

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
GEORGIA ATHLETIC TRAINERS ASSOCIATION**

Mar/91
May/91
Sept/00
Jan/05

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association, in order to embody common goals and become more unified; advancing and improving the athletic training profession, so that we might provide a means of achievement within the profession; do ordain and establish this constitution for the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association.

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA), Inc.

ARTICLE II: Objectives

The objectives of this Association shall be:

1. The advancement, encouragement, and improvement of the athletic training profession, in all of its phases.
2. To serve the common interest of its members by providing a means for a free exchange of ideas within the profession.
3. To encourage the continued professional development of each of its members.
4. To encourage better working relationships among all persons interested in and working with the problems that are inherent in the care of the person with athletic injury.
5. To promote and enrich athletic training programs throughout Georgia in order to stimulate the development of athletic training methods and practices.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1

There shall be six (6) classes of membership as set forth in the By-laws and no individual shall be eligible for more than one class of membership at any time. They are as follows:

1. GBAT Licensed/NATABOC Certified
2. Certified Retired
3. Certified Student

4. Non certified Student
5. Associate
6. Honorary

Section 2

Each member shall have the respective rights and duties as provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV: Election of Members

Section 1

All members will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATA and the standards of professional practice as set forth by the NATABOC. Changes in membership status in the NATA or the NATABOC due to nonpayment of dues or violations of either the code of ethics or standards of professional practice will automatically be reflected as the same status within the GATA, Inc.

Section 2

The By-Laws shall further proscribe the procedure by which eligibility for and suspension from membership shall be affected.

Section 3

Dues will be collected for each member of the GATA by the NATA. The amount and method of payment of dues shall be proscribed by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V: Organization

Section 1

The governing body of the Association shall be the Executive Council, which consists of elected officers and the immediate past president. All members of the Executive Council shall possess a valid Georgia athletic training license throughout their terms of office.

Section 2

The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Council officers will be delineated in the By-Laws.

Section 3

Elected officers are subject to removal by a two-thirds majority vote of the ballots cast by the voting members of the GATA, Incorporated. Vote shall be by mail and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology through means of online voting.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

Section 1

An annual meeting shall be held each year at a time and a place set by the Executive Council. A quorum shall consist of those voting members present.

Section 2

Executive Council meetings may be called by or at the request of the President or by any two Executive Council members. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Council. Under unusual circumstances, phone calls to all absent members will be allowed for votes on an issue.

Section 3

The By-Laws shall provide the outline for all business meetings.

Section 4

The time and place of membership meetings shall be announced in mailings 60 days before the scheduled date of the meetings.

Section 5

All meetings of the GATA membership shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usage contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The Vice-President shall have the publication present at membership meetings.

ARTICLE VII: Amendments

Section 1

All proposed amendments to the **Constitution** shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least six (6) weeks prior to the annual business meeting. The Secretary will post and provide notice of the proposed amendment(s) to all voting members at least three (3) weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

Section 2

All proposed amendments to the **By-Laws** shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least six (6) weeks prior to the next called membership meeting. The Secretary will post and provide notice of the proposed amendment(s) to all voting members at least three (3) weeks prior to the called membership meeting. This may be handled by mailed ballot and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology through online means.

Section 3

A proposed amendment to the **Constitution** or the **By-Laws** shall be read at the appropriate meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present will be required to pass any amendment. This may be handled by mail ballot and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology through online means.

ARTICLE VIII: Saving Clause

Section 1

In addition to the specific powers set forth in detail in the **Constitution**, the Executive Council shall have all powers and authority to be reasonable implied from the provisions of the **Constitution** in respect to dates, times of notice, or the sending and receipt of same, or errors in phraseology of notice of proposals, which in the judgement of the GATA members do not cause substantial injury to the rights of members, shall not invalidate the actions of the Executive Council, at any meeting.

Section 2

In the event of dissolution of the GATA (by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at a membership meeting), all funds, following payment of debts, will be given to the Southeast Athletic Trainers Association Scholarship Fund as a charitable donation.

ARTICLE IX: Code of Ethics

Section 1

All members are subject to the GATA Code of Ethics. The By-Laws shall direct the action taken against offenders.

Section 2

Members of the GATA should adhere to the following Code of Ethics:

- A. Athletic Trainers shall neither practice nor condone discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, or national origin.

- B. Athletic Trainers shall not condone, engage in or defend unsportsmanlike conduct or practices.
- C. Athletic Trainers shall provide care on the basis of the needs of the individual athlete. They should not discriminate in providing care on the basis of athletic ability.
- D. Athletic Trainers shall strive to achieve the highest level of competence. They should use only those techniques and preparations for which they are qualified and authorized to administer.
- E. Athletic Trainers shall recognize that personal problems and conflicts may occur which may interfere with professional effectiveness. Accordingly, they should refrain from undertaking any activity in which their personal problems are likely to lead to inadequate performance or harm to an athlete or a colleague.
- F. Athletic Trainers shall use care to be truthful and not misleading when stating their education, training, and experience.