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Athletic Training Law

Table of Contents

ATHLETIC TRAINING	1
45:9-37.35 Short title	1
45:9-37.36 Definitions.....	1
45:9-37.37 Practice of athletic training, licensure.	1
45:9-37.38. Rules and regulations	2
45:9-37.39 Athletic Training Advisory Committee.....	2
45:9-37.40 Licensure required for practice of athletic training.....	2
45:9-37.41. Physical therapy for reimbursement, licensing required	3
45:9-37.42. Qualifications for licensure as athletic trainer	3
45:9-37.43 Examination for licensing as athletic trainer.	4
45:9-37.44. Issuance of license	4
45:9-37.45 Licensure without examination, conditions.	4
45:9-37.46 License required to use certain titles, designations.....	5
45:9-37.48 Application fee, expiration, renewal of license.	5
45:9-37.48a Continuing education requirement for athletic trainer.....	5
45:9-37.49. Refusal to issue, suspension, revocation of license.....	6
45:9-37.50. Supersession of inconsistent laws	6

ATHLETIC TRAINING

45:9-37.35 Short title

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Athletic Training Licensure Act."

L.1984,c.203,s.1; amended 2001, c.156, s.1.

45:9-37.36 Definitions.

2. As used in this act:

a. "Advisory committee" means the Athletic Training Advisory Committee established in section 5 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.39);

b. "Athlete" means an individual who participates in strenuous physical exercise, physical conditioning, or a sport;

c. "Athletic trainer" means a person who practices athletic training;

d. "Athletic training" means and includes the practice of physical conditioning and reconditioning of athletes and the prevention of injuries incurred by athletes. Athletic training shall also include the application of physical treatment modalities to athletes under a plan of care designed and overseen by a physician licensed in this State, as recommended by the advisory committee and defined in regulations by the board;

e. "Board" means the State Board of Medical Examiners;

f. "Supervision" means that a physician licensed in this State is accessible to an athletic trainer, either on-site or through voice communication, during athletic training.

L.1984, c.203, s.2; amended 2007, c.323, s.1.

45:9-37.37 Practice of athletic training, licensure.

3. a. No person shall practice or hold himself out as being able to practice athletic training in this State unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.).

b. A licensed athletic trainer may provide athletic training only:

(1) (a) to athletes engaged in interscholastic, intercollegiate, or intramural athletic activities which are being conducted by an educational institution licensed in this State; or (b) to professional athletes; or

(2) to athletes in any setting when the athletic trainer is under the supervision of a physician licensed in this State.

c. An athletic trainer shall immediately refer an athlete to an appropriate health care professional licensed in this State if the athletic trainer has reasonable cause to believe that athletic training is

contraindicated or symptoms or conditions are present that require services outside the scope of an athletic trainer's practice.

L.1984, c.203, s.3; amended 2001, c.156, s.2; 2007, c.323, s.2.

45:9-37.38. Rules and regulations

The board, after consultation with the Athletic Training Advisory Committee, shall establish rules and regulations for the administration and enforcement of this act.

L.1984, c. 203, s. 4, eff. Dec. 4, 1984.

45:9-37.39 Athletic Training Advisory Committee.

5. There is created in the Division of Consumer Affairs of the Department of Law and Public Safety, under the State Board of Medical Examiners, an Athletic Training Advisory Committee. The committee shall consist of seven members, three of whom shall be licensed athletic trainers of this State having at least five years' experience in the practice of athletic training in this State immediately prior to appointment and one of whom shall be a licensed athletic trainer of this State having at least five years' experience in the practice of athletic training in a secondary school in this State immediately prior to appointment. One member of the advisory committee shall be a representative of the Department of Education, one member shall be a physician licensed in this State and one member shall be a representative of the general public. The members of the committee shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for terms of three years, except in making the initial appointments the Governor shall designate two members to serve three years, two members to serve two years, and two members to serve one year. In the event of death, incapacity, resignation or removal of any member, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. Each member shall hold office after the expiration of the term until a successor shall be appointed and qualified. The committee shall meet at least twice a year and shall also meet upon the call of the board or Attorney General. The committee shall carry out the responsibilities assigned to it under this act and any other matter the board may require. The Attorney General shall provide the committee with facilities and personnel required for the proper conduct of its business. The board, with the approval of the Attorney General, may authorize reimbursement of the members of the committee for their actual expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties as members of the committee.

The licensure requirements of this section shall only apply to athletic trainers who are appointed to the committee after the effective date of P.L.2001, c.156.

L.1984, c.203, s.5; amended 2001, c.156, s.3; 2007, c.323, s.3.

45:9-37.40 Licensure required for practice of athletic training.

6. a. Beginning on the effective date of P.L.2001, c.156, it shall be unlawful for any person, other than an athletic trainer licensed pursuant to P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) to practice athletic training in this State unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act. Nothing in

this act, however, shall prohibit any person licensed to practice in this State under any other law from engaging in the practice for which he is licensed.

b. This act shall not prohibit: a candidate for licensure as an athletic trainer from accumulating the mandated number of hours of supervised clinical experience under the direction of a licensed athletic trainer; a student enrolled in a school or educational program of athletic training approved by the board from performing acts of athletic training incidental to the course of study, if the performance is under the direction of a licensed athletic trainer; a student in any educational program in the healing arts approved or accredited under the laws of this State from carrying out prescribed courses of study; a person employed by any agency, bureau or division of the federal government from discharging his official duties; or a person in connection with employment as an athletic trainer by a nonresident athlete, educational institution or recognized athletic organization temporarily visiting in this State, from practicing athletic training for a period not to exceed 90 days in one calendar year provided he is lawfully permitted to work as an athletic trainer in the state of residence of his employer.

c. The provisions of this act are not intended to limit the activities of persons legitimately engaged in the administration of nontherapeutic baths, massage and normal exercise.

L.1984, c.203, s.6; amended 1989, c.169, s.1; 2001, c.156, s.4; 2007, c.323, s.4.

45:9-37.41. Physical therapy for reimbursement, licensing required

An athletic trainer may not practice or be employed by any individual or entity in order to do physical therapy procedures for reimbursement unless licensed in accordance with the "Physical Therapist Licensing Act of 1983," P.L.1983, c.296 (C.45:9-37.11 et seq.).

L.1984,c.203,s.7; amended 1989,c.169,s.2.

45:9-37.42. Qualifications for licensure as athletic trainer

8. An applicant for licensure as an athletic trainer shall submit evidence to the board, in the form the board may prescribe, that the applicant:

- a. Is 18 years of age or older;
- b. Is of good moral character and does not engage in the habitual use of alcohol, narcotics or other habit forming drugs;
- c. Is a graduate of a high school approved by the Department of Education or has obtained equivalent education acceptable to the board; and
- d. Has met the athletic training curriculum requirements of a college or university approved by the board and provides proof of graduation or has successfully completed a program of baccalaureate education and training and experience approved by the board and provides proof of its completion. The board, in establishing, altering or amending the standards for approving curricula and courses of study in institutions which grant baccalaureate degrees and which are accredited by a regional accreditation agency recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States

Department of Education shall consult with the Department of Education and the advisory committee. The board, in establishing, altering, or amending the standards for approving programs of baccalaureate education and training and experience shall consult with the advisory committee. Both the curriculum and the program shall include courses of study in the biophysical sciences for the use of physical agents and medical-surgical techniques as related to athletics.

L.1984,c.203,s.8; amended 1989, c.169, s.3; 2001, c.156, s.5.

45:9-37.43 Examination for licensing as athletic trainer.

9. An applicant who complies with the qualifications for licensure shall successfully complete the examination administered by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc., its successor organization, or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the board. The examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences that are pertinent to athletic training, emergency care of the injured individual and principles of injury evaluation and conditioning, including the use of various physical modalities and exercise techniques. The examination shall be administered within the State no less than once each year at a time and place the board shall designate.

L.1984, c.203, s.9; amended 1989, c.169, s.4; 2001, c.156, s.6; 2007, c.323, s.5.

45:9-37.44. Issuance of license

10. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided in section 14 of this act, and upon approval of the application, the board shall issue a license to any person who successfully passes the examination provided in section 9 of this act.

L.1984,c.203,s.10; amended 1989, c.169, s.5; 2001, c.156, s.7.

45:9-37.45 Licensure without examination, conditions.

11. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided in section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), and upon approval of a written application or application for renewal, as the case may be, on forms provided by the board, the board shall issue, without examination, a license to any person who:

- a. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.156).
- b. Is licensed, certified or registered as an athletic trainer in any other state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, if the requirements for licensure, certification or registration were at the time of the applicant's licensure, certification or registration equivalent to or in excess of the requirements of this act at the date of application for the license as shall be determined by the board in consultation with the committee; or
- c. Is employed in or is a resident of this State and presents evidence of being certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc., or its successor organization, as an athletic trainer; or

d. Is licensed as an athletic trainer pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) and makes a timely application for renewal, as determined by the board, prior to the expiration of his biennial license.

L.1984, c.203, s.11; amended 1989, c.169, s.6; 2001, c.156, s.8; 2007, c.323, s.6.

45:9-37.46 License required to use certain titles, designations.

12. No person shall use the words "athletic trainer" or "licensed athletic trainer" or the letters "AT" or "LAT" unless licensed pursuant to P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.).

L.1984, c.203, s.12; amended 2001, c.156, s.9; 2007, c.323, s.7.

45:9-37.48 Application fee, expiration, renewal of license.

14. Each initial application under P.L.1984,c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed by the board. Licensure shall expire biennially on January 31 and shall be renewed upon application and payment of a fee as prescribed by the board. If the fee is not paid by that date the license shall automatically expire. A license which has expired may, within three years of its expiration date, be renewed on payment to the board of the prescribed reinstatement fee for each year or part thereof during which the license was ineffective and a restoration fee as prescribed by the board. After the three-year period, the license may be renewed only by complying with the provisions of this act regarding initial licensure and presenting proof of current certification by the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification or its successor organization.

L.1984, c.203, s.14; amended 2001, c.156, s.11; 2007, c.323, s.8.

45:9-37.48a Continuing education requirement for athletic trainer.

6. a. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall require each person licensed as an athletic trainer, as a condition for biennial license renewal pursuant to section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), to complete 24 credits of continuing athletic trainer education, which shall include a specific number of credits of instruction on topics related to concussions and head injuries, as determined by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

b. The board shall:

(1) establish standards for continuing athletic trainer education, including the subject matter and content of courses of study; and

(2) accredit education programs offering credit toward continuing athletic trainer education requirements or recognize national or State organizations that may accredit education programs.

c. Each hour of an educational course or program shall be equivalent to one credit of continuing athletic trainer education.

d. The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for continuing athletic trainer education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship such as illness or disability, retirement of license, or other good cause. A waiver shall apply only to the current biennial renewal period at the time of board issuance.

e. The board shall not require completion of continuing athletic trainer education credits for any licensure period commencing within 12 months of the effective date of this section.

f. The board shall require completion of athletic trainer education credits on a pro-rated basis for any registration period commencing more than 12 months but less than 24 months from the effective date of this section.

g. Prior to license renewal, each licensee shall submit to the board proof of completion of the required number of hours of continuing athletic trainer education.

L.2010, c.94, s.6.

45:9-37.49. Refusal to issue, suspension, revocation of license

15. The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke the license of any person, or may impose any other disciplinary sanction pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-14 et seq.).

L.1984,c.203,s.15; amended 2001, c.156, s.12.

45:9-37.50. Supersession of inconsistent laws

All laws and parts thereof dealing with athletic training inconsistent with this act are superseded to the extent of their inconsistency.

L.1984, c. 203, s. 16, eff. Dec. 4, 1984.