

NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION:
OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON PROPER SUPERVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENT AIDES

Introduction:

This Official Statement of the National Athletic Trainers' Association provides support and guidance to school administrators and athletic trainers in the education and supervision of secondary school students enrolled in sports medicine courses or volunteering in secondary school athletic training programs. The goal of this statement is to continue to foster a positive, safe learning environment where students benefit from the instruction and observation of qualified health care professionals.

Official Statement:

The NATA recognizes that allowing secondary school students the opportunity to observe the daily professional duties and responsibilities of an athletic trainer can be a valuable educational experience. This unique experience may expose students to the foundations of various health related careers as well as provide them with important life skills. Regardless of practice setting, it is understood that all athletic trainers must comply with their state practice acts, the BOC Standards of Practice when certified, and the NATA Code of Ethics when a member. These legal and ethical parameters apply and limit the incorporation of student aides outside of the classroom and within the activities of athletic programs.

Student aides must only observe the licensed/certified athletic trainer outside of the educational environment. Coaches and school administrators must not allow or expect student aides to assist or act independently with regard to the evaluation, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries. Additionally, it is paramount that student aides not be expected, asked or permitted to make "return to play" decisions.

Specifically, licensed/certified athletic trainers, coaches and administrators must not ask athletic training student aides to engage in any of the following activities:

- (1) Interpreting referrals from other healthcare providers
- (2) Performing evaluations on a patient
- (3) Making decisions about treatments, procedures or activities
- (4) Planning patient care
- (5) Independently providing athletic training services during team travel