



## ATHLETIC TRAINER'S SECTION

### Proposed Rules Changes

Each year, the Athletic Trainers Section reviews its rules to determine if any changes are needed to reflect current practice. The rule review process starts during the summer when the Section makes an initial determination of any potential changes. The Section then seeks feedback on the initial language before formally filing the changes. The Section plans on holding a public hearing on the proposed rules changes at its March 4, 2009 meeting, with the goal of new language going into effect on May 1, 2009.

The current proposed changes include adding provisions related to sexual boundary violations to the code of ethics (4755-41-01) and making significant changes to the continuing education rule (4755-45-01), including reducing the number of hours of continuing education required to renew an Ohio athletic training license from 50 hours to 25 hours.

### Online Applications for Initial Licensure

In 2005, the Board implemented online license renewals through the Ohio e-License Center. The opportunity to renew online and pay with a credit card has been well received by licensees, with over 90% of individuals electing to use the online system. In light of the success of online renewals, the Board recently developed a method for individuals seeking an initial Ohio license to use the Ohio e-License Center to apply online and pay with a credit card.

Individuals seeking to apply for their Ohio athletic trainer's license online should go to the Ohio e-License Center (<https://license.ohio.gov>) and select the *Application Site* option.

### Join the Listserv

To allow for a quick and inexpensive mechanism to notify licensees and other interested parties of news and other regulatory issues, the Board established a listserv. To join to listserv, send an email to [board@otptat.ohio.gov](mailto:board@otptat.ohio.gov). In the body of the email, please state that you'd like to join the listserv and also indicate which list(s) you'd like to join. The Board maintains a separate list for each of the three professions.

#### *Inside this edition*

Event Approval	Page 2
Impact of Physical Therapy on Role of "Other Licensed Personnel"	Page 3
Board Sponsored Continuing Education	Page 4
License Renewal	Page 6

# ATHLETIC TRAINERS

AT Prospective

2

Winter 2008

## Event Approval Requirement

Prior to April 2007, a non-Ohio licensed athletic trainer could provide athletic training services in Ohio for up to 90 days without obtaining an Ohio license. Although the intent for this provision was for visiting athletic trainers, many individuals in the border states were practicing in Ohio on Ohio residents for less than 90 days without obtaining an Ohio license.

As a result, the law was changed in April 2007 to clarify the provisions governing the practice of athletic training without an Ohio license. Section 4755.65 (A)(4) of the Revised Code provides an exemption for individuals practicing athletic training while traveling with a visiting team from outside Ohio for the purpose of providing athletic training to the visiting team's athletes. In addition, the Athletic Trainers Section adopted the following rule that authorizes non-Ohio licensed athletic trainers to practice in Ohio if they are providing services to participants at an event approved by the Ohio Athletic Trainers Section.

### 4755-43-11 Approval of an event

(A) Pursuant to division (A)(4) of section 4755.65 of the Revised Code, an organizer of an event at which athletic trainers not licensed in Ohio will be performing athletic training services, as defined in 4755.60 of the Revised Code, shall apply to the athletic trainers section to have the event approved.

(B) The event organizer or medical director shall:

(1) Submit a written request for approval no later than 30 days prior to the date of the event;

(2) Submit to the section a list of all athletic trainers not licensed in Ohio that will be providing athletic training services at the event. The list shall contain the license number of a current, valid non-Ohio athletic training license. If the individual is from a state where athletic trainers are not licensed, the list shall contain the current, valid certification number issued by the board of certification.

Therefore, if your school/employer/

organization plans on organizing an event at which non-Ohio licensed athletic trainers will be providing services, you will need to have the event approved in accordance with rule 4755-43-11 of the Administrative Code. The event approval application can be downloaded from the Board's website (<http://otptat.ohio.gov>).

## Athletic Training License Requirement

At the beginning of the year, the following letter was mailed to all public school districts in Ohio to inform them of changes made to the Athletic Training Practice Act that were contained in H.B. 403.

I am writing to you to inform you of recent changes in the Ohio Athletic Training Practice Act, under which only licensed athletic trainers may engage in the practice of athletic training in Ohio.

Under section 4755.62 (A) of the Ohio Revised Code, "no person shall claim to the public to be an athletic trainer or imply by words, actions, or letters that the person is an athletic trainer unless the person is licensed as an athletic trainer, or otherwise engage in the practice of athletic training, pursuant to this chapter." Please note that Ohio does not have temporary licenses. Therefore, individuals may not legally practice athletic training in Ohio until the Board issues an Ohio license.

It is important to also remind licensees that you may not legally practice athletic training in the State of Ohio without a license, regardless of your certification. The following is a statement from the FAQs for State Regulation on the Board of Certification's website:

"Question: What is the difference between a state license and the BOC certification?"

Answer: State law delineates the scope of practice and requirements for the legal practice of athletic training. Scope of practice can vary from state to state. State regulation always takes precedence over certification standards. (emphasis added)

## Impact of Physical Therapy Rules on Role of "Other Licensed Personnel"

On May 1, 2008, the Physical Therapy Section amended its supervision and delegation rules contained in Chapter 4755-27 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Some of these changes appeared to negatively impact athletic trainers who work in the clinical setting. It is first important to differentiate the various roles that an athletic trainer could have in the clinic setting. If an athletic trainer receives a referral from one of the licensed healthcare professionals specified in section 4755.60 (A) of the Revised Code, the athletic trainer must perform an injury assessment and determine the athletic training plan of care.

Under an athletic training referral, including a referral by a physical therapist, the athletic trainer functions independently and is responsible for documentation. The revised physical therapy rules have no impact on the practice of athletic training. The rules do, however, impact the practice of physical therapy. When an athletic trainer provides services based on a physical therapist's delegation, the athletic trainer is not practicing athletic training. Instead, they are functioning as "other licensed personnel" and provide services pursuant to the physical therapy plan of care. Since the services provided by the athletic trainer in this role are part of the physical therapy plan, the athletic trainer is subject to the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy.

Within the practice of physical therapy, it is correct that documentation by "other licensed personnel" is restricted to an accounting of the activities provided. Such accounting is intended to include patient comments during those activities and a description of the patient's response or ability/inability to perform specific components of the program. However, any interpretation of that response, assessment of a patient's progress, and prognosis or plan revision must be documented by the physical therapist.

In accordance with rule 4755-27-03 (D) of the Ohio Administrative Code, a physical therapist may choose to refer a patient to another discipline for services. This referral shall be documented by the physical therapist in the medical record to clearly demonstrate a referral for that service and therefore, the referral will not be a delegation of tasks or duties of physical therapy. As noted above, if the referral is made, the athletic trainer would be practicing athletic training and would be subject to the Ohio Athletic Training Practice Act.

# ATHLETIC TRAINERS

## Performance-Enhancing Contact Lenses: Helpful or Health Hazard?

By Nancy Manns, RN, MS, CNS  
Executive Director  
Ohio Optical Dispensers Board

In 2004 the FDA approved performance-enhancing tinted soft contact lenses that are designed for use by athletes engaging in outdoor sports. The lenses selectively filter blue and red wavelengths and reduces glare, providing the wearer with enhanced clarity of vision. Different colored lenses are used for different sports. For example, amber lenses absorb yellow wavelengths and allow the wearer to see the ball better in fast moving sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, tennis and football. The lenses reduce reflection and glare and the elimination of frames which can make sunglasses undesirable during active sports and makes these lenses attractive to sport participants. Bausch and Lomb, manufacturer of the MaxSight lenses, claim that since the lenses act like sunglasses, the contacts will help to prevent macular degeneration and cataracts, which are caused by UV damage.

So what is the health hazard? Market surveys indicate that 30-50 percent of the performance enhancing contact lenses sold are those that have no corrective power, known as plano lenses. Just like every other contact lens, the performance-enhancing lenses are considered to be medical devices by the FDA and require a prescription from an optometrist or physician for purchase. It has been anticipated that the performance-enhancing lenses will attract new wearers in the teenage and young adult crowd, particularly young males. The fear is that, despite the availability of these lenses only through licensed eye care professionals, the non-corrective, plano lenses could pop up in the over-the-counter black market such as gas stations, beauty supply stores and convenience shops. The over-the-counter lenses purchased without proper fitting, instructions for care, and follow-up evaluation

# ATHLETIC TRAINERS

AT Prospective

4

Winter 2008

by an eye care professional has led to blinding infections from pseudomonas and other serious infections, corneal lacerations that can lead to blindness, and, in two known Ohio cases, requiring hospitalization and the need for emergency corneal transplants. Questions then arise:

Will wearers of the performance-enhancing contact lenses practice sanitary lens handling?

Will wearers of performance-enhancing contact lenses be able to safely remove and store the lenses in clean containers during a sporting event?

Will the wearers have back-up lenses available?

Will the wearers have the appropriate cleaning solutions and cases for storage?

There have already been reports of these lenses being "over-worn," cleaned with saliva, or shared with friends. Wearers got into trouble because they failed to treat the plano, non-corrective contact lenses as seriously as vision-correcting lenses. Dr. Thomas Steinemann, Ophthalmologist at MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland, has stated that there have been reports of football team trainers distributing these lenses to their team.

It is illegal in the state of Ohio to sell or dispense contact lenses without a valid prescription. The Optical Dispensers Board is the state agency responsible for monitoring and discontinuing the illegal dispensing/sales of contact lenses. The Board has issued approximately thirty-five Cease and Desist orders over the last two years to entities that were illegally selling plano, decorative lenses.

**DO NOT** risk your eyesight by purchasing or using any contact lenses, whether for decorative purposes at Halloween or for performance-enhancing for sporting events, without a proper fit and evaluation by an eye care professional.

**DO** notify the Optical Dispensers Board of locations or individuals who are illegally distributing or selling contact lenses. You can reach the Board at (614) 466-9709 or by e-mail at [odb@odb.ohio.gov](mailto:odb@odb.ohio.gov). Names of individuals reporting are kept confidential.

It is going to take a joint effort of many people in order to get this illegal, unsafe practice to stop. The Optical Dispensers Board asks that you help us in this effort by notifying the Board when you find unlicensed individuals dispensing and selling contact lenses.



## Board Sponsored Continuing Education Course

In April 2008, the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board sponsored its first continuing education activity in Columbus. This free 2.0 contact hour session included a general overview of the agency's role and functions. Following the completion of the general information session, individuals attended breakout sessions that were profession specific. These breakout sessions addressed specific areas of concern, trends in violations/discipline, recent laws and rules changes, a group ethical exercise, and frequently asked questions.

The second session was held in December in Findlay. In 2009, the Board plans on holding two or three additional sessions at different locations in the state, including Akron in April.



## Duty to Report

Many licensees may not be aware that rule 4755-41-01 (B)(2) requires them to report "any conduct that they consider unethical, illegal, or incompetent to the Athletic Trainers Section." If you are aware of any potential violations of the Athletic Training Practice Act, please download and submit the Complaint Form, which is available on the Board's website (<http://otptat.ohio.gov>).

## Required Release of Personal Information

All of the information in an individual's licensure file, except the Social Security Number, is a public record under Ohio's broad public records law. Therefore, the Board must release the information to anyone who submits a public records request. Unfortunately, part of the requirement to hold an Ohio license is to provide current mailing and employment addresses, and current home and employment phone numbers. If a licensee fails to provide that information, the Board will not issue or renew a license. Although we share licensees' concerns about phone numbers and email addresses being released to any party requesting a listing of information, the Board is unable to remove mailing addresses or phone numbers from our licensure database.

The Board recommends that licensees contact their State Senator and State Representative and ask the legislature to change the public records laws. A change in Ohio's public records law would be the only way the Board could legally not release your address, phone number, or email address to a public records requestor. The Board also suggests that licensees register their phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry (<https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>).



## Licensee Census

As of December 11, 2008 there are:

Athletic Trainers	1832
Physical Therapists	7035
Physical Therapist Assitants	5251
Occupational Therapists	4121
Occupational Therapists in Escrow	223
Occupational Therapy Assistants	2694
Occupational Therapy Assistants in Escrow	132

# ATHLETIC TRAINERS

## Updating Your Contact Information

Did you know that failure to notify the Board of an address change won't just lead to a delay in receiving your renewal application from the board, but it is also a violation of the Ohio AT Practice Act. Rule 4755-44-01 of the Administrative Code requires all licensees to notify the board "in writing" of any change of name, place of business or employment, or mailing address within thirty days after the change."

Many licensees incorrectly assume that notifying the post office of a new address is sufficient. The post office will not forward a renewal application to a new address. It is relatively easy to notify the Board of your new information. You can fax the information to (614) 995-0816 or send an email to [board@otptat.ohio.gov](mailto:board@otptat.ohio.gov). If you have your UserID and password from your online renewal, you can even log into the Ohio e-License Center (<https://license.ohio.gov>) and select the *Update Address Information* option to make the appropriate changes.



## Enforcement Division

You can view the enforcement webpage at <http://otptat.ohio.gov>. On the left hand column select the link titled "Enforcement." From the Enforcement page you learn about the complaint and investigative process, review disciplinary actions taken by the Section, and obtain a complaint form.

# ATHLETIC TRAINERS

AT Prospective

6

Winter 2008

## License Renewal

Please note, all licenses issued for athletic trainers must be renewed by September 30th of even-numbered years.

Renewing your license online is the preferred method. However, you can request a paper renewal by contacting the Board.

*Common questions with online renewal.*

Why is my phone number on the receipt listed as (555)555-5555? This is a security feature built in the system. The phone numbers you entered are stored in the system.

What should I do if I am unable to update my business address? If your business name and address are not modifiable in the renewal module, then email your business address to the Board and the staff update your file.

If you are having Browser issues: Check your browser to see if you have enabled the feature to accept cookies. You may need to update your web browser.

## Verification of Licensure

The Board receives many requests for verification of an Ohio license to another state licensing board. To officially verify your Ohio license to another entity, you must submit a written request that includes the following information:

1. Your name;
2. Your current mailing address;
3. Your daytime phone number;
4. Your Ohio license number and/or your Social Security Number;
5. The mailing address of the entity requiring the verification; and
6. The verification fee.

You may also send the Board a copy of the other entity's verification request form provided that it includes your name and Ohio license number, and you include the verification fee and a daytime phone number.

The fee to officially verify your license to another entity is \$30 per request. Please make your money order, cashier's check, or business check payable to "Treasurer State of Ohio" in the exact amount. Personal check, credit cards, and/or cash will not be accepted. Verification processing takes approximately 3 business days.

Please send the request and verification fee to:

License Verification Request  
Ohio OTPTAT Board  
77 S. High Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

## AT Section Members

Board Member	City	Term Expires*	Term^
Vincent O'Brien, Chair	Columbus	2009	2nd
Rebekah Bower	Centerville	2011	1st
Aaron Galpert	Wadsworth	2010	1st
Brian Hartz	Pataskala	2011	1st
Dr. Randall Wroble	Powell	2010	1st

\*All terms expire on August 27 of the designated year.

^Pursuant to ORC 4755.01, Board members shall not serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

# ATHLETIC TRAINERS

## Are you Ready to Serve?

Have you ever wondered what goes on during a Athletic Trainer's Section meeting? Do you ever think that you might be able to contribute to the profession of physical therapy by serving as a member of the regulatory board?

The Governor is responsible for appointing all members of the Board. Members are appointed for three year terms and may serve for up to three consecutive terms. There are approximately seven meetings each year and members are reimbursed for their time and travel expenses.

To be eligible to serve on the Board, each applicant must hold a current Ohio athletic trainers license and have been actively engaged in or associated with the practice of athletic training in Ohio for at least five years immediately preceding the appointment.

If you are interested in submitting your name for consideration by the Governor, please download the application from the Boards and Commissions section of the Governor's website (<http://governor.ohio.gov>).

## Section Meetings

All Board/Section meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact the Board at (614) 466-3774 or [board@otptat.ohio.gov](mailto:board@otptat.ohio.gov) to verify the time and meeting location if you would like to attend. The planned 2009 meetings are scheduled for:

January 15

March 4

May 7

July 8

September 17

November 4

## Contact the Board

Ohio OTPTAT Board, 77 South High Street, 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Phone: (614) 466-3774 Fax: (614) 995-0816 Website: <http://otptat.ohio.gov> Email: [board@otptat.ohio.gov](mailto:board@otptat.ohio.gov)