



**VATA**  
**Executive Council**  
**Conference Call Meeting Minutes**  
 Sunday, December 6, 2015  
 Jay Sedory, MEd, ATC, EMT-T, Presiding

Welcome & Call to order 8:05pm, Jay Sedory, President  
 Roll Call: (\*P = Present)

Attendees		Guests
Jay Sedory (President) *P	Daniel Carroll (Region 1)	Becky Bowers (Lobbyist) *P
Beth Funkhouser (Secretary) *P	Anna Sedory (Region 2) *P	Colleen Wildenhain (guest)
Ian Rogol (Treasurer) *P	Scott Powers (Region 3) *P	
Amanda Caswell (Past President) *P	Mitch Callis (Region 4)	
Matt Gage (President Elect) *P	Jorena Simpkins (Region 5)	
Rob Hammill (C & B) *P	Caitlyn Richbourg (Region 6) *P	

**Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

- Motion to Approve Minutes & Agenda: Scott Powers; Second- Ian Rogol
  - Motion Approved Unanimously

**Announcements/News**

- No Updates from NATA or MAATA for this meeting
- VATA
  - Follow-Up on email sent to committee chairs & executive committee
  - Make sure co-chairs can give report on behalf of committee chairs who cannot attend Friday's meeting and/or reports to membership
- Recommendations to Concussion Task Force in Richmond on Tuesday
  - Jay shared document (document follows)
- Annual Meeting Requests
  - Please let Dave know how many tables we will need for Vendors/Sponsors
    - Scott Powers will follow up on this
  - Has a screen/projector been procured for Honors & Awards? Will they too need a table?
    - Caitlyn Richbourg will follow up on this

**Treasurer's Report- Ian Rogol, Treasurer**

- Not much to report on Budget today
- Only heard from 2 committee chairs and President for 2016 Budget Requests
  - Putting that item on hold temporarily
- Beth & I will start working on registration and printing name badges for Annual Meeting
  - Need finalized schedule to get copied from AMPC
    - Matt Gage will follow-up on this with Kim.
      - Kim will have the final schedule soon
        - Ian would like this by January 1 for printing
  - Need people on Friday to help with registration prep at Kingsmill
  - Student grouping & ID upcoming in the next few weeks
    - Scott Powers will assist and work with Jamie Frye to help get student program organized

### **President Elect Report- Matt Gage**

- BOC requested revisions to our initial request to be an approved provider
- Assembled an operation manual which is now required of anyone who is an approved provider
  - Writing Programmed Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for the overall program
- Certain items must be posted on website- will get list to Beth
- The BOC has received the VATA check for the renewal to be an approved provider from Ian

### **Secretary Report- Beth Funkhouser**

- Request for website posts/eblast content if you have information to share with the membership

### **Past President- Amanda Caswell**

- No new business

### **Old Business**

#### **Policies and Procedures- Rob Hammill, chair; Jay Sedory, President**

- Approval of Headings
- Motion to approve “D-O” headings as they appear in the P&P manual- Scott Powers; 2nd Ian Rogol
  - All in favor, motion carries
- Approval of item XI “Committees and Committee Chair Appointments”
  - Discussion of wording on temporary appointments for elected positions that aren’t filled
    - Could be confusing since elected positions and appointments differ
    - Renamed to “Appointments”
      - Subheadings amended
  - Motion to approve Item XI and all subheadings- Matt Gage; 2nd Scott Powers
    - Motion approved without opposition

### **Nominations- Jay Sedory, President**

- Danny Carroll has withdrawn his nomination for region 1 representative
- Ballots are ready for the vote

### **Helmet Sensor or Concussion Task Force-Amanda Caswell**

- Group has a document to share with the EC soon.
- Having outsiders give feedback currently.
  - Not sure where to go from there.
  - Share with membership? EC only?

### **New Business**

#### **Constitution & Bylaws Changes- Rob Hammill, chair; Jay Sedory, President**

- Need to update language in C&B for membership categories to match the NATA membership categories
  - Reviewed document shared with EC on November 27th on updated wording.
  - Changes from 5 to 4 membership categories
  - Made minor changes and will re-send to EC for vote by email.
  - Will share with membership no later than 3 weeks before meeting

### **Region Rep Reports**

Region 6- Caitlyn Richbourg: no new updates- CUATC no updates

Region 5- Jorena Simpkins: Not on Call

Region 4- Mitch Callis: Not on Call

Region 3- Scott Powers: 5 Vendors - potentially 3 more coming, working with Matt and Ian.

Region 2- Anna Sedory: No updates

Region 1- Dan Carroll: Not on Call

### **President Closing Remarks:**

- Request officers remain on the call for quick discussion
- Reminder to contact committee chairs and be ready for the annual meeting
- Phone is the best way to reach, if needed
- Wished all Happy Holidays

### **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn, Ian Rogol; Scott Powers, 2nd.
  - No opposition

Meeting Adjourned 8:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Funkhouser, Secretary

Motions/Approvals	Appointments/Tasks	Tabled Discussions/Follow Up
“D-O” headings as they appear in the P&P manual	Annual reports due 12/31/15	Follow up with committee chairs prior to annual meeting
Approval of Item XI and subheadings in P&P		

\*Support Documents Follow

## Commission on Youth Concussion Recommendations

### Comments of the Virginia Athletic Trainers’ Association (VATA)

Thank you so much for seeking public comment to the set of recommendations developed by the stakeholders present at the Commission on Youth’s roundtable on concussions in student-athletes. I am pleased to provide comments on behalf of our association. The VATA is committed to improving the quality of health care for Virginians through education, advocacy and cooperative efforts with other health care professionals and organizations. Virginia’s licensed athletic trainers work in school divisions to provide immediate and emergency care of student-athletes as well as treatment and rehabilitation under the direction of school or students’ physicians. We usually are the first line of defense when student-athletes experience head injuries in competition and are trained to assess the students’ ability to return to play or more often, to be evaluated more fully after being removed from competition. We stand by to assist the Commission on any initiatives that move forward through the legislative, regulatory or any other processes.

VATA respectfully submits the following comments:

#### **Public Awareness:**

**Recommendation 1:** We fully support increasing public awareness of concussions, including their prevention and management. We would recommend that in addition to the CDC, a statement such as “and other nationally recognized guidelines” be added. The CDC is an authoritative source, and there are others, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the National Federation of State High School Associations. The VATA would be willing to assist in helping present concussion information to local communities. Our national association, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, has developed a [position statement](#) on concussions that may be of value in preparing materials for public awareness.

#### **Return to Learn**

**Recommendation 2.** We support using the concussion management team as described in the guidelines. Further, we recommend that a point person be appointed to serve as coordinator of guidelines implementation in each school, particularly at the middle- and high-school levels. We

believe that the school athletic trainer could serve in that capacity or share the responsibility with the school nurse.

## **Data**

**Recommendation 4.** We support the development of a database to track student-athletes' concussions. We recognize that such a database might have its limitations, however, having a database will help in refining policies as trends are assessed. These data would provide a means of tracking trends, making recommendations, and improving the work of the concussion management team.

## **Best practices**

**Recommendation 5.** We understand that the prior amendments to § 22.1-271.6 regarding the implementation of the return-to-learn protocols failed to include a date by which school divisions have protocols in place. We recommend that a date be included in any guidelines revision and that the date be July 1, 2016.

**Recommendation 6.** The VATA supports this recommendation that all students are treated under the guidelines.

**Recommendation 7.** We support efforts to catalogue best practices as resources for school divisions to encourage the adoption of practices that work in other divisions.

**Recommendation 8.** We support in principle the allocation of funding for low population density/poverty areas for human resources to implement concussion guidelines. We are cognizant that fiscal resources are limited; yet, concussions have serious sequelae if not properly healed. Policymakers should consider the unintended consequences of improper concussion management among school children.

## **Funding**

**Recommendation 9.** We strongly support a budget amendment that would add athletic trainers to the SOQs. Such a requirement has the potential to increase the presence of athletic trainers in every school with scholastic athletics currently lacking such qualified health care professionals.

**Recommendation 11.**

**Option 1.** Because of limited fiscal resources among school divisions, our association would not support the introduction of a budget amendment for independent assessments of concussion guidelines. Instead, we would encourage school divisions to seek these assessments through collaboration with higher education institutions in their regions, when available.

**Option 2.** The Virginia Department of Education should consider how to assist school divisions lacking do evidence of implementation on return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols, according to established guidelines. Therefore, we support this recommendation.

## **Eligibility**

**Recommendation 12.** Our association strongly supports pre-participation physical examinations in middle school athletics as a requirement for participation.

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