

### **R 8-3-9 Athletic Trainer**

The Preston County Board of Education shall employ an athletic trainer or an individual with limited football trainer authorization to serve during senior high school football practices and games.

#### **Licensure Governing Athletic Trainers (SBP 5202; SBP 5112)**

- ❖ **Athletic Trainer.** The Professional Service Certificate endorsed for athletic trainer stands alone, shall not require other certificates as a prerequisite, and must be renewed in accordance with renewal requirements for professional certificates approved by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). Only an individual who holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and has completed a state approved athletic trainer program, (including the content test) through an accredited institution of higher education shall be eligible for the Professional Service Certificate endorsed for athletic trainer.
- ❖ **Authorized Athletic Trainer.** An Authorization endorsed for athletic trainer may be issued to an individual who holds certification through the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification (NATABOC). The Authorization may be reissued annually upon application to the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation with documentation of valid NATABOC certification and the recommendation of the superintendent of the employing county.
- ❖ **Permit Athletic Trainer Permit.** - The Full-time Permit endorsed for Athletic Trainer may be granted to an individual who holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree and has completed six semester hours of credit applicable to a state-approved Athletic Trainer program. An Athletic Trainer Permit requires a commitment among the county board of education, the institution of higher education and the individual assuring that the individual will complete at least six college credit hours per year in the program and that s/he will complete the program in no more than five years. Additionally, these individuals must annually attend the Athletic Trainer workshop as provided in *SBP 5112, Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia*. The Permit may be renewed for five years provided that the candidate follows the agreement.
- ❖ **Limited Football Trainer Authorization.** If an athletic trainer can not be obtained, the Board may employ a licensed health care provider which may include, but not limited to, one of the following: physician, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physicians assistant, paramedic, and emergency medical technician.

The individual employed under these provisions must complete the requirements to receive a Limited Football Trainer Authorization and must present a copy of a high school diploma or GED diploma. This credential may be renewed annually following the process outlines in *SBP 5112 and SBP 5202, Section 20*.

To qualify for limited football trainer authorization, county boards of education must:

- Post the position of athletic trainer or individual to receive limited football trainer authorization with a closing date of May 1 or earlier.
- If an athletic trainer cannot be employed, county boards of education shall select a licensed health care provider to apply for limited football trainer authorization.
- Require the individual seeking limited football trainer authorization to attend an athletic trainer workshop/clinic sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

- Require the individual seeking limited football trainer authorization to complete and submit the Application for Limited Football Trainer Authorization to the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation by July 1.

### **Athletic Trainers Registration**

An athletic trainer must register with the Board of Physical Therapy before s/he advertises himself or herself as an athletic trainer in this State, or uses the initials “AT”, “registered athletic trainer”, “athletic trainer”, or any other words, abbreviations, titles or insignia which indicate, imply, or represent that the person is an athletic trainer.

(WVC §30-20A-2; §30-20A-5 and §30-20A-6)

### **General Role Description**

Both an athletic trainer and authorized athletic trainer shall possess the essential knowledge, skills, attitudes, and credentials necessary to carry out the practices of prevention, evaluation, initial care, and physical rehabilitation of injuries sustained by students engaged in public school athletics. Personnel holding either of these positions shall have the responsibility for the development, implementation, and management of the athletic training program.

Individuals who possess credentials as a Permit Athletic Trainer or Limited Football Trainer Authorization shall have their duties limited to evaluation, initial care, and referral of injuries sustained by students engaged in public school athletics.

### **Governing Principles**

An individual serving as an athletic trainer or individuals with limited football trainer authorization may not have simultaneous coaching responsibilities in the same sport.

An athletic trainer or an individual with limited football trainer authorization must be in attendance at all senior high school football practices and games. The Superintendent may grant excuses from this requirement for individual practices or games based on illness, accident or unforeseen events. When an athletic trainer or an individual with limited football trainer authorization is not in attendance because of an illness, accident or other unforeseen event, the Superintendent must secure the attendance of other persons with specialized health related training.

It shall be the responsibility of the athletic trainer or individual with limited football trainer authorization to determine whether or not an injured student athlete participates in a game or practice. (SBP 5202 and SBP 5112)