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Positions Statements Related to Athletic Trainers Issued by the Athletic Trainers Affiliated Credentialing Board

MAY A PERSON PRACTICE ATHLETIC TRAINING WITHOUT A LICENSE?

Per [Wis. Stats. § 448.951](#), the practice of athletic training is only “title protected”. This restricts the use of the title "athletic trainer" and other similar titles to those persons holding a credential issued by the state, but does not restrict the practice of athletic training to only credentialed individuals.

However, no person may designate himself or herself as an athletic trainer or use or assume the title "athletic trainer", "licensed athletic trainer", "certified athletic trainer" or "registered athletic trainer" or append to the person's name any other title, letters or designation that represents or may tend to represent the person as an athletic trainer unless the person is licensed as an athletic trainer.

WHAT IS A "CONSULTING PHYSICIAN"?

[Wis. Stats. § 448.95\(5m\)](#) defines a "Consulting physician" as a person licensed as a physician who consults with an athletic trainer while the athletic trainer is engaging in athletic training. The consulting physician also approves the evaluation and treatment protocol that governs the athletic trainer's practice.

DOES A PERSON NEED TO HAVE A CONSULTING PHYSICIAN AND A PRACTICE PROTOCOL TO RENEW A LICENSE?

Yes, a license will not be renewed without the licensee and the licensee's consulting physician signing a statement that a current copy of the protocol required under the law is on file at the place of employment of the athletic trainer and of the consulting physician. Please refer to the conditions for renewal as outlined in [Wis. Stats. § 448.955](#).

HOW MANY PROTOCOLS CAN AN ATHLETIC TRAINER HAVE?

An athletic trainer may have one protocol as well as one consulting physician. The standards for a changing a consulting physician are outlined in [Ch AT 1.07](#), Wisc Admin Code. The standards for evaluation and treatment protocol are under [Ch AT 4](#) as well as [Wis Stat 448.956](#).

MAY A LICENSEE ACCEPT REFERRALS FROM A NON CONSULTING PHYSICIAN OR CHIROPRACTOR?

Yes, please refer to [Wis Stat 448.956\(1m\)](#) for complete information.

WHAT IS ATHLETIC TRAINING?

Per [Wis. Stats. § 448.95\(5\)](#) "Athletic training" means doing any of the following:

- (a) Preventing, recognizing and evaluating athletic injuries.
- (b) Managing and administering the initial treatment of athletic injuries.
- (c) Giving emergency care or first aid for an athletic injury.
- (d) Rehabilitating and physically reconditioning athletic injuries.

WHAT IS AN ATHLETIC INJURY?

Per [Wis. Stats. § 448.95\(3\)](#) "Athletic injury" means any of the following:

- (a) An injury or illness sustained by an athlete as a result of the athlete's participation in exercise, sports, games or recreation.
- (b) An injury or illness that impedes or prevents an athlete from participating in exercise, sports, games or recreation.