

**OHIO ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION  
CODE OF ETHICS**

**Formed: 04/1989**

**Revised: 05/94, 05/01/04, 12/05/04, 05/04/06**

**ARTICLE I            STANDARDS**

- 1:01** The Code of Ethics of the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association is a guideline for standards of behavior.
- 1:02** Membership in the Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association and/or Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame indicates an agreement to comply with the Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, and all standards and procedures of the Association. R05/04/06.
- 1:03** A member whose conduct is not in accordance with the principles set forth in these articles shall be considered in violation of the Code of Ethics.
- 1:04** The articles cannot be expected to cover all specific situations that may be encountered by the member. The circumstances of a situation will determine the interpretation and the application of the articles and the Code as a whole. Whenever there is a conflict between the Code and legality, the laws prevail. These guidelines are subject to review and revision.
- 1:05** A Licensed Athletic Trainer of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Training Board may also be considered in violation of the Ohio Revised Code if conduct is not in accordance with the Code of Ethics governing the practice of athletic training in the state of Ohio.
- 1:06** Members shall support, encourage, and condone good sportsmanship.

**ARTICLE II            PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

- 2:01** Members shall not discriminate in care and duties.
- 2:02** Members shall be committed to providing competent care consistent with both requirements and the limitations of their profession. Members shall provide only those services for which they are qualified via education and/or experience and by pertinent legal regulatory process.
- 2:03** Members may seek remuneration that is commensurate with services rendered and in compliance with applicable law. Members shall not place financial gain above the welfare of the patient being treated and shall not participate in any arrangement that exploits the patient.

- 2:04** Members shall use only those techniques and preparations for which they are qualified and authorized to administer.
- 2:05** Members should not dispense/supply, recommend, or encourage any drug, medication, or food supplement except with extreme caution and in accordance with policies consistent with legal parameters, institutional, and sport governing body guidelines.
- 2:06** Members shall keep accurate records in compliance with applicable law.

### **ARTICLE III            PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

- 3:01** Members shall not misrepresent in any manner, either directly or indirectly, their membership classification, their skills/experience, education/training, professional credentials, identity, or services.
- 3:02** Members shall not by their conduct or comments publicly discredit or lower the dignity of other professionals.
- 3:03** Members shall recognize that continuing education is necessary to remain proficient in their practice and strive to achieve the highest level of competence. Members shall meet continuing education requirements for all professional credentialing.
- 3:04** Members shall avoid substance abuse and, when necessary, seek rehabilitation for chemical dependency. Disciplinary action may be taken against members using any controlled substance or alcohol to the extent that the ability to practice athletic training is impaired.
- 3:05** The private conduct of the member is a personal matter to the same degree as is any other person's except when such conduct compromises the fulfillment of professional responsibilities. Should a member be convicted of an offense that does compromise professional practice(s), he/she may incur disciplinary action.
- 3:06** Individual members or groups of members of the Association shall not use the Association name, logo, trademark, and/or insignia in any testimonials and/or endorsement of services, products, programs, publications, and/or facilities. The approved digitized version of the OATA logo is available in the Appendices of the By-Laws. The Association logo may be reproduced for print media in two colors (blue/red) or may be copied in one color (blue/red/black). All other uses must be approved by the current President.

### **ARTICLE IV            CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 4:01** Members shall comply with applicable HIPAA and FERPA guidelines. Members shall preserve the confidentiality of privileged information and shall not release

such information to a third party not involved in the patient's care unless the person consents to such release or release is permitted or required by law.

## **ARTICLE V            SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5:01** Members shall maintain and promote ethical conduct in research and educational activities.
- 5:02** Members shall employ and evaluate fairly the performance of employees and students.
- 5:03** Members shall not employ, direct, or supervise a person in the performance of athletic training procedures who is not authorized to perform such procedures.
- 5:04** Members shall not reproduce in written form or reveal in any other manner, any part of the BOC certification examination or the Ohio Laws and Rules examination.

## **ARTICLE VI            INCIDENT REPORTING R05/04/06**

- 6:01** A member of the Association who becomes aware of conduct which violates any portion of Articles I – V is encouraged to report the incident(s) in writing to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will notify the accused individual in writing of the report. The Executive Committee shall in turn convene an Ethics and Procedural Review Committee investigation and/or report the incident(s) to all appropriate credentialing agencies. R05/04/06.
- 6:02** A member of the Association who becomes aware of a Constitution and/or By-Laws violation is encouraged to report the incident(s) in writing to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will notify the accused individual in writing of the report. The Executive Committee shall in turn convene an Ethics and Procedural Review Committee investigation. R05/04/06.

## **ARTICLE VII            DISCIPLINARY ACTION R05/04/06**

- 7:01** The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee investigates allegations of unethical conduct and if, in the judgment of a majority of the committee members, it finds that the accused individual has violated the Code of Ethics, it communicates its decision in writing to the Executive Committee. The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee may impose one or more of the following disciplinary actions:
  - a. Letter of censure specific to the allegation.
  - b. Period of probation. During this period the accused individual is not eligible for any Association office/position, Association election/issue vote, or award.

- c. Membership cancellation.
- d. Removal from the OATA Hall of Fame. R05/04/06.
- e. Other applicable disciplinary actions.

The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee shall notify the accused individual in writing of the Code of Ethics violation and the appropriate corrective measure(s).

**7:02** The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee investigates alleged violations of the Constitution and By-Laws and if, in the judgment of a majority of the committee members, it finds that the accused individual has violated the Constitution and/or By-Laws, it communicates its decision in writing to the Executive Committee. The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee may consult the Legislation Committee for clarification regarding the Constitution and/or By-Laws. The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee may impose one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. Letter of censure specific to the allegation.
- b. Period of probation. During this period the accused individual is not eligible for any Association office/position, Association election/vote or award.
- c. Membership cancellation.
- d. Removal from the OATA Hall of Fame. R05/04/06.
- e. Other applicable disciplinary actions.

The Ethics and Procedural Review Committee shall notify the accused individual in writing of the Constitution and/or By-Laws violation and the appropriate corrective measure(s).

## **ARTICLE VIII      APPEAL**

**8:01** A member who has been levied a disciplinary action according to Article VII shall be allowed to appeal, in writing, to the Executive Committee. Such appeal must be received within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notification of the disciplinary actions. The Executive Committee shall determine, by majority vote, to accept or reject the appeal or amend the imposed disciplinary actions. The decision shall be made and the individual shall be notified in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the appeal.