

Article 1 – Membership

1.1 Eligibility

Eligibility for membership is determined by conditions and obligations of Article III of the Constitution of the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. (SEATA) and as outlined in these By-Laws. All members will abide by the Code of Ethics of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. (NATA), the Standards of Professional Practice as set forth by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATABOC), or its successor, and any applicable state laws and/or regulations.

1.2 Classifications

Membership in SEATA will mirror membership in the NATA. Eligibility for these classifications is defined as follows and will comprise the membership classes:

1.2.1 Certified – Regular

Certified membership shall be open to individuals who are members of the NATA, and in good standing with the NATABOC, or its successor. If applicable, certified members must also be compliant with his/her home state regulatory requirements. Certified members are entitled to vote on SEATA affairs.

1.2.2 Certified – Retired

A certified member, who is eligible for NATA retired status and who wishes to continue membership in SEATA in the retired class, must request their change to this class through the NATA and inform the Secretary of SEATA. A Certified-Retired member shall also submit verification that he/she has retired their license to practice in their respective home state, if applicable. A certified member who retires shall have the privilege of continuing membership without further payment of dues. Certified-Retired members are entitled to vote on SEATA affairs.

1.2.3 Certified – Student

Certified-Student membership shall be open to individuals who are members of the NATA, in good standing with the NATABOC, or its successor, and who are enrolled as full-time graduate students working toward an advanced degree at an accredited college or university. If applicable, Certified-Student members must also be compliant with his/her home state regulatory requirements. An individual may not be classified as a Certified-Student Member for a combined total of more than three years. If a person ceases to be a full-time student, he/she is no longer eligible for Certified-Student membership. Certified-Student members are entitled to vote on SEATA affairs and to hold any organizational support group position.

1.2.4 Associate

Associate membership shall be open to individuals who are working professionally in athletics, education, research, medicine, or an allied health profession related to athletic training. An individual who has fulfilled the requirements to apply for the NATABOC, or its successor, certification examination and is not currently enrolled as a full-time student shall be eligible for the Associate membership category. In addition, the membership category of a Certified Member in good standing with the NATA who has been placed on inactive status by the NATABOC, or its successor, shall be changed to Associate Member. Associate members are not entitled to vote on SEATA affairs.

1.2.5 Non-Certified Student

Non-Certified Student Membership shall be open to individuals meeting the following criteria:

1.2.5a Non-certified individuals enrolled as full-time graduate or undergraduate students in an accredited college or university; and

1.2.5b Individuals making progress toward the fulfillment of the requirements for NATABOC, or its successor, certification but have not completed such requirements.

1.2.5c An individual may be classified as a Non-Certified Student member for a combined total of no more than eight years (undergraduate five, graduate three). After eight years, the individual must transfer to the Associate Member category. Non-Certified Student members are not entitled to vote on SEATA affairs.

1.2.6 Honorary

NATA Honorary members who reside in District IX are recognized as honorary members of SEATA. Honorary members are not entitled to vote on SEATA affairs.

ARTICLE 2 – Governance

2.1 Governing Body

The governing body of SEATA shall be the Executive Board. It shall be comprised of the current duly elected President of each state athletic training organization within District Nine and the duly elected offices of: District Director, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All Executive Board members shall be certified athletic trainers as set forth in Article 1.2.1 or 1.2.3 in these By-Laws.

2.1.1 Replacement Representation of State President

In the event a state within District IX elects a president who does not meet membership requirements and/or certification as set forth in these By-Laws, that state president shall present to the Executive Board, for approval, an individual, from the respective officers of that state, as a permanent replacement to represent that state on all matters and business within SEATA. Such individual shall meet all membership requirements and will serve only during the term of that respective state president. This replacement, or a replacement as outlined in Article 3.1.1 of these By-Laws, will be allowed to represent the respective state as an Executive Board member and act and/or vote on matters of SEATA.

2.1.2 Election of Officer(s) to Governing Body

2.1.2a Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility requirements to run for and hold an elected office of SEATA include being a certified member of SEATA, as defined in Article 1.2.1 and 1.2.3. In addition:

2.1.2a.1 Candidates for District Director must have served on the Executive Board for a minimum of two years as a SEATA officer or State President, in the ten-year period preceding the beginning of the election for the office.

2.1.2a.2 Candidates for President must have served on the Executive Board for a minimum of two years as a SEATA officer or State President, in the ten year period preceding the beginning of the election for the office.

2.1.2a.3 Candidates for Vice-President must meet one of the following

requirements within the ten year period preceding the beginning of the election for the office: 1) served as a SEATA officer, State President or State Vice-President for a minimum of two years; 2) served as a chair of a standing SEATA/NATA organizational support group for a minimum of four years; or 3) served as Chair of a state educational or state meeting committee for a minimum of four years. 4) candidates not meeting any one of the above individual requirements, then any combination of the prescribed experiences for this office totaling four years, within this ten year period, shall be acceptable to meet the candidacy requirement.

2.1.2a.4 Candidates for Secretary or Treasurer must meet one of the following requirements within the ten year period preceding the beginning of the election for the office: 1) served on the Executive Board as a SEATA officer or State President for a minimum of two years; 2) served as a State Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer for a minimum of two years; or 3) served as a Chair of a standing SEATA/NATA organizational support group for a minimum of three years. 4) candidates not meeting any one of the above individual requirements, then any combination of the prescribed experiences for this office totaling four years, within this ten year period, shall be acceptable to meet the candidacy requirement.

2.1.2a.5 Years of service will be determined from the actual date that the candidate took the office of the respective requirement, to the date of the assumption of the SEATA office which they are seeking.

2.1.2b Nomination(s)

The Certified - Regular and Certified – Retired members of SEATA will propose nominations for SEATA officers. The Secretary will announce upcoming regular elections and the call for nominations to the membership by mail, and/or through applicable computer technology, by July 1st, prior to the end of the respective term of office. Nominations are to be made in writing to the Secretary of SEATA or to the SEATA Elections Committee Chair. Nominations shall close by the following August 15th and ballots distributed to the membership by mail, and/or applicable computer technology, by September 15th. Voting shall be completed by October 15th and election results announced to the membership by November 1st. Election shall be by a majority popular vote. In the event of natural disaster, and/or other major unpredictable event, the Executive Board may alter the above timeline.

2.1.2c Election to Office

Election of a SEATA Officer will require a majority of valid votes duly received from the voting membership of SEATA, in accordance with SEATA election procedures. Voting shall be by mail, and/or through means of online voting with the advancement of applicable computer technology.

2.1.2d Assumption of Office

The newly elected officer(s) will take office and begin their term at the SEATA Executive Board session concurrent with the NATA Annual Meeting. Officers elected as a result of special elections shall assume office as set forth in Article 2.3 of these By-Laws.

2.2 Terms of Office of SEATA Officers

2.2.1 District Director

The term of office of the District Director shall be consistent with the terms as established by the NATA. The term of office shall begin at the time of the NATA Annual Meeting following the end of the previous immediate term.

2.2.2 President

The term of office of the President shall be three years. Beginning with the regular election cycle in the fall of 2008, there will be a regular election every three years for the office of the President. He/she may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

2.2.3 Vice-President

The term of office of the Vice-President shall be three years. The election of the Vice-President will occur on the year following the election of the President. He/she may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

2.2.3a In the event that the office of President becomes vacant before the end of the term for which the President was elected, the Vice-President shall become President for the remainder of the term for which the previous President was elected. Upon becoming President in this manner, he/she can still serve two consecutive elected terms of office as President if there is less than one year remaining in the previous President's term. Should the Vice-President assume the President's position in the first or second year of office then he/she may only run for election as President for one additional consecutive term.

2.2.4 Secretary

The term of office of the Secretary shall be three years. The election of the Secretary will occur on the year following the election of the President. He/she may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

2.2.4 Treasurer

The term of office of the Treasurer shall be three years. The election of Treasurer will occur on the same year as the election of the President. He/she may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

2.3 Special Elections – Vacancies of the Offices of District Director, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer:

Should any of the offices of District Director, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer become vacant during their respective terms, or with the simultaneous vacating of both the President and Vice-President offices, a special election shall be held and a new officer chosen within sixty days of said office being vacated. Such special election will be called for by the Executive Board. Nominations will be asked of the membership by mail and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology through online means. The nomination period will be open for 14 days, after which, elections will take place following the verification of candidate's eligibility, and the development, approval, and distribution of the ballot by the Elections Committee by mail and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology, through means of online voting. The person(s) elected shall serve in the respective office for the remainder of the term until the next regularly scheduled election. In an event that an office is vacant, the newly elected official will take office immediately.

2.3.1 In the case where it is known in advance that an elected official will be leaving office for any reason, a special election may take place immediately instead of waiting for the respective office to be vacated. Nominations will be asked of the membership by mail and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology, through online means. The nomination period will be open for thirty days, after which, elections will

take place immediately by mail and/or with the advance of applicable computer technology, through means of online voting. Any person elected in this manner shall take office at the time the vacating officer officially leaves office.

2.3.2 An officer, other than the District Director, elected by special election shall serve for the remainder of the term of office that they are filling. Upon becoming an officer in this manner, he/she can still serve two consecutive elected terms of office, in that respective office, if there is less than one year remaining in the previous officer's term. Should the new officer assume the vacated position in the first or second year of office, then he/she may only run for election in that respective office for one additional term.

2.3.3 The District Director elected by a special election shall serve for the remainder of the term of office that they are filling, and may serve additional terms, as established by the NATA By-laws.

2.4 Removal of a SEATA Officer(s)

2.4.1 Impeachment

Any officer may be impeached and removed from office on the following grounds: embezzlement, malfeasance in office, or actions contrary to or in violation of the Constitution and/or these By-Laws. Before impeachment proceedings can be instituted, a brief containing the charges shall be drawn up and presented by a SEATA member to the Executive Board sitting in executive session. The aforementioned brief must then be adopted by a majority vote of the Executive Board prior to the formal presentation of the charges to the membership. Impeachment and removal from office, of any officer, shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of SEATA.

2.4.2 Inability to Maintain or Complete Duties of Office

If any officer is unable to maintain or complete the duties and/or responsibilities of their respective office, for reasons outside of Article 2.4.1, then a voting member of the Executive Board may move for the resignation of the officer in question. If receiving a majority vote of the Executive Board, the resignation of that officer is called for and the Executive Board immediately proceeds with a special election to fill that vacancy, as outlined in Article 2.3 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE 3 – Powers and Duties of Officers and Members of the Executive Board

3.1 Powers and Duties of Officers and Members of the Executive Board

The officers are the District Director, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All powers and duties of officers are prescribed in these By-Laws. Voting on all business matters or issues requiring a vote will be done by the state presidents, who serve as members on the Executive Board of SEATA. The officers shall not have voting power to conduct SEATA business as the Executive Board, with the exception of the President, who may only vote on impasse.

3.1.1 Delegate for State President

In the event a state president is unable to be present for a meeting, conference call, or vote, the respective state president may designate a delegate who shall be a certified athletic trainer as set forth in Article 1.2.1 in these By-Laws to represent that State. The state president must notify the President of SEATA in writing,

and/or through e-mail, as far in advance as possible with this information. This delegate will not have any voting rights unless this notification is made and acknowledged by the President of SEATA, or the delegate is the individual permanently replacing the state president as described in Article 2.1.1 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE 4 – Executive Board and Conduct of Business

4.1 Members Meeting

The Members Meeting shall be held at a time and place set by the Executive Board. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting membership registered for the Members Meeting.

4.2 SEATA Business

The Executive Board may submit items of SEATA business to the voting membership for a vote at the Members Meeting, by mail, or with the advance of applicable computer technology through means of online voting. Submitted items will be confirmed by a majority of the votes cast.

4.3 Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board shall meet at the SEATA Clinical Symposium & Members Meeting, and at any other time that the President determines it necessary to call a Board meeting.

4.3.1 A quorum for an Executive Board Meeting shall be four (4) of the voting members.

4.3.2 The President may submit appropriate items of SEATA business to the Executive Board in a meeting session with a quorum of the Board present, for a vote by mail, electronic computer technology or by 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 Board, by mail or electronic computer technology, with a request to submit a "yes" or "no" vote on the proposal, by a date specified by the President. An immediate vote by conference call or other electronic means is permissible. Board approval of items submitted shall require a "yes" vote of at least four (4) voting members of the Board, regardless of voting method.

4.3.3 Members of SEATA who are in good standing may attend Executive Board meetings as provided for in the SEATA Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article 5 – Duties of Officers

5.1 Functions and Responsibilities of the District Director

5.1.1 Represent the SEATA at all required NATA Board of Directors meetings and functions.

5.1.2 Keep the President and Executive Board informed of any and all NATA business that may affect SEATA, or its membership.

5.1.3 If the District Director is unable to attend a specific meeting or required function, the District Director will immediately inform the President. The District Director will then appoint a representative from the Executive Board of the SEATA.

5.1.4 As a member of the SEATA Executive Board, the District Director shall serve at the will of the President for all SEATA functions and business matters, as approved by

the Executive Board.

5.1.5 In addition, the District Director's duties shall be to attend all on-site NATA board meetings during the year, one of which is held during the NATA Annual Meeting, and participate in all conference calls.

5.1.6 Other duties shall be to:

5.1.6a Set policy and direction for the NATA with the other members of the NATA Board of Directors.

5.1.6b Serve in accordance with applicable sections of the NATA By-Laws, the NATA Policies and Procedures Manual, the NATA Articles of Incorporation and other official governance instruments of the NATA.

5.1.6c Appoint the Executive Director of the NATA with the other members of the NATA Board of Directors.

5.1.6d Receive recommendations, suggestions and requests from the Executive Board and SEATA members and make recommendations to the NATA President for inclusion on the agenda of the NATA Board of Directors meetings.

5.1.6e Continually reevaluate the goals and objectives of the NATA with the other members of the NATA Board of Directors and accept primary responsibility for progress toward these goals.

5.2 Functions and Responsibilities of the President

5.2.1 Serve as the official spokesman for the Executive Board and SEATA concerning public relations and speaking engagements for the membership.

5.2.2 Call all meetings of the Executive Board as deemed necessary and advisable.

5.2.3 Preside over all SEATA Members and Executive Board Meetings.

5.2.4 Represent a tie-breaking vote on the Executive Board and votes only in the event of impasse.

5.2.5 Keep the Executive Board informed about SEATA affairs between Board meetings.

5.2.6 Serve as ex-officio member of all SEATA organizational support groups.

5.2.7 Appoint all organizational support groups with agreement and approval of Executive Board.

5.2.8 Responsible for oversight of the SEATA Clinical Symposium and Members Meeting.

5.2.9 Responsible for the approval of all financial business on behalf of SEATA.

5.2.10 Appoint the parliamentarian, with the approval of the Executive Board.

5.2.11 Receive all reports of all SEATA organizational support groups.

5.3 Functions and Responsibilities of the Vice-President

5.3.1 Organize the SEATA Clinical Symposium and Members Meeting.

5.3.2 Preside over SEATA Members Meetings, in the absence of the President.

5.3.3 Preside over SEATA Executive Board Meetings, in the absence of the President, and votes only on impasse while serving in this capacity.

5.3.4 Record minutes of all Executive Board meetings, in case of absence of the Secretary.

5.3.5 Carry out all duties as directed by the President.

5.4 Functions and Responsibilities of the Secretary

5.4.1 Record the minutes of all SEATA meetings.

5.4.2 Conduct communication, with the approval of SEATA President, for SEATA with other organizations and individuals.

5.4.3 Send out notices of the regular and special meetings and attend to all duties as may pertain to his/her office.

- 5.4.4 Inform the Executive Board regarding membership status.
- 5.4.5 Serve as the District contact to provide district news updates to NATA.
- 5.4.6 Assist the Vice-President with organizing the SEATA Clinical Symposium and Members Meeting.
- 5.4.7 Oversee the SEATA website organization and be responsible for all electronic communications, including the quarterly SEATA Newsletter, in conjunction with the Communication Committee, as detailed in the SEATA Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 5.4.8 Work in conjunction with the Elections Committee Chair on the organization and process of all elections, as detailed in the SEATA Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 5.4.9 Be responsible for distribution and tabulation of all general ballots regarding SEATA business issues to be voted on by the SEATA voting membership.
- 5.4.10 Serve as the Communications Committee Chair.
- 5.4.11 Carry out all duties as directed by the President.

5.5 Functions and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

- 5.5.1 Receive and deposit all SEATA monies in the name of SEATA.
- 5.5.2 Furnish a detailed statement of the financial affairs of SEATA to the Executive Board, quarterly. This information will also be made available to any member of SEATA, at any time requested. This information will also be published on the SEATA website.
- 5.5.3 Maintains and archives all financial records belonging to SEATA.
- 5.5.4 Collect SEATA dues and will keep the President informed of payment status.
- 5.5.5 Collect dues and will forward to each state, any funding provided to the respective state.
- 5.5.6 Provide membership status relative to dues collection to each state.
- 5.5.7 Assist the President with organizing the SEATA Clinical Symposium and Members Meeting.
- 5.5.8 Oversee registration process (pre-registration and on-site registration) for all meetings.
- 5.5.9 Serve as the Finance Committee Chair.
- 5.5.10 Carries out all duties as directed by the President.

Article 6 – Dues

- 6.1 SEATA dues will be paid at the same time as National dues to the National Office. Honorary and Certified-Retired members will pay no dues.
- 6.2 Changes in dues structure will be made by a two-thirds majority vote of all voting members of the Executive Board. The state presidents will vote reflective of the votes cast by their respective state membership.

Article 7 – Organizational Support Groups

7.1 Selection of Chair

Certified members of SEATA may be appointed by the President, with agreement and approval of the Executive Board, to serve as a chair for an organizational support group.

7.2 Chair Duties and Term of Office

7.2.1 The duties of each Chair shall be determined by the President, with the approval of the Executive Board. The Chair shall be responsible for directing the function of their respective group and will report all activities to the President and Executive Board, as requested.

7.2.2 Each Chair's term of office shall be specified in the SEATA Policies and Procedures Manual. The Chair may be reappointed with approval of the Executive Board. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may at any time remove or make changes to any organizational support group.

7.3 Organizational Support Group Membership

Each group, unless otherwise designated in the SEATA Policies and Procedures Manual, will consist of one member from each state or a workable group, as recommended by the Chair, with the approval of the Executive Board.

7.3.1 Selection for Membership

Any member of SEATA, as prescribed in Article 1, may serve as a member to an organizational support group. The Chair and each respective state president will coordinate in providing recommendations to the President, for approval by the Executive Board, from the eligible membership of SEATA.

7.3.2 Term of Office

Each member shall serve for a term of one year and may be reappointed with approval of the Executive Board.

7.4 General Functions and Responsibilities of Organizational Support Group(s)

7.4.1 Accept roles and responsibilities as set forth by the SEATA Policies and Procedures Manual and SEATA President and approved by the Executive Board.

7.4.2 Report to the President and to the Executive Board for approval the group's progress, needs and recommendations for the welfare, growth and protection of SEATA.

7.4.3 Fully responsible for operating within Code of Ethics of the NATA and the Standards of Professional Practice, as set forth by the NATABOC or its successor.

7.4.4 Present to the general membership in a format directed by the Executive Board a report of activities at the Members Meeting.

7.4.5 Function under the complete direction of the Executive Board.

Article 8 – Order of Executive Board Meeting

8.1 Order of Business

The Order of Business procedure will be as follows; however, the President may request Executive Board approval of a variance due to logistical or other reasons.

8.1.1 Roll Call

8.1.2 Approval of the Minutes

8.1.3 Officer Report(s)

8.1.4 Reports

8.1.5 Unfinished Business

8.1.6 New Business

8.1.7 Adjournment

Article 9 – By-Law Revisions

9.1 Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended, without previous notice, by two-thirds majority vote of the ballots cast by the voting membership of SEATA. Vote shall be by mail, or with the advance of applicable computer technology, through means of online voting. Amendments will be presented to and have been approved by the Executive Board of SEATA prior to voting by the membership. These By-Laws are not intended to conflict with the By-Laws of the NATA. In the event of a conflict, the By-Laws of SEATA may be amended accordingly to resolve this conflict, after formal approval of the SEATA Executive Board.

Article 10 – Procedure of Meeting

10.1 Parliamentary Procedures

The Robert's Rules of Order will govern all parliamentary procedures and matters not included in these By-Laws.

Article 11 – Financial Dispersal

11.1 Disbandment of SEATA

In the event that SEATA decides to disband, the remaining monies in the treasury will be divided equally to the state organizations that make up SEATA, those being: Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc., The Athletic Trainers' Association of Florida, Inc., Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc., Kentucky Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc., Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc., Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc, and Tennessee Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc., respectively.