

Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association, in order to embody common goals and become more unified, advancing, encouraging, and improving the athletic training profession; so that we might provide a means of achievement within our profession; do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association (VATA).

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the association shall be:

1. To advance, encourage, and improve the athletic training profession, in all its phases.
2. To encourage better working relationships among all persons interested in the health and well being of patients.
3. To encourage the continued professional development of each of its members.
4. To serve the common interest of its members by providing a free exchange of ideas within the profession.
5. To promote athletic training programs throughout Virginia.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

There shall be several classes of membership and no individual shall be eligible for more than one class of membership at any one time.

1. Professional-Certified
2. Professional-Associate
3. Certified Student
4. Non-Certified Student
5. Certified-Retired

Section 2

Each member shall have the respective rights and duties as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1

Each applicant for any non-Certified class of membership (Fellow, Allied, Student) shall sign an application stating his/her desire and intention to become a member of the VATA, to advance its best interests in every reasonable manner, and to accept as binding upon him/herself its Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2

The Bylaws shall further prescribe procedure by which eligibility for an election to membership shall be effected.

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ARTICLE V: DUES

The amount and method of payment of dues shall be prescribed by Article II of the

Bylaws. **ARTICLE VI: SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1

Membership cancellation may be recommended by any member for a cause and in compliance with the methods within the Bylaws governing Article VI of the Constitution.

Section 2

Membership cancellation shall be automatic for non-payment of dues beyond the deadline set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 3

Any member who has his/her membership revoked will have the right of appeal as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: VOTING POWER

Section 1

Only VATA members who are state-licensed or hold the Certified-Retired designation and are in good standing with the Association shall be entitled to vote on all questions submitted to the VATA.

ARTICLE VIII: ORGANIZATION

Section 1

The governing body of the Association shall be the Executive Council, which shall consist of the elected officers and the state regional representatives.

Section 2

The President shall serve as Chair of the Executive Council and be responsible for the conduct of any and all meetings.

Section 3

1. For the purpose of facilitating the work of the Association, the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be divided into six geographic areas. The geographic areas of each region shall be designated and identified in the Bylaws.
2. Each region shall have a regional representative who shall serve as a member of the Executive Council and act with full authority for the region in carrying out the functions and responsibilities of the Executive Council.

Section 4

The officers, election of officers, and terms of office shall be as follows:

- A. President

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1. The President shall be elevated to that position from the office of President-Elect.
2. The President must be in good standing as a State Licensed Athletic Trainer, NATA member, and BOC certified.
3. The term of office of the President shall be for two years, and he/she may not serve more than one concurrent term.
4. The term of office of the President shall begin at the time of the annual business meeting of the VATA.
5. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant before the end of the term for which the President was elected, the President-Elect shall become the President immediately and serve the remainder of the term for which the President was elected. He/she will then serve his/her normal term of office as President.

B. President-Elect

1. The President-Elect is required to serve the VATA for a minimum of one year prior to running to serve as the President-Elect. Service as an elected official or committee chair is preferred.
2. The President-Elect shall be elected by a simple majority of votes via an electronic election of a quorum of the members in May.
3. On July 1, the elected President-Elect will begin a six-month shadowing of the current president-elect until he/she takes office.
4. The President-Elect must be in good standing as a State Licensed Athletic Trainer, NATA member, and BOC certified.
5. The term of office of the President-Elect shall be for two years, and he/she may not serve more than one concurrent term.
6. The term of office of the President-Elect shall begin at the time of the annual business meeting of the VATA.
7. In the event that the office of President-Elect becomes vacant, the President may call a special election of the membership to fill the office.

C. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall be elected by a simple majority of votes via an electronic election of a quorum of the members in May.
2. On July 1, the elected Secretary will begin a six-month shadowing of the current Secretary until he/she takes office.
3. The Secretary must be in good standing as a State Licensed Athletic Trainer, NATA member, and BOC

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certified.

4. The term of office of the Secretary shall be two years, and he/she may serve two concurrent terms. When the Secretary's term ends, he/she will serve as a liaison to the newly elected secretary from the Annual Meeting until June 30.

5. The term of office of the Secretary shall begin at the time of the annual business meeting of the VATA.

6. In the event that the office of Secretary becomes vacant, the President may appoint an interim Secretary until the next election.

D. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer will be elected by a simple majority of votes via an electronic election of a quorum of the members in May.

2. On July 1, the elected Treasurer will begin a six-month shadowing of the current Treasurer until he/she takes office.

3. The Treasurer must be in good standing as a State Licensed Athletic Trainer, NATA member, and BOC certified.

4. The term of office of the Treasurer shall be for two years, and he/she may serve two concurrent terms. When the Treasurer's term ends, he/she will serve as a liaison to the newly elected Treasurer's from the Annual Meeting until June 30.

5. The term of office of the Treasurer shall begin at the time of the annual business meeting of the VATA.

6. In the event that the office of Treasurer becomes vacant, the President may appoint an interim Treasurer until the next election.

E. Regional Representatives

1. Regional Representatives shall be elected by a simple majority of the votes via an electronic election of a quorum of the membership of that region in May. Quorum for each region is defined as 1/20th of the VATA voting members in that region.

2. On July 1, the elected region representative will begin a six-month shadowing of the current region representative until he/she takes office.

3. The Regional Representatives must be State Licensed members of the VATA and in good standing with the NATA.

4. The term of office of the regional representative shall begin at the time of the annual business meeting of the VATA.

5. The term of office of the regional representative shall be two years. Regional Representatives may serve concurrent terms. When the region representative's term ends, he/she will serve as a liaison to the newly

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elected region representative from the Annual Meeting until June 30.

6. In the event that an office of regional representative becomes vacant, the President may appoint an interim regional representative until the next election.

F. In the event that a qualified candidate for any elected office of the VATA runs unopposed for that office, the election will be considered a "no contest", no voting will occur, and the candidate will be elevated to the office which they have sought.

Section 5

A. All officers may be impeached and convicted on the following grounds: embezzlement, malfeasance in office, actions contrary to/or in violation of the Constitution and its Bylaws, and any violation of the *Regulations Governing Licensure of Athletic Trainers*.

B. Before impeachment proceedings can be instituted, a brief containing the charges shall be drawn up and presented by an Executive Council member to the Executive Council sitting in executive session.

C. The aforementioned brief must then be adopted by a majority vote of the Executive Council prior to the formal presentation of charges.

D. Impeachment of any officer shall require a two-thirds vote of a quorum at the annual business

meeting. **ARTICLE IX: POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1

The immediate management of the VATA shall be entrusted to the Executive Council.

Section 2

A business meeting shall be held during the course of the annual VATA meeting. The government and general supervision of the affairs of the VATA shall be entrusted to the membership and the Executive Council at this meeting. Other VATA meetings may be called at the discretion of the President or the members of the Executive Council. Official VATA meetings can only be called at the discretion of the President and Executive Council and shall be announced to the membership four weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 3

A quorum for a vote shall be considered 1/20th of the membership with voting rights. A simple majority of the votes cast electronically is required to pass measures brought to a vote by the VATA Executive Council.

Section 4

A mail vote (physical or electronic) may be authorized and utilized by the Executive Council when a decision is required between scheduled meetings of the VATA. A quorum for a mail vote shall be considered 1/20th of the voting membership. A simple majority of respondents is required to pass measures brought to a vote by the VATA Executive Council.

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Section 5

All committees, standing and ad hoc shall be appointed or dissolved at the discretion of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section 1

All proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted in writing to the Association Secretary, who will distribute the proposed amendment(s) to all voting members, electronically, at least three weeks prior to the ballot being sent out for electronic voting. Voting will remain open for 60 days from the ballot distribution.

Section 2

A majority vote of the voting membership quorum shall be required to pass any amendment.

ARTICLE XI: SAVING CLAUSE

Section 1

In addition to the specific powers set forth in detail in the Constitution, the Executive Council shall have all powers and authority to be reasonably implied from the provisions of the Constitution in respect to dates, times of notice, or the sending and receipt of same, or errors in phraseology of notice of proposals which, in the judgment of the VATA members, do not cause substantial injury to the rights of members, shall not invalidate the actions or proceedings of the Executive Council at any meeting.

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