

TITLE 126  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 18-2  
SERIES 5013.1

TITLE: Roles and Functions of the Athletic Trainer Serving in the Public Schools of West Virginia

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Section 1.     General

1.1     Scope - This legislative rule establishes the general and specific role description of an athletic trainer in the public schools of West Virginia and the governing principles for his/her employment and assignment.

1.2     Authority - West Virginia Code 18-2-6

1.3     Filing Date - June 30, 1983

1.4     Effective Date - August 30, 1983

1.5     This is a revising of former Board policy.

Section 2.     Purpose

The purpose of the roles and functions of the athletic trainers policy is to provide direction to the county school districts in the employment of state certified athletic trainers serving in the public schools as stipulated in Policy 5112, Policy of the West Virginia Board of Education on Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia, adopted on June 13, 1980 and revised on May 8, 1981.

Section 3.     General Role Description

The athletic trainer possesses 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 athletic and related programs. The athletic trainer has responsibility for the development, implementation, and management of the athletic training program.

Section 4.     Essential Roles and Functions

4.1     Duties of the instructor/Advisor:

4.1.1     Instructs and advises public school student trainer and/or adult (non-trainer) assistant on current and accepted athletic training procedures appropriate for them to perform.

4.1.2     Advises athletes, parents, and coaches regarding growth and development needs of athlete in relation to specific sports.

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- 4.1.3 Instructs and advises athletes, parents, and coaches on preventive techniques appropriate to specific sports.
- 4.1.4 Advises athlete and appropriate school personnel regarding proper selection and use of protective and rehabilitative equipment.
- 4.1.5 Instructs and advises administrators, coaches, students, and other relevant personnel regarding needs and proper procedures in emergency situations.
- 4.1.6 Advises athlete and parents if there is a need for definitive medical care.
- 4.1.7 Communicates effectively with athletes, parents, educational personnel, and health care professionals.
- 4.2 Duties of the evaluator:
  - 4.2.1 Performs injury evaluation techniques and makes initial impression of injury based on growth and development stage of athlete.
  - 4.2.2 Evaluates and screens athlete for potential injury due to previous conditions.
  - 4.2.3 Evaluates protective equipment and athletic environment.
  - 4.2.4 Provides timely and appropriate evaluation of injury and/or illness sustained by students engaged in athletic activities, in the absence of more qualified personnel.
- 4.3 Duties of the emergency care provider:
  - 4.3.1 Provides emergency care appropriate to the growth and development of the athlete and the nature of the injury.
  - 4.3.2 Provides emergency care in crisis situations.
  - 4.3.3 Provides timely and appropriate treatment of injury and/or illness sustained by students engaged in athletic activities.
- 4.4 Duties of the rehabilitation agent:
  - 4.4.1 Provides rehabilitative procedures appropriate to the growth and development characteristics of the athlete and the nature of the injury.
  - 4.4.2 Provide specific reconditioning programs based upon evaluation/ screening outcomes.

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4.4.3 Provides athletic injury rehabilitation services to athletes as prescribed by physician.

4.5 ADMINISTRATOR

4.5.1 Develops, implements, and manages the athletic training program.

4.5.2 Develops written athletic training policy and procedure guidelines.

4.5.3 Establishes and maintains an effective evaluation/assessment system, including recordkeeping.

4.5.4 Manages crisis situations in the athletic environment.

4.5.6 Assumes responsibility for continuation of professional development.

Section 5. Employment and Assignment Principles

5.1 An individual must serve as an athletic trainer without simultaneous coaching responsibilities in the same sport.

5.2 An athletic trainer must be in attendance at all county board of education sanctioned football practices and games except when excused by the county superintendent or designee.

5.3 The decision whether or not a student athlete participates in a practice or game is the responsibility of the athletic trainer except in the presence of a physician who has the ultimate decision-making responsibility.

5.4 All rules and regulations promulgated in West Virginia Board of Education Policy No. 5112 shall be adhered to.

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