

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
Rules Committee WebEx Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

The Rules Committee of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met via WebEx meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. The following Committee members were present:

Committee Members Present

Destiny Hebert, Committee Chair
Terri Burner, Committee Member
Ashley Camoosa, Committee Member

Administrative Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Meagan Doss, Licensing Analyst Supervisor
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist

Committee Members Absent

No Committee members absent.

Attorney General's Office

No Attorney General present.

Visitors Present

Tina Spears
Olivia Johnson
Sandra Eskew Capps, PT
Call-In User 1
Caden Hicks
Tina S

Call to Order: Dr. Hebert called the Rules Committee meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda The Committee accepts the agenda as presented.

Discussion – Board Rules and Policy Statements

The Committee met for their annual review of all Board Rules and Policies to ensure they are current with national standards, are the least restrictive for applicants and licensees, that they align with recent statutory changes, and to protect the health safety and welfare of all constituents in the State of Georgia.

The Committee reviewed the following Board Rules and recommended that no amendments be brought forward to the Board for consideration: Rule 490-1-.01. Organization of Board; Rule 490-1-.03. Joint Secretary, Records, Fees; Rule 490-2-.02. Licensure: Examination; Rule 490-2-.06. Fees; Rule 490-2-.07. Repealed; Rule 490-2-.08. Practical and Oral Examinations; Rule 490-3-.02. Re-examination; Rule 490-3-.03. Hearings; Rule 490-4-.04. Inactive License; Rule 490-5-.02. Adequate Supervision Defined; Rule 490-6-.01. Procedural Rules; Rule 490-7-.01. License Verification and/or Charge for Furnishing Scores; Rule 490-8-.01. Definition; Rule 490-8-.02. Supervision; Rule 490-8-.03. Duties; Rule 490-9-.01. Purpose; Rule 490-10-.01. Preventative Services; Rule 490-11-.01. Consultation; and Rule 490-12-.01. Practice of Physical Therapy During A Declared Natural Disaster; and the Physical Therapy Board Policies.

The Committee reviewed amendments previously recommended by the Committee and accepted by the Board during the July 22, 2025 Board meeting and maintains that no additional amendments be made for Rule 490-1-.02. Officers; Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination; Rule 490-2-.04. Training Permits; Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: Reciprocity and Rule 490-3-.01. Evaluation of Examinations. Amended; Rule 490-4-.01. Renewal and Reinstatement of License and Penalties; Rule 490-9-.02. Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapists; Rule 490-9-.03. Principles of Conduct for Physical Therapist Assistants; Rule 490-9-.04. Disciplinary Sanctions; Rule 490-9-.06. Telehealth; and Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact.

The Committee promulgated or amended the following Board Rules to meet the requirements stated above: Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants, and Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling.

1. Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants

The Committee made amendments to Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants for the purpose of complying with new scoring system for the TOEFL iBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test). The amendment makes the Rule compliant incorporates the new passing score of 4.5 on a 1–6 band score scale, using 0.5-point increments. When applicants achieve a score greater than or equal to 4.5, the applicant is deemed as capable of understanding most academic content and participate in discussions, express opinions clearly, and write coherently, thus enabling applicants to independently navigate the healthcare, legal, and government systems during the provision of care to persons in the United States whose primary language is English. Effective communication between practitioners and their clients also improves patient care outcomes. The Committee maintained their previous recommendation to only require proof of 2 years of continuous active practice and license in good standing within the United States as equivalent to a 480 hour traineeship.

The amendment gives notice to foreign educated applicants of the new TOEFL scoring process.

The Committee entered into a discussion on the economic impact of the rule amendment and determined the economic impact remains the same in that foreign-educated applicants have and continue to incur any costs necessary to demonstrate English Language Proficiency. Such costs are necessary to ensure practitioners are able to communicate with the majority of the U.S. population who speak English, the *de facto* national language for government, education, and commerce.

Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants

- (1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.
 - (a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet. ~~Additional lists may be obtained from the Board office.~~ The professional instruction shall also meet the standards of the most recent Coursework Tool (CWT) adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.
 - (b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.
 - (c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.
 - (d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive a passing score of ~~89~~4.5 on the IBT TOEFL to include: a passing score of ~~24~~224.5 on the writing section, a passing score of ~~21~~224.5 on the reading section, a passing score of ~~18~~214.5 on the listening section and a passing score of ~~26~~244.5 on the speaking section before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.

- (e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.
 - (f) Once a completed application is on file and prior to initiation of a traineeship, all foreign educated applicants must take and pass the NPTE and the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.
 - (g) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit. *This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency with a minimum of 5-2 years of continuous active practice and license in good standing within the United States. The Pre Examination Traineeship hours may be used toward the satisfaction this requirement (See Board Rule 490-2-.04).*
- (2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation ~~and but they~~ must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.03

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-12, 43-33-15, and 43-33-17.

History. Original Rule entitled "Board Action Upon Application for Registration" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

Repealed: New Rule entitled "Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants" adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

Repealed: New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 12, 2010; eff. June 1, 2010.

Amended: F. May 23, 2013; eff. Jun. 12, 2013.

Amended: F. Aug. 26, 2015; eff. Sep. 15, 2015.

2. Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling

The Committee reviewed Board Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling and stated the purpose is to present the rule in a clearer format. The Committee maintained the previous amendments made to the rule; however it was determined that additional language was needed to clarify the dry needling designation requirements as well as to provide more precise instructions on how to obtain the designation. The proposed amendment includes language that is more concise and clarifies that the demonstration of competency. Board review of dry needling education and board approval is required before the utilization of dry needling practice. The independent support comes from statute as well as from the evidence of disciplinary actions taken this renewal cycle indicating the need for further clarification.

The Committee discussed the economic impact on licensees and determined this will positively affect physical therapists in Georgia by providing clear guidance on designation requirements and how to be compliant.

Dry needling is an enhancement to patient care and it is a matter of public protection for the Board to ensure that the dry needling education is not only provided within CE Broker but also reviewed by the Board before one engages in the practice.

Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling

- (1) Dry needling is a skilled technique performed by a physical therapist using filiform needles to penetrate the skin and underlying tissues to affect change in body structures and functions for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, movement impairments, and disability for preventative and therapeutic purposes.

- (2) Dry needling must be performed by a licensed physical therapist who:
- (a) Has consulted with an individual licensed pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title 43; and,
 - (b) Is specifically trained and competent by virtue of education and training to perform dry needling. Online study for dry needling instruction, with the exception of OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standards, will not be accepted as a demonstration of competence and training. Study for dry needling instruction, to include the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standards, and the didactic portion of training may be completed online.
- (3) A physical therapist has demonstrated specific and competent education and training when the licensee or Georgia Compact Privilege holder has submitted the following documentation to the Board, received board approval to practice dry needling in the state of Georgia, and verified that the designation is on the license:
- (a) Proof of education in the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standard: and,
 - (b) At least one of the following:
 - 1. Proof of graduation from an entry-level physical therapy program that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a hands-on, in-person competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum; or
 - 2. Proof of graduation from a post-graduate credentialed residency or fellowship program of study that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a hands-on, in-person competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum; or
 - 3. Proof of documented, successful completion of a didactic dry needling course of study consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a hands-on, in-person competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum.
- (4) Effective July 1, 2018, to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia licensed physical therapists ~~and physical therapists applying for licensure~~ must submit an application to the Board to include but not limited to entering documentation of dry needling education and training into the online recording and reporting system approved by the Board.
- (a) For the purposes of this requirement, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy adopts the utilization of CE Broker.
 - (b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from CE Broker for this service.
 - (c) Every licensee or applicant subject to the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their record retained within the online database for the purposes of auditing and verifying completion of the requirements for dry needling. Such person waives all objections to the admissibility of the record in any proceedings or hearings before the board.
- (5) The Board will review the dry needling education within CE Broker to determine if qualifications have been met. If all requirements are satisfied, the dry needling application will be approved, and the dry needling designation will be added to the license.
- (6) At the time of license renewal, each licensed physical therapist approved to perform dry needling shall attest that he or she is practicing dry needling in the state of Georgia in accordance to the rules and regulations of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy and that the dry needling designation is on the license.
- (67) A violation of the provisions outlined in this Board rule or a false attestation on the renewal application is grounds for disciplinary action as determined by the Board.

~~Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-9-.05~~

~~Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10(11), 43-33-12(2), 43-33-16, and 43-33-14.~~

4. Guide to PT/PTA Continuing Competence Activities & Documentation Requirements

Ashley Camoosa wanted to inform the Committee that although there is likely nothing that can be done to remove an old form from the internet, the previous version of the Guide to PT/PTA Continuing Competence Activities & Documentation Requirements can still be found on a Google search, but the most recent guide with current information is found on the Board website, as well as in the webinar presentation slides: Navigating the Physical Therapy License Renewal Process, also on the Board website.

<https://sos.ga.gov/georgia-state-board-physical-therapy>

The Committee voted by acclamation to refer Board Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants and Board Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling to the full Board to include their rationales for the July 21, 2026 meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:	Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed by:	Meagan Doss, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on:	July 21, 2026

DESTINY HEBERT
COMMITTEE CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNE THOMPSON
BOARD CHAIR