Organizational Structure of the NATABOC and JRC-AT

The NATA Board of Certification and the Joint Review Committee on Athletic Training are separate agencies, and each reports to an overseeing agency, not to the NATA. This arrangement largely dictates each group's structure and function.

nata board of certification

The National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (NATA-BOC) was incorporated in 1989 to provide a certification program for entry-level athletic trainers and re-certification standards for certified athletic trainers.

The purpose of this entry-level certification program is to establish standards for entry into the profession of athletic training. Additionally, the NATABOC has established the continuing education requirements that a certified athletic trainer must satisfy in order to maintain his/her status as an NATABOC certified athletic trainer.

The NATABOC is the only accredited certification program for athletic trainers in the United States. Every five years the NATABOC must undergo review and re-accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying agencies. The NCCA is the accreditation body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance.

A nine-member Board of Directors governs the NATABOC. There are six athletic trainer directors, one physician director, one public director and one corporate/educational director.

NATABOC certified athletic trainers who have held the ATC credential for at least five years, have served a minimum of one full term on an NATABOC, NATA or state athletic training committee, and are in good standing with the NATABOC are eligible to be nominated as an athletic training director. Individuals who are currently serving on the NATA Board of Directors or hold an elected or appointed office on a state regulatory board are not eligible to serve as an athletic trainer director.

The NATABOC's Nominating Committee will select at least two candidates for each vacant athletic trainer director position. All ATCs who are in good standing then elect the athletic trainer director.

joint review committee on athletic training

The Joint Review Committee on Athletic Training (JRC-AT) is a Committee on Accreditation (CoA) under the umbrella of the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

The JRC-AT establishes accreditation Standards that curriculums must meet for a positive recommendation for accreditation. The Standards are the minimum requirements with which every program must demonstrate compliance. All accreditation actions are recommended by the JRC-AT to the CAAHEP board of directors for approval. CAAHEP then awards or withholds accreditation – not the JRC-AT.

The JRC-AT must follow the policies and procedures established by CAAHEP, including review of the Standards every five years. The next review is scheduled for 2006 since the most recent Standards were adopted in 2001.

The JRC-AT consists of 10 members; seven of those members are certified athletic trainers appointed by the NATA Board of Directors, while the other three members include physician representatives from the AOSSM, AAFP and AAP, who are appointed by their respective organizations. These members follow the NATA's policies for committee terms and re-appointment.

CAAHEP ultimately oversees the operations of the JRC-AT and establishes the parameters for the accreditation process. For example, the CAAHEP Standards template dictates the information required in an institution's education program. A member of the CAAHEP Board of Directors attends each JRC-AT meeting to assure that the CAAHEP policies and procedures are being followed.

The JRC-AT office is located in Centennial, Colorado. The fees paid by programs to the JRC-AT cover operational expenses. The NATA provided an initial start-up grant that has been phasing out over the past several years and will be completed in 2002. The NATA, as all sponsoring organizations, provides travel for the NATA representatives to attend JRC-AT meetings and for the JRC-AT chair to attend the CAAHEP meetings.

Questions regarding the certification examination should be directed to:

NATABOC
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(402) 559-0091
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Questions about accreditation and the accreditation process should be directed to:

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Questions about resources, teaching methodologies and general questions should be directed to:

NATA Education Council
Chair Chad Starkey, PhD, ATC
304 Dockser Hall
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 923-6037
nataec@nata.org
www.cewl.com

If you are unsure of where to best direct a question, contact the NATA Education Council to be referred to the best source. nn

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