

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #2

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NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Education TITLE NUMBER: 126

RULE TYPE: Procedural; CITE AUTHORITY WV Code 18-2-5

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 118 (Policy 5112)

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools
of West Virginia

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED:

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED:

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON September 12, 1990 AT 9:00 a.m. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

Ms. Kathryn Roten
Bureau of General, Special and
Professional Education
Room B-309, Bldg #6
Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.

Barbara L. Estep

July 31, 1990

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Revisions For Athletic Trainers In the Public Schools of West Virginia Policy 5112

Purpose

Policy 5112 defines the roll of a state certified athletic trainer to improve the health care of student-athletes in the public schools of West Virginia.

Background

Policy 5112 was adopted almost ten years ago. Each county board of education was to employ a state certified trainer(s) for sanctioned senior high school football practices and games by the school year 1985-86 and in the middle and junior high schools by 1990-91.

For the 1989-90 school year, of the 140 high schools who had football programs, 35% had certified trainers; 15% had trainers working with an expired permit or certificate; 6% had permit trainers; 19% requested and were granted waivers; and 26% of the schools had nothing on record.

There is a dire need for athletic trainers in West Virginia schools but a shortage of certified personnel. This can be attributed to the following: (1) long work hours required; (2) responsibility/liability; (3) low pay; (4) competition for certified trainers; (5) relatively low annual numbers of individuals completing athletic trainer programs; (6) attrition; and (7) mandated reduction in force.

County superintendents may request (and be granted) a waiver if there is documentation that a certified athletic trainer could not be employed and certain other criteria are met including a provision for alternate services.

Recommended Revisions

The Athletic Trainer Policy Review Committee met three times to examine suggestions for consideration and revisions to Policy 5112.

The Athletic Trainer Policy Review Committee respectfully recommends two administrative changes to Policy 5112:

1. Establish an Athletic Trainer Review Board which would approve or deny exceptions to the policy. The eight (8) member board would meet one month prior to the first day of football practice each year. It would be composed of representatives from the following groups:

WV Athletic Trainers Association; WV Family Physicians Sports Medicine Committee; WV Physical Therapy Association; WV Secondary School Activities Commission; Higher Education; WV Secondary Principals Association; WV Superintendents Association; and WV Department of Education.

2. Standards for junior high and middle schools should be revised to recommend, rather than require, the employment of a certified athletic trainer.

TITLE 126
PROCEDURAL RULE
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 18-2
SERIES 118

Title: Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia

Section 1. General

1.1 Scope -- These legislative rules establish the employment and eligibility criteria of athletic trainers in the public schools of West Virginia and provide for the professional development of athletic trainers.

1.2 Authority - W. Va. Code 18-2-5

1.3 Filing Date -

1.4 Effective Date -

Section 2. Foreword

2.1 The purpose of the athletic trainer policy is to provide for the professional development of an individual to function as a state certified athletic trainer to improve the health care of student athletes in the public schools of West Virginia. The term "state certified" refers to the holder of any or all of the documents issued by the state superintendent under the state law and regulations of the West Virginia Board of Education which empowers an individual to serve as an athletic trainer.

Section 3. General Rules

3.1 Each county board of education shall employ a state certified athletic trainer(s) for county board sanctioned senior high school football practices and games. High schools which do not have a state certified trainer or waiver may not participate in county board sanctioned football practices and games.

~~3.2 By the 1990-91 school year, Each county board of education shall be encouraged to employ a state certified athletic trainer for county board sanctioned middle and junior high school football practices and games. Middle and junior high schools which do not have a state certified athletic trainer or waiver may not participate in county board sanctioned football practices and games. Counties are encouraged to comply with this policy prior to the date stipulated.~~

3.3 County school administrators are encouraged to assign athletic trainers to work with other school athletic programs and related school programs.

3.4 The county superintendent may request a waiver from the Athletic Trainer Review Board Department of Education. Such a request must contain documentation that a certified trainer could not be employed, describe how alternate services will be provided and delineate a plan for securing the services of a certified trainer. These exceptions will be approved for one year with legitimate reasons, i.e., illness, courses not offered and other extenuating circumstances.

Section 4. Certification Procedures Governing Athletic Trainers

4.1 See policy 5202 Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Educational Personnel

Section 5. Issuance of Professional Service Certificate

5.1 The endorsement on the Professional Service Certificate may stand 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 Board of Education. Only an individual who holds a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, has completed a state approved athletic trainer program in an accredited institution of higher education, and has the recommendation of the institution of higher education shall be eligible for the Professional Service Certificate endorsed for athletic trainer.

Section 6. Continuing Education Requirements

6.1 The renewal, conversion, and permanent status of the Professional Service Certificate will be in keeping with continuing education guidelines approved by the West Virginia Board of Education in conformity with the School Laws of West Virginia related to the Professional Certificate.

6.2 Any individual employed as an athletic trainer by a county school system on the basis of a permit or professional certificate shall participate in county and state approved continuing education programs based on A Systematic Program of Continuing Education for Public School Personnel in West Virginia. In the development of county continuing education programs for athletic trainers, consideration should be given to statewide needs assessment data related to the roles and responsibilities of athletic trainers.

Section 7. Approval of Educational Personnel Programs

7.1 Programs for the professional development of athletic trainers shall comply with the program standards for athletic trainers approved by the West Virginia Board of Education.

The issuance and renewal of certificates and the review, approval, and monitoring of professional development programs for athletic trainers shall be under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Board of Education through the West Virginia Department of Education.

Section 8. Need for Cooperative Efforts

8.1 The West Virginia Board of Education, in its interest to create safer athletic programs in the public schools, endorses cooperative efforts in the implementation of this policy by the West Virginia Department of Education, county school systems, and institutions of higher education which have or plan to develop and implement state approved professional development programs for athletic trainers.

Section 9. Governing Principles for Employment and Assignment *

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

9.2 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.

9.3 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.

* Included from policy 5013.1 (Series 112)

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DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED: The West Virginia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, handicapping condition, age and national origin in employment and in the administration of any of its education programs and activities.

Rules and Regulations for Performance of
Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia
Proposed Policy 5112

The West Virginia Board of Education is deeply concerned with the health and physical well-being of students participating in public school athletic programs. Therefore, the State Board promulgates Policy 5112 -- Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia as a means for providing safer athletic programs for students.