

*Amended: November 1, 2019*

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
ATHLETIC TRAINERS ACT  
Title 59 O.S., Sections 525 - 535**

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## **525. Short Title**

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Athletic Trainers Act".

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 1, operative July 1, 1981.

## **526. Definitions**

As used in the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers Act:

1. "Athletic trainer" means a person with the qualifications specified in Section 530 of this title, whose major responsibility is the rendering of professional services for the prevention, emergency care, first aid and treatment of injuries incurred by an athlete by whatever methods are available, upon written protocol from the team physician or consulting physician to effect care, or rehabilitation;

2. "Apprentice athletic trainer" means a person who assists in the duties usually performed by an athletic trainer under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer;

3. "Board" means the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, and;

4. "Committee" means the Athletic Trainers Advisory Committee.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 150, § 2, operative July 1, 1981. Amended by Laws 1987, c. 118, § 37, operative July 1, 1987; Laws 1996, c. 201, § 1, eff. July 1, 1996.

## **527. License required**

No person shall hold himself or herself out as an athletic trainer without first being licensed under the provisions of this act.

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 3, operative July 1, 1981.

## **528. Board - Powers and duties**

The Board, acting upon the advice of the Committee, shall issue all licenses required by this act, and shall exercise the following powers and duties:

1. To make rules and regulations deemed necessary to implement the provisions of this act;

2. To prescribe application forms for license applicants, license certificate forms and such other forms as necessary to implement the provisions of this act;

3. To establish guidelines for athletic trainers in this state;

4. To prepare and conduct an examination for applicants for licensure under this act;

5. To keep a complete record of all licensed athletic trainers and to prepare an official listing of the names and addresses of all licensed athletic trainers which shall be kept current. A copy of such listing shall be available to any person requesting it upon payment of a copying fee established by the Board;

6. To keep a permanent record of all proceedings under this act;

7. To employ and establish the duties of clerical personnel necessary to carry out the

provisions of this act; and

8. To conduct hearings to deny, revoke, suspend or refuse renewal of licenses under this act, and to issue subpoenas to compel witnesses to testify or produce evidence at such hearings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 4, operative July 1, 1981.

**529. Athletic Trainers Advisory Committee**

There is hereby created the Athletic Trainers Advisory Committee, to be composed of five (5) members to be appointed by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. To qualify as a member, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Oklahoma for five (5) years immediately preceding appointment. Two members shall be licensed athletic trainers, except for the initial appointees and two members shall be physicians licensed by the state and one member shall be a member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association who shall be selected by the Board of the Association. Except for the initial appointees, members shall hold office for terms of six (6) years. In the event of death, resignation or removal of any member, the vacancy of the unexpired term shall be filled by the Board in the same manner as other appointments. The Athletic Trainers Advisory Committee shall assist the Board in conducting examinations for applicants and shall advise the Board on all matters pertaining to the licensure of athletic trainers. Members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing their duties under the provisions of this act in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 5, operative July 1, 1981. Laws 1987, c. 118, § 38, operative July 1, 1987.

**530. Qualifications of applicants - Applications - Examination fee - Apprentice athletic trainers license**

A. An applicant to be eligible for an athletic trainer license must meet one of the following qualifications:

1. Has successfully completed the athletic training curriculum requirements of an accredited college or university approved by the Board and provide proof of graduation;
2. Be licensed or certified in physical therapy and has spent at least eight hundred (800) hours working under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer; or
3. Holds a four-year degree from an accredited college or university and has completed at least two (2) consecutive years of supervision, military duty excepted, as an apprentice athletic trainer under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer.

B. An applicant for an athletic trainer license shall submit an application to the Board and submit the required examination fee. The applicant is entitled to an athletic trainer license if he is qualified as provided in subsection A of this section, satisfactorily completes the examination administered by the Board, pays the applicable license fee, and has not committed an act which constitutes ground for denial of a license under Section 8 of this act.

C. An applicant for an apprentice athletic trainer license must submit an application to the

Board accompanied by a written commitment to supervise signed by the licensed athletic trainer who will be supervising the applicant. The Board may require the taking of an apprentice athletic trainer license examination, which would be administered without cost to the applicant. Fees for such examination may be established by the Board.

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 6, operative July 1, 1981.

### **531. Expiration of license - Renewal - License fees**

A. A license issued pursuant to this act expires one (1) year from the date of issuance. Licenses shall be renewed according to procedures established by the Board and upon payment of the renewal fee.

B. License fees shall be established by the Board:

1. An athletic trainer examination fee of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each examination taken;
2. An athletic trainer license fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00);
3. An athletic trainer annual license renewal fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00)
4. An apprentice athletic trainer license fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00).

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 7, operative July 1, 1981.

### **532. Denial, suspension or revocation of license**

A. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision may refuse to issue a license to an applicant or may suspend or revoke the license of any athletic trainer or apprentice if he or she has:

1. Been convicted of a felony crime that substantially relates to the occupation of athletic trainers and poses a reasonable threat to the public safety;
2. Secured the license by fraud or deceit; or
3. Violated or conspired to violate the provisions of the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers Act or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this act.

B. Procedures for denial, suspension or revocation of a license shall be governed by the Administrative Procedures Act.

C. As used in this section:

1. "Substantially relates" means the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on the fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the occupation; and
2. "Poses a reasonable threat" means the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted involved an act or threat of harm against another and has a bearing on the fitness or ability to serve the public or work with others in the occupation.

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 8, operative July 1, 1981.

### **533. Violation of act - Penalty**

Violation of any provision of this act shall be a misdemeanor and conviction shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 9, operative July 1, 1981.

### **534. Persons actively engaged as athletic trainer - Application of act**

A. Any person actively engaged as an athletic trainer in this state on the effective date of this act shall, within six (6) months of that date, be issued a license if proof is submitted of five (5) years' experience as an athletic trainer within the preceding ten-year period, and the license fee required by the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers Act is paid. Nothing herein shall be construed to require any educational institution or other bona fide athletic organization to use the services of a licensed athletic trainer.

B. Athletic trainers shall not misrepresent in any manner, either directly or indirectly, their skills, training, professional credentials, identity or services.

C. Any person, as authorized in accordance with Section 5 of Title 76 of the Oklahoma Statutes, may offer prevention, emergency care or first aid services on a voluntary, uncompensated basis, to any amateur or group at an amateur athletic event.

Added by Laws 1981, c. 150, § 10, operative July 1, 1981. Amended by Laws 1996, c. 201, § 2, eff. July 1, 1996.

### **535. Practice of medicine unauthorized - Exemptions from act**

A. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the practice of medicine by any person. The provisions of this act do not apply to physicians licensed as such by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision; to dentists, duly-qualified and registered under the laws of this state who confine their practice strictly to dentistry; nor to licensed optometrists who confine their practice strictly to optometry as defined by law; nor to licensed chiropractors who confine their practice strictly to chiropractic as defined by law; nor to licensed osteopathic physicians or osteopathic physicians and surgeons who confine their practice strictly to osteopathy as defined by law; nor to occupational therapists who confine their practice to occupational therapy; nor to nurses who practice nursing only; nor to duly-licensed chiropodists or podiatrists who confine their practice strictly to chiropody or podiatry as defined by law; nor to physical therapists who confine their practice to physical therapy; nor to masseurs or masseuses in their particular sphere of labor; nor to commissioned or contract physicians or physical therapists or physical therapists' assistants in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Public Health and Marine Health Service.

B. The provisions of this act shall not apply to persons coming into this state for a specific athletic event or series of athletic events with an individual or group not based in this state.

Laws 1981, c. 150, § 11, operative July 1, 1981; Laws 1987, c. 118, § 39, operative July 1, 1987; Laws 1995, c. 207, § 3, eff. Nov. 1, 1995.