

# **Constitution of the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society**

*Revised January, 2011*

## **ARTICLE I - Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS).

## **ARTICLE II - Objectives**

The objectives of this Society shall be:

- (1) The advancement, encouragement, and improvement of the athletic training profession in all its domains and to promote a better working relationship among those persons interested in the profession of athletic training.
- (2) To provide assistance for the educational and professional development of its members.
- (3) To better serve the common awareness of its members by providing a means for free exchange of ideas within the profession and sharing them in the interest of public welfare and the healthcare community.
- (4) To facilitate communication and to serve as a foundation for interaction between its members.

## **ARTICLE III – Membership - Classifications**

### **Section 1**

Membership shall be granted automatically to individuals who are in good standing as members of the Southeastern Athletic Trainers Association (SEATA) and the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA). All members must meet applicable requirements for licensure in the State of Tennessee and will be in compliance with all state and local laws, rules and regulations. Individuals outside of the SEATA or the NATA must meet qualifications as outlined in the By-Laws and approved by the Executive Board.

### **Section 2**

Qualifications for membership and the rights and obligations of members shall be as outlined in the By-Laws. No individual shall hold more than one (1) class of membership at the same time.

## **ARTICLE IV – Membership - Responsibilities**

### **Section 1**

All members, regardless of classification, shall serve to advance the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society (TATS) and its best interests in every reasonable manner and to accept as binding upon himself/herself its Constitution and By-Laws.

### **Section 2**

All members will abide by the Code of Ethics of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the Standards of Professional Practice as set forth by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (BOC). Changes in membership status in the NATA, TATS or the BOC due to nonpayment of dues or violations of either the Code of Ethics or Standards of Professional Practice will automatically be reflected as the same status in the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society.

## **ARTICLE V - Dues**

The dues of all classes of members shall be as outlined by the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VI - Suspension of Membership**

### **Section 1**

Membership suspension may be recommended by any member of the Society for just cause. Membership of any member may be caused to cease by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

### **Section 2**

Members whose status changes in either the NATA or BOC as suspended, reprimanded or as an otherwise adverse status shall be suspended automatically until such status is resolved with either the NATA or BOC respectively. Reinstatement of membership in the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society shall be approved by the Executive Board.

### **Section 3**

Members whose status changes in regard to state licensure requirements as suspended, reprimanded or as an otherwise adverse status shall be suspended automatically until such status is resolved with the respective state licensing board or authority. Reinstatement of membership in the Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society shall be approved by the Executive Board.

### **Section 4**

Appeals: A person whose membership is suspended in accordance with Section 1 shall be allowed, either in person or through a certified member of the Society in good standing to appeal through the Secretary in writing for reconsideration. Information in the appeal shall be presented to the Executive Board and the Board shall, by majority vote, decide whether to submit the question of the membership suspension to the Society membership for another vote in accordance with Section 1.

## **ARTICLE VII – Governing Body - Officers of the Society and Members of the Executive Board**

### **Section 1**

The governing body of TATS shall be the Executive Board. The Executive Board will consist of TATS officers and three (3) Regional Representatives. Chairs/Co-Chairs of all standing committees shall act as non-voting members. All powers and duties of its members are prescribed in the By-Laws. The Executive Board shall have full authority to conduct business on behalf of TATS

### **Section 2**

The officers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and shall have voting power on all business conducted by the Executive Board. All powers and duties of officers are as prescribed in the By-Laws.

### **Section 3**

There shall be three (3) Regional Representatives who shall serve on the Executive Board. Shall have voting power on all business conducted by the Executive Board. All power and duties are prescribed in the By-Laws.

### **Section 4**

The Parliamentarian shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Board and shall not have voting privileges as a member of the Board. In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, a member serving as Parliamentarian shall retain his/her right to vote with the body of the membership only. Duties of the Parliamentarian are as prescribed in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VII – Election to and Removal from Office**

### **Section 1**

Candidates for office shall meet the qualifications and be elected as prescribed in the By-Laws.

### **Section 2**

Removal of Officers: Any Society officer may be impeached and removed from office on the following grounds: embezzlement, malfeasance in office, or conduct contrary to or in violation of this Constitution and its By-Laws. Before impeachment proceedings can be instituted, a brief containing the charges shall be drawn up and presented by a Society member to the Executive Board sitting in executive session. The aforementioned brief must then be adopted by a majority vote of the Executive Board prior to the formal presentation of the charges to the membership. Impeachment and removal from office of any officer shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the

Society present at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Executive Board and Conduct of Business**

### **Section 1**

The annual business meeting shall be held each year at a time and place set by the Executive Board. A quorum for the annual meeting shall consist of one-fourth of the voting membership of the Society present at the annual business meeting.

### **Section 2**

The Executive Board may submit items of Society business to the voting membership for a vote by mail or with the advance of applicable computer technology through means of online voting at other times of the year as necessary. Approval of items so submitted requires a "yes" majority of a response of at least one-fourth of the voting membership of the Society.

### **Section 3**

The Executive Board shall meet at the State meeting and at any other time that the President determines it necessary to call a Board meeting.

A quorum for an Executive Board Meeting shall be five (5) of the voting members of the Executive Board.

The President or other Executive Board Member may submit appropriate items of Society business to the Executive Board in a meeting session with a quorum of the Board present, for a vote by mail or by conference call. For such a voting procedure the President shall first secure a "second" to the proposal and then submit the proposal to each member of the Board by mail with a request to mail a "yes" or "no" vote on the proposal by a date specified by the President but not sooner than ten (10) days after the mailing of the proposal. An immediate vote by conference call or other secure and applicable communication technology is permissible. Board approval of items submitted shall require a "yes" vote of at least four (4) voting members of the Board, regardless of voting method.

The President may submit emergency items of Society business that are appropriate for Board action to the Executive Board for a vote by telephone. For such a voting procedure the President shall first secure a "second" to the proposal and then call each member of the Board for his/her vote on the proposal. Board approval of items so submitted shall require a "yes" vote by at least four (4) voting members of the Board.

## **ARTICLE XII - Amendments to the Constitution**

### **Section 1**

All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the President at least six weeks prior to the annual business meeting. The President shall distribute copies of the proposal to all voting members at least three weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

### **Section 2**

A proposed amendment to the Constitution that has been properly submitted shall be presented at the annual business meeting and two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership present shall be necessary for the adoption of the said amendment.

## **ARTICLE XIII - Amendments to the By-Laws**

### **Section 1**

The By-Laws may be amended at the annual business meeting of the general membership by a simple majority vote of the voting membership present. By-Laws may not be added, deleted or amended by a vote by mail, through online computer means or by telephone. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to the Executive Board prior to the annual business meeting. The Executive Board shall then discuss the proposed amendments and will have the authority on moving the amendment, with or without modifications, to the membership for a vote, or to table the proposed amendment for future consideration.

## **ARTICLE XIV – Roberts' Rules of Order**

**Section 1**

The most current edition/version of Roberts' Rules of Order shall guide any procedures or decisions not otherwise addressed in the TATS Constitution or By-Laws