



MINNESOTA BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

University Park Plaza • 2829 University Avenue SE Suite 500 • Minneapolis, MN 55414-3246

Telephone (612) 617-2130 • Fax (612) 617-2166 • www.bmp.state.mn.us

MN Relay Service for Hearing Impaired (800) 627-3529

ATHLETIC TRAINER FACT SHEET

History

The Minnesota Legislature enacted a law in 1993 establishing a registration system for athletic trainers. The Board of Medical Practice enforces the requirements of the athletic trainer registration system and provides information to consumers and other interested persons.

Athletic Trainers Advisory Council

The Athletic Trainers Advisory Council was appointed by the Board of Medical Practice to advise the Board on issues regarding athletic trainer registration standards, enforcement of rules, and complaint review. The Council is composed of three athletic trainers (one who is also a physical therapist), two physicians with expertise in athletic training and sports medicine, one chiropractor with experience in athletic training and sports injuries, and two public members.

Title Protection

Nonregistered individuals are prohibited from using the words or letters registered athletic trainer, licensed athletic trainer, Minnesota registered athletic trainer, athletic trainer, A.T.R., or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the individual is an athletic trainer. A student must be identified as a "student athletic trainer." The law defines a student athletic trainer is "A student attending a college or university athletic training program." Nonregistered individuals holding themselves out as an athletic trainer are guilty of a misdemeanor. Athletic trainers certified by the Board of Certification (BOC) formerly National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (NATABOC) who come to Minnesota for a specific event are exempt from the Minnesota Athletic Trainer's Act.

Registration Requirements

To establish eligibility for general registration, an applicant must successfully complete an athletic training program accredited by National Athletic Trainers' Association Professional Education Committee, the Joint Review Committee on Education Programs in Athletic Training, or the current accrediting agency and successfully complete the Board of Certification exam within one year of application for registration. General registration is appropriate for new graduates.

The exceptions to the general registration requirements and their accompanying requirements are as follows:

- A. **Registration by Equivalency.** Applicant must have successfully completed an accredited athletic training program and have a current BOC certificate. Applicants certified prior to 1971 are exempt from the accredited program requirement. Equivalency registration is suitable for individuals who have been working for a number of years in Minnesota.
- B. **Registration by Reciprocity.** Applicant must have current and unrestricted license from another state requiring an accredited program and BOC certificate. Reciprocity registration is appropriate for individuals coming from another state.

Limited Registrations

Temporary Registration. Temporary registration is available to general registration and reciprocity applicants. The BOC must be successfully completed within one year after temporary registration is issued. Athletic trainers with temporary registration are limited to working under the direct supervision of a registered athletic trainer. A registered athletic trainer may supervise no more than four athletic trainers with temporary registration status.

Temporary Permit. A temporary permit is available to applicants who meet all registration requirements and wish to practice before final approval is granted by the Board. The temporary permit is valid from the date of approval until the next Board meeting at which a decision is made on the application.

Scope of Practice

The athletic trainers evaluate and treat athletic injuries according to protocols established by the primary physician. The protocol must be updated annually at renewal time. The athletic trainer must refer patients with a medical condition beyond the athletic trainer's scope of practice to an appropriate caregiver per protocol established by the supervising physician.

Continuing Education

Each registered athletic trainer must complete at least 60 contact hours of Board-approved continuing education every three years as a condition of registration renewal. Newly registered athletic trainers commence their three year cycle on July 1 immediately following the date registration was granted. Registrants are asked to attest to completion of continuing education by reporting to the Board at renewal time. Continuing education documentation must be retained by each registrant in the event they are selected for an audit.

Renewal Cycle

Registration must be renewed annually on or before July 1 of each year. Renewal notices are sent approximately 45 days prior to expiration. It is the athletic trainer's responsibility to keep the Board advised of their current address. The Board is obligated to mail the renewal application to the address on file. Failure to receive the renewal documents does not relieve athletic trainers of their renewal obligation.

Individuals whose registered status has lapsed must submit the following in order to regain registered status:

1. documentation from a physician verifying employment in athletic training for eight weeks every three years during the lapse in registration;
2. evidence of continuing education compliance ; and
3. pay all back fees in order to regain registered status.

If any part of this Fact Sheet conflicts with the Minnesota rules or laws, the rules or laws take precedence. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the regulations. Please call the Board offices if you have any questions.