

**126CSR118**

**TITLE 126**

**PROCEDURAL RULE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SERIES 118**

**Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia (5112)**

**126-118-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. - The purpose of this athletic trainer policy is to improve the health care of student athletes in the public schools of West Virginia. This legislative rule describes the role of athletic trainers and individuals with limited football trainer authorization in the public schools of West Virginia and provides for their licensure and professional development.

1.2. Authority. - W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W. Va. Code §18-2-5.

1.3. Filing Date. October 7, 2011.

1.4. Effective Date. November 7, 2011.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. - This procedural rule amends W.Va. 126CSR118, Athletic Trainers in the Public Schools of West Virginia," filed April 19, 2004 and effective May 20, 2004.

**126-118-2. General Rules.**

2.1. Each county board of education shall employ a registered athletic trainer(s) or an individual(s) with limited football trainer authorization defined under section 4.1 to serve during senior high school football practices and games. High schools that do not have an athletic trainer or an individual with limited athletic trainer authorization may not participate in football practices and games.

2.2. Each county board of education is encouraged to employ an athletic trainer for middle and junior high school football practices and games.

2.3. County superintendents are encouraged to assign an athletic trainer to work with other school athletic programs.

2.4. Athletic Trainers employed to serve in any public school capacity must adhere to the licensure requirements set forth in this policy and Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classifications (126CSR136).

**126-118-3. Licensure Governing Athletic Trainers (Policy 5202).**

3.1. Athletic Trainer Authorization. A Temporary Authorization endorsed for athletic trainer may be issued to an individual who holds certification through the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification (NATABOC); AND who has registered with the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy, as provided in West Virginia §30-20A-2; AND who provides a copy of the valid registration from the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy; AND who receives the recommendation of the superintendent of the employing county.

3.2. The Athletic Trainer Authorization may be reissued annually upon application to the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation with documentation of current registration with the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy AND the recommendation of the superintendent of the employing county.

3.3. Limited Football Trainer Authorization. If an athletic trainer can not be obtained, county boards of education shall employ a licensed health care provider which may include one of the following: physician, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physicians assistant, paramedic, emergency medical technician. To qualify for limited football trainer authorization, county boards of education must:

3.3.a. post the position of athletic trainer or individual to receive limited football trainer authorization with a closing date on or before May 1.

3.3.b. employ an athletic trainer. If a registered athletic trainer cannot be employed, county boards of education shall select a licensed health care provider to apply for limited football trainer authorization.

3.3.c. require the individual(s) seeking limited football trainer authorization to attend an athletic trainer workshop/clinic sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

3.3.d. require the individual(s) seeking limited football trainer authorization to complete and submit the Application for Limited Football Trainer Authorization to the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation by July 1.

3.3.e. The Limited Football Trainer Authorization may be reissued annually upon application to the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation with documentation of a valid health care provider license and the recommendation of the superintendent of the employing county.

3.4. Student Support Certificate for Athletic Trainer. Student Support Certificates for Athletic Trainer that were issued prior to July 1, 2011, may be renewed in accordance with renewal requirements for professional student support certificates, as described in

Policy 5202, §10.3.6(c). No Initial Professional Student Support Certificates will be issued after July 1, 2011.

3.5. First-Class/Full-Time Permit for Athletic Trainer Student Support Personnel.

3.5.a. Initial First-Class/Full-Time Permits for Athletic Trainer Student Support Personnel will not be issued after July 1, 2011, as stipulated in W. Va. Code §30-20A-2.

3.5.b. Renewal of First-Class/Full-Time Permits for Athletic Trainer Student Support Personnel. The First-Class/Full-Time Permit for Athletic Trainer may be renewed in accordance with renewal requirements described in Policy 5202, §11.1. Only those Permits that were in effect as of July 1, 2010, may be renewed.

**§126-118-4. General Role Description.**

4.1. Role of the Authorized Athletic Trainer. The athletic trainer possesses the essential knowledge, skills, attitudes, and credentials necessary to carry out the practices of prevention, evaluation, initial care, and physical rehabilitation of injuries sustained by students engaged in public school athletics. The athletic trainer has responsibility for the development, implementation, and management of the athletic training program.

4.2. Role of the Authorized Limited Football Trainer. The duties of individuals with limited football trainer authorization are limited to evaluation, initial care, and referral of injuries sustained by students engaged in public school athletics.

**§126-118-5. Governing Principles.**

5.1. An individual serving as an athletic trainer or individuals with limited football trainer authorization may not have simultaneous coaching responsibilities in the same sport.

5.2. An athletic trainer or an individual with limited football trainer authorization must be in attendance at all senior high school football practices and games.

5.2.a. County superintendents may grant excuses from this requirement for individual practices or games based on illness, accident or unforeseen events.

5.2.b. When an athletic trainer or an individual with limited football trainer authorization is not in attendance because of an illness, accident or other unforeseen event, the county superintendent must secure the attendance of other persons with specialized health related training.

5.3. It is the responsibility of the athletic trainer or individual with limited football trainer authorization to determine whether or not an injured student athlete participates in a

game or practice.

**§126-118-6. Severability.**

6.1. If any provision of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this rule.