

**GEORGIA BOARD OF ATHLETIC
TRAINERS Board Zoom Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.**

The Georgia Board of Athletic Trainer Examiners met via teleconference on Monday, September 14, 2020. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Russell Hoff, MS, ATC, LAT, Chairperson
Dr. James Scott, MD, Board Member
Jeff Porter, LAT, Board Member
Yusuf Ali, Consumer Board Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Attorney General's Office Present

Melissa Tracy, Assistant Attorney General

Board Members Not Present

No members absent.

Visitors Present

Paul Higgs, Past President, Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA), Governmental Affairs, GATA
Amos Manfield, President, Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA)

Call to Order: Mr. Hoff established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda The Board accepted the agenda as presented.

Open Session Minutes – June 1, 2020 Open Session Teleconference Minutes

Dr. Scott motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the June 1, 2020 open session teleconference minutes as presented.

Licenses to Ratify: May 25, 2020 – September 7, 2020

Mr. Porter motioned, Dr. Scott seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in the favor of the motion to ratify the licenses by application and by reinstatement that were issued in accordance with Board Rules and Policies between Board meetings.

Discussion – HB 914 – Expedited License by Endorsement Spouses of Service Members or Transitioning Service Members

Dr. Scott motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer Board Rule 53-3-.05 to Mr. Hoff to amend according to the provisions of House Bill 914 and present to the Board for review during the December 7, 2020 meeting for review.

Discussion – 2021 Board Meeting Dates

All meeting dates are Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

March 22, 2021
June 7, 2021
September 13, 2021
December 6, 2021

Mr. Porter motioned, Dr. Scott seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in the favor of the motion to approve the 2021 Board Meeting Dates as presented.

Discussion - Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA) – Introduction of Governmental Affairs Contact – Mr. Paul Higgs, MEd, LAT, ATC, CSCS

Mr. Higgs and Mr. Amos introduced themselves to the Board and indicated that they wanted to engage the Board in a discussion about the items within the practice act that the Board would like for GATA to try and amend during the upcoming legislative session. The Board referenced O.C.G.A. §§ 43-5-1(1), 43-5-6(c), 43-5-7, and 43-5-8 as language which has shown to be problematic, and stated that the statute also does not outline any investigative powers. O.C.G.A. §§ 43-26-11 and 43-1-19 were provided as examples of the type of language that the current statute is missing. It was a consensus of the Board to appoint a liaison between the Board and GATA to facilitate the process for amending the statute.

Mr. Higgs indicated that such collaboration will allow efficiency and simplification to expediently resolve any questions and/or concerns which may arise in the process of cleaning up the archaic practice act in the best way possible to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in the profession of athletic training in the state of Georgia.

Dr. Scott motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to appoint Mr. Hoff as the Board liaison to provide feedback to GATA on their work on the practice act for the purpose of stating Board concerns as it relates to protecting the interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the public.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Dr. Scott presented information to Mr. Amos concerning a recent study about athletes showing signs of mild myocarditis post having COVID-19 and he wanted to know if GATA had any reference documents or guidelines on how licensees should address this issue in relation to these athletes returning back to play. Mr. Amos responded that he would find additional information and submit his findings to Dr. Scott at a later date.

Board Member Elections

1. Board Chairperson

Mr. Porter motioned, Dr. Scott seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Russell Hoff as the Board's Chair.

2. Vice Chairperson

Mr. Hoff motioned, Dr. Scott seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to elect Jeff Porter, as the Board's Vice Chairperson.

3. Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant

Dr. Scott motioned, Mr. Porter seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to re-elect Mr. Hoff as the Board's Complaints/Disciplinary Cognizant.

Board President's Report – R. Hoff

Mr. Hoff reported that he contacted and spoke with Mr. Amos Manfield, President, Georgia Athletic Trainers Association (GATA), about the possibility of reviewing the law to update it and provide additional clarification as was discussed by the Board. He indicated that he had the same conversation with Mr. Paul Higgs, Chair of the Legislative Committee for the GATA, and found them both very receptive to communications.

Mr. Higgs did ask for recommendations on specific sections of the law that should be reviewed. Mr. Hoff shared sections of the law identified as problematic in previous Board meetings. Mr. Higgs sought further clarification from

the Board on specific sections of the law that are ambiguous directly from the Board. This was brought to fruition earlier today during the meeting.

Dr. Scott motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Board President's Report as presented.

Executive Director's Report – A. Price

The Executive Director's Report presented the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications and complaints/compliance matters which have occurred since the last meeting. In addition, Ms. Price addressed the following topics with the Board:

- Georgia General Assembly
- Potential Changes Due to Budget Cuts

Mr. Hoff motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented.

Mr. Porter motioned, Dr. Scott seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-2 (k); 43-1-19 (h) and 50-14-2 (1) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, pending cases, investigative reports and enforcement matters and to receive the Assistant Attorney General's report. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Russell Hoff, Dr. James Scott, Jeff Porter and Yusef Ali.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Monday, September 14, 2020, Mr. Hoff declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were obtained during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Executive Session Minutes – June 1, 2020 Executive Session Teleconference Minutes

Mr. Hoff motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to approve the June 1, 2020 executive session teleconference minutes as presented.

Attorney General's Report – M. Tracy

Mr. Hoff motioned, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Attorney General's Report as presented.

Executive Session Discussion

Mr. Hoff motioned, Mr. Porter seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

- 1. AT210001** Renew the license with a Public Consent Order for License Renewal with a fine of \$500 for failure to meet requirements for renewal of the license within the biennium. Fine may be paid in installments of \$100 monthly beginning 30 days after the docket date of the order. Must complete 35 hours of CE within 90 days of the docket date of the order. CE taken to satisfy the terms of the order may not be used to meet CE requirements for the biennium ending June 30, 2022 and flag for CE audit.
- 2. Release of AG Memos** Deny the release of Attorney General's Office Memorandums of Advice to third parties.

3. **AT210002** Close the case with a Letter of Concern regarding the licensee's professional obligations for timely renewal of licensure.
4. **AT210003** Send a certified letter that the Board must receive requested information by October 1, 2020 to complete the application process. If not received, deny the renewal application and refer to the Attorney General's office for a hearing for revocation based on failure to meet application requirements.

Applications for Board Review

Mr. Hoff motioned, Mr. Porter seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the following recommendations made in Executive Session.

Applicant 2871740 Refer to Legal Services for a Private Consent Agreement for Reinstatement of Licensure with a fine of \$900 for unlicensed practice from October 1, 2018 – May 18, 2020.

Applicant 2883220 Issue the license.

Applicant 2865073 Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding unlicensed practice from June 5, 2020 through August 11, 2020 based on O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(l) and Policy D5.

Applicant 2865073 Issue the license with a Letter of Concern regarding unlicensed practice from June 29, 2020 through July 21, 2020 based on O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19(l) and Policy D5.

Adjournment There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes reviewed by: Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: December 7, 2020

RUSSELL HOFF
BOARD PRESIDENT

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR