



## Code of Ethics

### **PREAMBLE**

The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society's (referred from now on as 'Society') Code of Ethics sets forth ethical standards, obligations, and responsibilities that a Licensed Athletic Trainer exercises in fulfilling his/her professional duties. The Code of Ethics also instills the member's obligation to promote the value and importance of Athletic Training and the Licensed Athletic Trainer. Related Standards of Practice further define those ethical standards and obligations as set forth in the Code of Ethics. The Standards of Practice serve as a guide and cannot be expected to apply to all situations that may be encountered by the Licensed Athletic Trainer in the every-day conduct of his/her professional duties. As the profession of Athletic Training develops, the guidelines set forth in this Code are subject to continual review and revision. The law shall prevail whenever there is a conflict between Code and legality.

### **CODE OF ETHICS PRINCIPLE I**

Licensed Athletic Trainers shall respect the right and dignity of all physically active individuals. The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall perform his/her duties without discrimination or partiality in his/her efforts or interests.

#### Related Standards of Practice (RSP)

RSP 1.1 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall recognize the uniqueness of each individual and respect the common principle of human dignity in his/her relationship with individuals.

RSP 1.2 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall provide competent and comparable level of care with both requirements and limitations of the Athletic Training profession to all physically active individuals without partiality to race, religion, gender, creed, age, sexual orientation or legally protected class.

RSP 1.3 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall maintain confidentiality in regard to information gathered in the Licensed Athletic Trainer/individual relationship. Such information shall not be released to a third party without prior consent from the involved individual/s and is subject to applicable law.

RSP 1.4 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall disclose information in accordance with applicable law, or when authorized by the individual.

RSP 1.5 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall provide a fair, considerate, and equitable manner to evaluate the performance of staff members on clear and enunciated criteria, as well as educating those whom they supervise.

### **CODE OF ETHIC PRINCIPLE II**

Licensed Athletic Trainers shall promote and instill the principles of fair play with physically active individuals, athletes, coaches, and spectators. The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall not condone the practice of unsportsmanlike conduct.

RSP 2.1 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall not condone the teaching or practice of unsafe or illegal athletic skills or techniques.

RSP 2.2 It shall be incumbent on the Licensed Athletic Trainer to promote safe and sound playing skills. The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall promote the participation in activities within the framework of recognized rules and regulations of that activity.

RSP 2.3 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall aid in the development of fair play and sportsmanship. This responsibility extends the promotion of the principle with coaches, spectators, colleagues, and associates.

### **CODE OF ETHIC PRINCIPLE III**

Licensed Athletic Trainers shall comply with all laws, rules, and regulations governing the practice of Athletic Training as established by law and by the appropriate credentialing bodies, institutions, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

RSP 3.1 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall assume responsibility for providing care consistent with applicable laws and perform duties that are within the scope of his/her professional preparation and legal obligation.

RSP 3.2 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall evaluate and implement care under the supervision of a physician and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Athletic Training profession, as defined by law.

### **CODE OF ETHIC PRINCIPLE IV**

The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall practice using the most current procedures and maintain and promote professional standards in the practice of Athletic Training. Licensed Athletic Trainers shall accept the responsibility to exercise sound judgment.

RSP 4.1 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall implement appropriate care as specified by a physician, or based on evaluation and appropriate tests and measurements, or until benefit can no longer be obtained from such care or when such care is contraindicated.

RSP 4.2 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall demonstrate a commitment to participate in and render care consistent with current standards and for which they are qualified via education and/or experience and by pertinent legal regulatory process.

RSP 4.3 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall document information related to an individual's health status.

#### **CODE OF ETHIC PRINCIPLE V**

Licensed Athletic Trainers shall seek institutional funds appropriate to services provided. Fee for service for Athletic Training services shall be compensated only when permitted by law and such compensation is deserved and reasonable.

RSP 5.1 When laws, rules, and regulations permit fee for service, the Licensed Athletic Trainer shall be permitted to charge fees for service provided. Furthermore, the fee for service shall reflect usual and customary charge based on cost for providing such services.

RSP 5.2 The Licensed Athletic Trainer may be compensated for the endorsement or advertisement of a product. In the endorsement/ advertisement, the Licensed Athletic Trainer shall use sound professional judgment, and not discredit the profession in any form, shape or manner, and/or imply Society endorsement. Additionally, the Licensed Athletic Trainer shall not place financial gain above the welfare of an individual, nor exploit the individual.

#### **CODE OF ETHIC PRINCIPLE VI**

Licensed Athletic Trainers shall promote and inspire the development of scientific principles and body of knowledge in theoretical and applied sciences as they are related to the profession of Athletic Training.

RSP 6.1 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall recognize research as an integral part of the profession.

RSP 6.2 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall promote ethical conduct in research and adhere to educational criteria and standards set forth by the Board of Certification for professional preparation and continuing education.

RSP 6.3 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall participate in educational activities to increase the level of competency and acquire new knowledge.

#### **CODE OF ETHIC PRINCIPLE VII**

It is incumbent upon the individual Licensed Athletic Trainer to accept the responsibilities of protecting the public from illegal, unethical, or incompetent practice. Licensed Athletic Trainers shall report such acts, of which they become aware, in a professional manner.

RSP 7.1 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall attempt to educate the public and develop public awareness of the profession and its contributions to the public. However, the Licensed Athletic Trainer shall not misrepresent in any way, directly or indirectly, his/her skills, training, professional credentials, identity, or services.

RSP 7.2 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall act with full responsibility to the community in matters relating to Athletic Training and to health and safety aspects of physical activity.

RSP 7.3 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall refrain from substance abuse and seek rehabilitation/care for chemical dependency when necessary.

RSP 7.4 The Licensed Athletic Trainer shall direct individuals with a potential complaint to PATS Ethics Committee and/or the State Board of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine in order to file a formal complaint.