



**GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE KAREN C. HANDEL**  
**GEORGIA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS**



ONLINE NEWS VOL. I, ISSUE I

**Board Members**

*Russ Hoff,*  
Chairman

*Jeff Treadway,*  
Consumer Member

*Dr. Scott Malone*

*AT Position (vacant)*

**Board Staff**

Lisa Durden  
Executive Director  
237 Coliseum Drive  
Macon, Georgia 31217  
(478) 207-2440 phone  
(478) 207-1434 fax

**2008 Meetings**

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 29, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 24, 9:00 a.m.

Wed., Sept. 24, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 9:00 a.m.

**Executive Director's Note:**

2007 has been a busy year for the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers. In November, Mr. Warren Morris resigned from the Board. Mr. Morris began his service to the Board from 1978-1980 by serving as Chairman of the Exam Committee; he has served as Chairman of the Board since 1980. His knowledge of the athletic training profession and his dedication to the profession and to the citizens of the State of Georgia is remarkable. He was instrumental in getting legislation passed and rules promulgated for the Athletic Training Practice Act. He established the State of Georgia as a model for athletic training licensure. We want to wish Mr. Morris the very best in his future endeavors and thank him for his many years of service to the State of Georgia.

Secondly, the Board adopted Rule 53-3-.04 which requires that applicants for licensure pass the national examination given by the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification (BOC). This is a more economic means of testing for Georgia and is administered more often than was the Georgia exam.

Thirdly, the Board has addressed some issues concerning the Unauthorized Practice of Athletic Training. A number of applicants have been sanctioned during the past year for working without a license either because they failed to renew their licenses or because they never applied for an initial license. The Board also sent letters to the Board of Regents, the Georgia High School Association, and the Georgia Independent Schools Association for their assistance in disseminating licensing information to schools and educational institutions in Georgia.

Finally, at its meeting on September 28, 2007, the Board elected Russ Hoff as its new Chairman. Mr. Hoff has served on the Board since 2005 and is an Athletic Trainer, Assistant Professor, and Director of Sports Medicine at Valdosta State University. The Board looks forward to working with Mr. Hoff as he serves in this capacity.

*Lisa Durden*

The Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers website (<http://sos.ga.gov/plb/trainer/>) provides much information required by applicants, licensees and the public. Included at this site is:

- Board meeting dates
- Board meeting minutes
- Licensure requirements
- Downloadable applications
- On-line renewal
- Verification of a license
- Fees, laws and rules
- Continuing Education requirements
- Complaint forms and information
- Reinstatement Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- General Provisions
- Submit a Change of Address



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## ***Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers Complaints Process Information***

The Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1977 to regulate the licensing and practice of Athletic Trainers. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-5 is given to the Board whose four (4) members are appointed by the Governor. This Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

### **Complaint Form:**

Violations and complaints must be reported and received to the Board in writing. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence to indicate a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rule(s).

Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx> . Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned.

### **Investigation:**

All complaints are given serious consideration by the Board and further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board Investigator for further information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board; however, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

### **Hearing Process:**

After reviewing the results of the investigation, the Board may determine that an apparent violation of the licensing law or Board rules exists. If so, both the Board and the respondent may agree to certain disciplinary sanctions by signing a Consent agreement. If not, the Board will refer the case to the Office of the Attorney General to initiate formal proceedings.

Formal hearings are conducted before an administrative law judge; final decisions may be appealed by the respondent to Superior Court. The procedure can be lengthy and may take many months to complete.

### **Notification Process:**

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the action(s) of the Board. All disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on our website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/trainer/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/trainer/) . Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/) .

*Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-5-10 and at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19. State laws and Board rules may be found on our website at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/trainer/](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/trainer/) .*