office vacancy. Nominations are to be made by mail (electronic or standard) or in person by a licensed member in good standing with the Association to the Secretary or another officer designated by the President.
 3. Special elections are to be held within 90 days of the notification of the office vacancy with the newly elected officer taking office at the next State Advisory Council Meeting (Winter or Summer).
 4. Members who serve a partial term (not greater than two years) due to a vacancy in their office may serve two (2) full terms in addition to the partial term.

- D. Regular elections for officers shall occur in a staggering manner every 2 years, with President and Secretary (2012) being elected opposite of the Vice-President, Treasurer, and Director of Professional Improvement (2010).

Section 3. Officers

A. President

Qualifications:

In order to hold the office of President, a person must be a licensed member in good standing of the Association. The person must also have been employed as an Athletic Trainer in the State of Mississippi for two calendar years.

Duties:

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Association.
2. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
3. The President shall call special meetings of the Association when there is a need, at the request of the Executive Committee or at the written request of five licensed members.
4. The President will remove committee members for failure to perform assigned duties.
5. The President shall be the official representative of the Association before all outside groups, organizations, or agencies.
6. The President shall make a yearly report on the standing, functions, and programs of the Association for the past year. This report is to be made at the summer meeting.
7. The President shall supervise the other officers in the performance of their duties as outlined herein.
8. The President shall also be empowered to assign other duties to officers or members for the good of the Association and to carry out the Associations' objectives.

B. Vice-President

Qualifications: In order to hold the office of Vice-President, a person must be a licensed member in good standing in the Association.

Duties:

1. The Vice-President shall take charge of membership applications, classifications of membership, and membership rolls.
2. The Vice-President shall twice yearly prepare membership roll of all classification upon request by other members, outside agencies, organizations, etc.
3. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside at all meetings.
4. The Vice-President will be in charge of all arrangements for the Association's business meetings, to be held in conjunction with the summer symposium.
5. The Vice-President will serve as Interim President in the event the President cannot fulfill the duties of office until the next scheduled business meeting.

C. Secretary

Qualifications: In order to hold the office of Secretary, a person must be a licensed member in good standing in the Association.

Duties:

1. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee.

2. The Secretary shall see that copies of both the Winter and Summer Meeting minutes are made available to those members who were not able to attend.
3. The Secretary shall send notices of the times, places, and agendas for meetings in advance to all members of the Association.
4. The Secretary shall conduct all elections held within the term of their office.
5. The Secretary shall perform all duties as assigned to him/her by the President.

D. Treasurer

Qualifications: In order to hold the office of Treasurer, a person must be a licensed member in good standing in the Association.

Duties:

1. The Treasurer shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.
2. The Treasurer shall collect all dues from the entire membership on an annual basis.
3. The Treasurer, on the request and with the assistance of the Executive Committee, will compile a budget for the operation of the Association.
4. The Treasurer will make all financial arrangements for all business meetings.
5. The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the membership of the Association at the summer meeting.
6. The Treasurer with the assistance of the Executive Committee shall oversee the MATA PAC.

E. The Director of Professional Improvement

Qualifications: In order to hold office of Director of Professional Improvement, a person must be a licensed member in good standing in the Association.

Duties:

1. The Director of Professional Improvement shall organize the agenda and conduct the symposium held at the summer meeting.
2. The Director of Professional Improvement shall determine the qualifications for Continuing Education Units for Association approved symposiums, clinics and workshops related to sports medicine and held in the State of Mississippi
3. The Director of Professional Improvement shall make efforts to see that members are used as resource personnel and speakers in as many opportunities as possible.
4. The Director of Professional Improvement shall conduct post symposium evaluations to determine quality of the presentations and educational needs of the membership.
5. The Director of Professional Improvement shall chair the Ethics Committee.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES.

The following standing committees shall be composed of four members each, excluding the Chairman. Chairmen and committee members shall be appointed by the President.

Executive Committee:

Shall be composed of all elected officers, one member at large (appointed by the President), one student member (appointed by the President), and one physician. The physician will be one who has an interest in sports medicine and is elected by the general membership. The physician will serve a two (2) year term. The student member shall serve a one (1) year term.

Legislative Committee:

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to organize and lobby for legislation in the best interest of the profession of Athletic Training.

By-Laws Committee:

The purpose of the By-Laws Committee is to update and assist in amendments to the Association's By-Laws.

Professional Improvement Committee:

The purpose of the Professional Improvement Committee shall be to assist the Director of Professional Improvement in any function to improve the knowledge and skills of the members of the Association.

They will be chosen by the Director of Professional Improvement and approved by the President.

Ethics Committee:

The purpose of the Ethics Committee shall be to advise the President and the general membership in obtaining the highest professional standards and ethics possible for the Association. It shall be the responsibility of the Ethics Committee to recommend the sanctions to the Executive Committee, up to and including removal from the rolls, for violation of ethics by officers or members of the Association.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDING PROCESS.

Proposed amendment(s) to the By-Laws shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to the Summer Business Meeting in order to be discussed by the Executive Committee. Passage of proposed amendment(s) will be by mail vote or applicable computer technology and will require a two-thirds majority vote of the valid votes received by the eligible voting membership of the Association.

Approved: 3-22-1997

Revised: 9-1-2004

Revised: 6-9-2010