

**NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION:
OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON PROPER SUPERVISION OF HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENT AIDES**

Introduction:

This Official Statement of the National Athletic Trainers' Association provides support and guidance to school administrators and athletic trainers in the education and supervision of high school students enrolled in sports medicine courses or participating in high school athletic training programs. The goal of this statement is to continue to foster a positive, safe learning environment where students benefit from the instruction of qualified health care professionals.

Official Statement:

The NATA recognizes that allowing high school students the opportunity to observe the daily professional duties and responsibilities of an athletic trainer can be a valuable educational experience. This unique experience may expose students to the foundations of various health related careers as well as provide them with important life skills. Regardless of practice setting, it is understood that all athletic trainers must comply with their state practice act, BOC Standards of Practice when certified, and Code of Ethics when a member of NATA. These legal and ethical parameters apply when incorporating student aides outside of the classroom and within the activities of athletic programs.

Student aides must be under the direct visual supervision of a licensed/certified athletic trainer when assisting with any athletic training services. Coaches and school administrators must not allow or expect student aides to act independently with regards to the evaluation, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries. Additionally, it is paramount that student aides not be expected, asked or permitted to make "return to play" decisions. Specifically, student aides must not engage in the following activities:

- (1) Interpreting referrals from other healthcare providers
- (2) Performing evaluations
- (3) Making decisions about treatments, procedures or activities
- (4) Planning patient care
- (5) Independently providing athletic training services during team travel-