

CONSTITUTION OF THE MARYLAND ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2014

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association, in order to embody common goals, encourage and improve the health care in the State of Maryland, and to elevate the level of athletic training as a profession, and provide a means for achievement within our profession, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association Incorporated (MATA)

ARTICLE II – DEFINITION

- As defined by the Maryland Athletic Trainers Practice Act a:
 - “Licensed athletic trainer” means a person licensed to practice athletic training as defined in this Act and with the specific qualifications set forth in HB 173 under the Health Occupations Article Section 8 of this Act.

ARTICLE III - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this association shall be:

- The encouragement and improvement of health care in Maryland, and the elevation of athletic training as a profession
- To develop further the ability of each of its members
- To better serve the common interest of its members by providing a means for a free exchange of ideas within the profession
- To enable members to become better acquainted personally through casual good fellowship
- To examine the subject of State Licensure, with the implications and feasibility for future adoption

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

- **Section 1**

There shall be six classes of membership as follows:

- (1) Certified – Regular
- (2) Associate
- (3) Certified – Student
- (4) Non-Certified Student
- (5) Retired

and no individual shall be eligible for more than one (1) class of membership at the same time.

- **Section 2**

Qualifications for membership and the rights and obligations of members shall be indicated in the By-Laws.

- **Section 3**

It is recommended that members of the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association concurrently hold membership in the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1

The By-Laws shall further prescribe the procedure by which eligibility for and election to membership shall be affected.

ARTICLE VI - DUES

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

ARTICLE VII - SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

- **Section 1**

Membership cancellations may be recommended by any member of the Association for a cause, and the membership of any member canceled by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present at the Annual Business Meeting.

- **Section 2**

Appeals: An individual whose membership is canceled in accordance with Section 1 shall be allowed, either in person or through some member of the Association, to appeal to the M.A.T.A. Executive Council for reconsideration. Information in the appeal shall be presented to the Executive Council and the Council shall, by majority vote, decide whether to submit the question of the membership cancellation to the Association membership for another vote in accordance with Section 1.

- **Section 3**

Membership cancellations will be automatic for non-payment of dues beyond the deadline set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII - VOTING POWER

- Section 1
Certified members shall be entitled to one vote upon all questions submitted to the association for decision.
- Section 2
Voting will take place by one of three means
 1. Electronic Ballot via survey link
 2. Paper Ballot during a meeting
 3. Yea or Nay vote at a meeting

ARTICLE IX - ORGANIZATION

Section 1

The governing body of this organization shall be the Executive Council, which will be composed of the elected officers, regional representatives, Governmental Affairs Chair, Membership Chair, Public Relations Chair, Secondary Schools AT Chair, College & University AT Chair, CEPAT Chair

Section 2 – Executive Council

The officers, election of officers and term of office shall be as follows:

- **President**
 - Elevated to this position from Vice-President
 - The term of office of the President shall be for two (2) years and may not serve more than one concurrent term.
 - If the office of Vice President becomes vacant after the first nine (9) months of their term, the President will assume two (2) additional term years.
 - The term of office of the President shall begin at the time of the Annual Business Meeting of the Association.
- **Vice-President**
 - Elected by majority popular vote of Certified MATA Membership
Term of Office: Elected for a six- (6) year term
 - Two (2) years as Vice-President
 - Two (2) years as President
 - Two (2) years as Past-President
 - May not serve more than one concurrent term
 - The term of office of the Vice-President shall begin at the time of the Annual Business Meeting of the Association.
 - In the event that the office of President becomes vacant before the end of the term for which the President was elected, one of two scenarios will occur.
 - (1) The vacancy occurs within the first half of the Presidency the Past President will take over the Presidency until the end of the elected term at which time the Vice-President shall become President.
 - (2) The vacancy occurs after the first half of the term has expired in which case the Vice President shall become President immediately and shall serve as President for the remainder of the term or period for which the previous President was elected.

- The normal elected term of office will be served following that point. If scenario two (2) occurs an election will be held to elect a new Vice President who will serve the remaining term and his or her elected term.
- In the event that the office of Vice President becomes vacant before the end of the term for which the Vice President was elected, one of two scenarios will occur.
 - (1) The vacancy occurs within the first nine (9) months of the Vice Presidency an interim Vice President will be appointed by the Executive Council through majority vote. At this time a special nomination and election process will be held immediately to fill the position of Vice President. If this scenario occurs the newly elected Vice President will complete the remainder of the term, ascending to the position of President upon completion.
 - (2) The vacancy occurs after the first nine (9) months of the term has expired in which case an interim Vice President will be appointed by the Executive Council through majority vote. If this scenario occurs, the interim Vice President will complete the remaining term, and will be eligible to run for the position during the next nomination and election period.
 - In the event that there is only one (1) nominated candidate for the position of Vice President, the Executive Council will have the authority to confirm the newly elected official by simple majority vote to the position without a membership vote at the Annual Business Meeting or Symposium.
- **Secretary**
 - Elected by majority popular vote of Certified MATA membership
 - Nominations will be submitted to Executive council for selection prior to presentation to the membership for a vote.
 - Elected for a two- (2) year term and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.
The term of office of the Secretary shall begin at the time of the Annual Business Meeting of the Association.
- In the event that the office of Secretary becomes vacant before the end of the term for which the Secretary was elected, one of two following scenarios will occur.
 - (1) The vacancy occurs within the first nine (9) months of the Secretary's term an interim Secretary will be appointed by the Executive Council through majority vote. At this time a special nomination and election process will be held immediately to fill the position of Secretary. If this scenario occurs the newly elected Secretary will complete the remainder of the term and be eligible for reelection at the completion of that term.
 - (2) The vacancy occurs after the first nine (9) months of the term has expired in which case an interim Secretary will be appointed by the Executive Council through majority vote. If this scenario occurs, the interim Secretary will complete the remaining term, and will be eligible to run for the position during the next nomination and election period.

- In the event that there is only one (1) nominated candidate for the position of Secretary, the Executive Council will have the authority to confirm the newly elected official by simple majority vote to the position without a membership vote at the Annual Business Meeting or Symposium.

- **Treasurer**

- Elected by majority popular vote of Certified MATA membership
- Nominations will be submitted to the Executive Council for selection prior to presentation to the membership for a vote.
- Elected for a two (2) year term and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

The term of office of the Treasurer shall begin at the time of the Annual Business Meeting of the Association.

- In the event that the office of Treasurer becomes vacant before the end of the term for which the Treasurer was elected, one of two following scenarios will occur.
 - (1) The vacancy occurs within the first nine (9) months of the Treasurer's term an interim Treasurer will be appointed by the Executive Council through majority vote. At this time a special nomination and election process will be held immediately to fill the position of Treasurer. If this scenario occurs the newly elected Treasurer will complete the remainder of the term and be eligible for reelection at the completion of that term.
 - (2) The vacancy occurs after the first nine (9) months of the term has expired in which case an interim Treasurer will be appointed by the Executive Council through majority vote. If this scenario occurs, the interim Treasurer will complete the remaining term, and will be eligible to run for the position during the next nomination and election period.
 - In the event that there is only one (1) nominated candidate for the position of Treasurer, the Executive Council will have the authority to confirm the newly elected official by simple majority vote to the position without a membership vote at the Annual Business Meeting or Symposium.

- **Past-President**

- Assumes this position at the conclusion of his/her term of office.
- Term of office shall be two (2) years and may not serve more than one- (1) concurrent term, nor may be re-nominated by the Executive Council to any elected office for a minimum of two (2) years upon completion of his term of elected office, at which time the individual may follow the usual process of nomination of elected officers.
- If the office of President becomes vacant within the first half of the term the Past President shall serve as President for the remainder of the elected term.

Section 3 – Nomination of Elected Officers

- Any member of the Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association may recommend individuals for consideration to the Executive Council as a potential nominee for the offices of Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the M.A.T.A.
- A postmark/electronic correspondence deadline shall be established by the Executive Council and chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee for the submission of nominees.
- The Letter of Nomination shall outline the candidate's contributions and why that individual should be considered.
- All nominations shall be sent to the chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, who will therefore disseminate this information to the Executive Council.
- Individuals nominated will be invited by the President of the Executive Council to submit their name as a candidate for office to the Executive Council by completing the appropriate application procedure, and stating their willingness to serve.
- No member's name may be submitted to the Executive Council for more than one elected office.
- The slate of nominees for an elected office shall be developed by the Executive Council from the recommendations of the Association's Membership and/or the Executive Council.

Section 4 – Removal of Officers

- All Association officers may be impeached and convicted on the following grounds[including but not limited to]: embezzlement, malfeasance in office, actions contrary to, or in violation of this Constitution and its By-Laws and violation of Maryland Law as it pertains to license violations or revocations.
- Before impeachment proceedings can be instituted, a brief, containing the charges, shall be drawn up and presented by an Executive Council sitting in executive session.
- The aforementioned brief must then be adopted by a majority vote prior to the formal presentation of the charges.
- Impeachment of any officer shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership of the Association present at the Annual business Meeting.

ARTICLE X - POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The powers and duties of the elected officers are as prescribed in the By-Laws and Article IX Section 2 of the Constitution.

ARTICLE XI - COMMITTEES

All committees shall be appointed or dissolved by the President with the approval of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE XII - GOVERNMENT

Section 1

- The immediate management of this Association shall be entrusted to the Executive Council

Section 2

- The annual business meeting shall be held each year at a time and place set by the Executive Council.

Section 3

- The Executive Council may submit items of Association business to the voting membership for a vote by mail, email or online survey. A mail, email or survey vote, or conference call for executive votes, may be authorized and utilized by the Executive Council when a decision is required between scheduled business meetings of the Association.

Section 4

- A quorum at the Annual Business Meeting shall consist of the voting membership present for the Annual Business Meeting. A quorum for mail vote shall be the majority of returned ballots.

Section 5

- There shall be no voting proxy.

Section 6

- The Executive Council shall meet at any time that the President determines it necessary to call a Council meeting. A quorum for an Executive Council meeting shall be six Council members.
- The President may submit appropriate items of Association business to the Executive Council for a vote by mail, email, electronic survey or 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 Council by mail or email with a request to mail/e-mail a "yes" or "no" vote on the proposal by a definite date not sooner than ten days after the mailing of the proposal. Council approval of items submitted shall require a "yes" vote of a majority of Council members.
- The President may submit emergency items of Association business that are appropriate for Council action to the Executive Council for a vote by telephone or email. For such a voting procedure the President shall first secure a "second" to the proposal and then call or write each member of the Council for a vote on the proposal. Executive Council approval of items so submitted shall require a "yes" vote by a majority of Council members.

Section 7

- The Maryland Athletic Trainers' Association shall be self-governing.

ARTICLE XIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

In the absence of any provision in these By-Laws, the Association and Executive Council shall be governed by the rules and usage of the edition of Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. The Past-President will act as the parliamentarian for the association, or the President with the approval of the Executive Council will appoint a parliamentarian.

ARTICLE XIV - 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 Secretary 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 read 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 XV - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

- The By-Laws may be amended at any official meetings of the Executive Council by a majority vote. By-Laws may not be added, deleted or amended by a vote by mail.

ARTICLE XVI - SAVING CLAUSES

Section 1

- In addition to the specific powers set forth in detail in this Constitution, the Association shall have all further powers and authority to be reasonably implied from the provisions of the preamble, without necessity for specific amendment of the Constitution.

Section 2

- Failure of literal or complete compliance with provisions of the Constitution in respect to dates and time of notices, or the sending of or receipt of the same, or errors in phraseology or notice of proposals, which in the judgment of the members at the meeting held, do not cause substantial injury to the rights of members, shall not invalidate the actions or proceedings of the members at any meeting.