

**Athletic Trainers**  
**Occupations Code**  
**Title 3. Health Professions**  
**Chapter 451**  
**Administered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation**  
*(Effective September 1, 2015)*

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## SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### **Sec. 451.001. Definitions.**

In this chapter:

- (1) "Athletic injury" means an injury sustained by a person as a result of the person's participation in an organized sport or sport-related exercise or activity, including interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, semiprofessional, and professional sports activities.
- (2) "Athletic trainer" means a person who practices athletic training, is licensed by the department, and may use the initials "LAT," "LATC," and "AT" to designate the person as an athletic trainer. The terms "sports trainer" and "licensed athletic trainer" are equivalent to "athletic trainer."
- (3) "Athletic training" means the form of health care that includes the practice of preventing, recognizing, assessing, managing, treating, disposing of, and reconditioning athletic injuries under the direction of a physician licensed in this state or another qualified, licensed health professional who is authorized to refer for health care services within the scope of the person's license.
- (4) "Board" means the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers.
- (5) "Commission" means the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation.
- (6) "Department" means the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.
- (7) "Executive director" means the executive director of the department.

### **Sec. 451.002. Interpretation; Practice of Medicine.**

This chapter does not authorize the practice of medicine by a person not licensed by the Texas Medical Board.

### **Sec. 451.003. Applicability.**

This chapter does not apply to:

- (1) a physician licensed by the Texas Medical Board;
- (2) a dentist, licensed under the laws of this state, engaged in the practice of dentistry;
- (3) a licensed optometrist or therapeutic optometrist engaged in the practice of optometry or therapeutic optometry as defined by statute;
- (4) an occupational therapist engaged in the practice of occupational therapy;
- (5) a nurse engaged in the practice of nursing;
- (6) a licensed podiatrist engaged in the practice of podiatry as defined by statute;
- (7) a physical therapist engaged in the practice of physical therapy;
- (8) a registered massage therapist engaged in the practice of massage therapy;

- (9) a commissioned or contract physician, physical therapist, or physical therapist assistant in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, or Public Health Service; or
- (10) an athletic trainer who does not live in this state, who is licensed, registered, or certified by an authority recognized by the department, and who provides athletic training in this state for a period determined by the department.

## **SUBCHAPTER B. ADVISORY BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS**

### **Sec. 451.051. Board; Membership.**

- (b) The board consists of five members appointed by the presiding officer of the commission with the approval of the commission as follows:
  - (1) three members who are athletic trainers; and
  - (2) two members who represent the public.
- (c) Each member of the board must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state for the five years preceding appointment.
- (d) Appointments to the board shall be made without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the appointee.

### **Sec. 451.0521. Duties of Board.**

The board shall provide advice and recommendations to the department on technical matters relevant to the administration of this chapter.

### **Sec. 451.053. Terms; Vacancy.**

- (a) Board members serve staggered six-year terms with the terms of one or two members expiring on January 31 of each odd-numbered year.
- (b) If a vacancy occurs on the board, the presiding officer of the commission, with the commission's approval, shall appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications for the vacant position to serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

### **Sec. 451.055. Presiding Officer.**

The presiding officer of the commission shall designate a member of the board to serve as the presiding officer of the board for a one-year term. The presiding officer of the board may vote on any matter before the board.

### **Sec. 451.056. Meetings.**

The board shall meet at the call of the presiding officer of the commission or the executive director.

## **SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES**

**Sec. 451.101. General Powers and Duties.**

- (a) The executive director shall administer and enforce this chapter.
- (a-1) The department shall:
  - (1) adopt an official seal;
  - (2) prescribe the application form for a license applicant;
  - (3) prescribe a suitable form for a license certificate;
  - (4) prepare and conduct an examination for license applicants;
  - (5) maintain a complete record of all licensed athletic trainers; and
  - (6) annually prepare a roster showing the names and addresses of all licensed athletic trainers.
- (a-2) The department shall make a copy of the roster available to any person requesting it on payment of a fee established by the department in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the roster.

**Sec. 451.110. Confidentiality of Complaint and Disciplinary Information.**

- (h) All information and materials subpoenaed or compiled by the department in connection with a complaint and investigation are confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, and not subject to disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to anyone other than the department or its employees or agents involved in discipline of the holder of a license, except that this information may be disclosed to:
  - (1) persons involved with the department in a disciplinary action against the holder of a license;
  - (2) athletic trainer licensing or disciplinary boards in other jurisdictions;
  - (3) peer assistance programs approved by the commission under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code;
  - (4) law enforcement agencies; and
  - (5) persons engaged in bona fide research, if all individual-identifying information has been deleted.
- (i) The filing of formal charges by the department against a holder of a license, the nature of those charges, disciplinary proceedings of the department, commission, or executive director, and final disciplinary actions, including warnings and reprimands, by the department, commission, or executive director are not confidential and are subject to disclosure in accordance with Chapter 552, Government Code.

**SUBCHAPTER D. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Sec. 451.151. License Required.**

A person may not hold the person out as an athletic trainer or perform any activity of an athletic trainer unless the person holds a license under this chapter.

**Sec. 451.152. License Application.**

An applicant for an athletic trainer license must submit to the department:

- (1) an application in the manner and on a form prescribed by the executive director; and
- (2) the required examination fee.

**Sec. 451.153. Applicant Qualifications.**

(a) An applicant for an athletic trainer license must:

- (1) have met the athletic training curriculum requirements of a college or university approved by the commission and give proof of graduation;
- (2) hold a degree or certificate in physical therapy and have completed:
  - (A) a basic athletic training course from an accredited college or university; and
  - (B) an apprenticeship described by Subsection (b); or
- (3) have a degree in corrective therapy with at least a minor in physical education or health that includes a basic athletic training course and meet the apprenticeship requirement or any other requirement established by the commission.

(b) The apprenticeship required to be completed by an applicant consists of 720 hours completed in two years under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer acceptable to the department. Actual working hours include a minimum of 20 hours a week during each fall semester.

**Sec. 451.154. Out-of-State License Applicants.**

(a) An out-of-state applicant must:

- (1) satisfy the requirements under Section 451.153; and
- (2) submit proof of active engagement as an athletic trainer in this state as described by Subsection (b).

(b) A person is actively engaged as an athletic trainer if the person:

- (1) is employed on a salary basis by an educational institution for the institution's school year or by a professional or other bona fide athletic organization for the athletic organization's season; and
- (2) performs the duties of athletic trainer as the major responsibility of that employment.

**Sec. 451.156. Requirements for License Issuance.**

An applicant for an athletic trainer license is entitled to receive the license if the applicant:

- (1) satisfies the requirements of Section 451.153 or 451.154;

- (2) passes the examination required by the department;
- (3) pays the required license fee; and
- (4) has not committed an act that constitutes grounds for refusal of a license under Section 451.251.

**Sec. 451.157. Temporary License.**

- (a) The department may issue a temporary license to an applicant if the applicant satisfies:
  - (1) the requirements of Section 451.153 or 451.154; and
  - (2) any other requirement established by the commission.
- (b) The commission by rule shall prescribe the time during which a temporary license is valid.

**SUBCHAPTER E. LICENSE RENEWAL**

**Sec. 451.201. License Expiration; Renewal.**

- (a) A license issued under Section 451.156 expires on the second anniversary of the date of issuance and may be renewed biennially.

**SUBCHAPTER F. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

**Sec. 451.251. Grounds for Denial of License or Disciplinary Action.**

- (a) The commission or executive director may refuse to issue a license to an applicant and shall reprimand a license holder or suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a person's license if the person:
  - (1) has been convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or a felony;
  - (2) obtained the license by fraud or deceit;
  - (3) violated or conspired to violate this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter; or
  - (4) provided services outside the scope of practice of athletic training.
- (b) For the purposes of Subsection (a)(1), the record of conviction is conclusive evidence of conviction.

**SUBCHAPTER G. PENALTIES**

**Sec. 451.301. Criminal Penalty.**

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person violates this chapter.
- (b) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$200.

## SUBCHAPTER H. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

### Sec. 451.351. Amount of Administrative Penalty.

- (c) The amount of an administrative penalty imposed for a violation of this chapter or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter may not exceed \$500 for each violation, and each day a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for purposes of imposing a penalty. The total amount of the penalty assessed for a violation continuing or occurring on separate days under this subsection may not exceed \$2,500.
- (d) The amount shall be based on:
  - (1) the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation;
  - (2) the threat to health or safety caused by the violation;
  - (3) the history of previous violations;
  - (4) the amount necessary to deter a future violation;
  - (5) whether the violator demonstrated good faith, including, when applicable, whether the violator made good faith efforts to correct the violation; and
  - (6) any other matter that justice may require.