

Athletic Trainer Scope of Services

A. Overview

Each of the 25 MCPS high schools will be assigned a certified athletic trainer (ATC) to provide services associated with participation in the interscholastic athletics program. ATCs will be employed by health care vendors selected by MCPS to provide these services. ATCs may administer emergency and first aid care as allowed by the Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR), the National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA), the Maryland Board of Physicians, and MCPS policies and regulations. ATCs will work under the immediate supervision of the school athletic director.

B. Areas of Responsibilities

ATCs perform functions associated with their professional scope of practice, as established by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) under the six domains of athletic training (items 1-6 below). Also, ATCs assist in implementing school and system-wide responsibilities related to the health and safety of student-athletes (item 7 below).

1. Prevention

- Attendance at athletic contests and practices
- Education of coaches and student-athletes in health, nutrition, and safety related matters
- Assistance in developing team conditioning programs
- Assistance in screening student-athletes for participation, including collection and review of physical evaluations
- Assistance in safety inspecting of practice and game facilities
- Assistance in developing emergency action plans
- Assistance in implementing system-wide concussion and heat acclimatization plans
- Assistance in determining ambient temperatures and heat-related restrictions
- Assistance in implementing baseline concussion testing.

2. Injury Recognition and Evaluation

- Assessment of emergency conditions or situations
- Evaluation of acute and chronic athletic injuries or conditions
- Recognition of general medical conditions.

3. Immediate Care

- Implementation of standard emergency first aid procedures
- Recommendations for follow-up treatment
- Coordination/Activation of emergency medical care.

4. Treatment and Rehabilitation
 - Application of appropriate interventions regarding athletic injuries
 - Recommendations and monitoring of rehabilitation exercises for athletic injuries
 - Instruction on methods for maintaining overall body conditioning while injured
 - Education of the injury and direction of care
 - Supervision of student-athletes' return to activity
 - Referral of student-athletes to more specialized care for injury management
 - Coordination of outside care and treatments.

5. Organization and Administration
 - Maintenance of athletic training room
 - Inventory of all athletic training room supplies and resources
 - Accurate documentation of all daily treatments, injuries, and referrals
 - Assistance in completing Injury Reports/Emergency Medical Reports
 - Creation of end-of-season injury summaries
 - Routine communication between parent or guardian, coach, and therapist or physician.

6. Professional Responsibilities
 - Maintain a high level of professionalism at all times
 - Comply with all local, state, and federal rules, requirements, regulations, and laws related to athletic training
 - Reports any suspected or known violation of a rule, requirement, or law to proper authorities.

7. Additional Responsibilities
 - Assistance in implementing school system health and safety guidelines and procedures
 - Conducting CPR/AED certification training for coaches and athletic department personnel
 - Assistance in presenting the MCPS Health & Safety PowerPoint to student-athletes
 - Attendance at countywide ATC meetings
 - Assistance in the systemwide wrestling weight certification (2 sessions)
 - Assistance at MCPS and regional championship contests and competitions
 - Completion of the MCPS *Three-step Qualification Training for EpiPen Administration for Selected School Personnel*.

C. Jurisdiction

1. The ATC shall have the final determination on whether a student-athlete may return to action immediately following an injury, providing that a different, specific individual has not been delegated that authority for a particular tournament or event.

2. If the visiting school does not have an ATC present, the host school ATC shall provide emergency medical services, including the final determination on whether a student may return to action following an injury.

Comment: It is not the expectation that the visiting team provide a trainer or emergency medical personnel. However, if the visiting team has a certified medical professional (i.e. team doctor) present who customarily provides medical services for that team, this arrangement should be discussed prior to the start of the game, and this person may provide emergency care for the visiting team. As a professional courtesy, the home school ATC may cede authority to this individual to make a final determination on a player's medical status to continue participation. However, this does not apply to multi team (five or more) tournaments in which an ATC has been specifically assigned coverage.

D. Return-to-Play Protocol

1. Following serious injuries, the player must receive permission from both the ATC and written permission from a physician before the player may be allowed to resume participation.
2. Procedures described in the *MCPS Concussion Plan* shall be followed in instances where a student-athlete has been removed from a practice because of a possible concussion.

E. Hours/Coverage

1. ATC services shall be for an average of 20-30 hours per week during the three sports seasons, approximately 42 weeks over a year, beginning in early August and ending approximately June 1st of the subsequent year.
2. ATCs shall provide coverage for practices, scrimmages, regular season events, and playoff games conducted at their designated MCPS high school.
3. Specific times may vary by school, school holidays, and season. The majority of the work will be on weekday afternoons and evenings, including many Saturdays. The specific schedule will be developed in conjunction with the school athletic director.
4. ATC services for local school optional tournaments, football playoffs, or countywide championship events are not included in the basic coverage agreement. When assigned to provide services for these events, vendors will be compensated at a rate of \$25 per hour.