



Athletic Trainer Updates

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State Regulations



Chapter 06 - ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Subchapter E - STUDENTS
Section 06E .0206 - ATHLETIC TRAINERS (FIRST RESPONDERS)

16 NCAC 06E .0206 ATHLETIC TRAINERS

- (a) Each Local Education Agency (LEA) shall designate for each high school within its jurisdiction either a licensed athletic trainer who is qualified pursuant to Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes of North Carolina or a first responder. These persons may be employed on a full-time or part-time basis or may serve as a volunteer.
- (b) If not a licensed athletic trainer, a first responder shall:
- (1) have completed and continue to maintain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation as certified by an organization such as the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association;
 - (2) have completed and continue to maintain certification in first aid as certified by an organization such as the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association;
 - (3) have completed and continue to maintain training in concussion management as offered by an organization such as the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
 - (4) have completed and continue to maintain continuing education in injury prevention and management as offered by an organization such as the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS); and
 - (5) complete 10 hours total of staff development each school year specific to first aid and injury recognition and prevention. The 10 hours may include hours necessary for recertifications or renewals.
- (c) The licensed athletic trainer or first responder shall not have concurrent coaching responsibilities during the time in which the person is working as a licensed athletic trainer or first responder.
- (d) A licensed athletic trainer or first responder shall attend all football practices and games, unless excused by the superintendent due to emergency.
- (e) Each LEA shall monitor school athletic trainer's or the first responder's compliance with this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12(12); 115C-12(23);
Emergency Adoption Eff. August 20, 2019;
Eff. March 1, 2020

High Schools must have either a licensed athletic trainer or a first responder.

Fall Update





Current Status

Fall sports-all high school football games and practices had athletic trainers or first responders. All middle school football games had athletic trainers or first responders. All but BMS had someone on staff. BMS utilized a contract trainer for games. Sports in other in season sports are encouraged to have trainers, but they may or may not depending on the sport and the school at any given point.

Districts across the state are dealing with this same challenge. In discussion with other districts in our area, they are taking a similar approach to us in filling vacancies.





Updates



While we had a successful fall sport season utilizing a combination of staff first responders and 1 contract trainer, we have already begun a dialogue with OrthoNC about next fall. In short, if we can hire trainers, we will.

Dr. Schuhler spoke with a representative of the North Carolina Athletics Trainers Association at a conference. They reported that the shortage is pervasive nationwide. She was offered no tangible solution.

Dr. Webb recently attended a City/County AD meeting in Cary. He specifically posed the question of athletic trainers as a discussion item. Individuals participating from all over the state indicated the same issue. Their solutions are similar to ours- contract when available, staff when available, first responders when available etc. There were NFL representatives in attendance and they were asked for ideas. They were unable to provide any insight.

Dr. Webb has repeatedly spoken with supervisors of our local Emergency Medical Technicians. We would be happy to have an EMT serve as our athletic first responder. Most EMT's are working multiple shifts due to staffing shortages. No EMT has expressed an interest in serving as an athletic first responder. He has recently reached out to our new EMS director who agreed to get the word out again.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

All schools have AEDs in their buildings. Secondary schools have extras. They are to be used at athletic events. We purchased a few more fairly recently to support athletics. Dr. Webb has just completed a Safety Equipment grant to add additional AEDs to our secondary schools. This will allow a wider coverage for more athletic events. We are awaiting a decision.

