

Newsletter



The official newsletter for the Idaho Athletic Trainers' Association

Message from the IATA President

IATA Membership,

After six years of serving in IATA leadership, two years as Public Relations Committee Chair, two years as Secretary/Treasurer, and finally two years as President, I can honestly say that now is about as exciting a time as ever to get involved with the Idaho Athletic Trainers' Association.

Over the past two years, we have seen new faces from within our membership step into leadership roles, bringing with them a refreshing and revitalized sense of ingenuity, initiative, and passion. These individuals are dedicated to representing the Idaho athletic training community and, most importantly, the patients and communities we serve.

Whether through defensive or proactive legislative advocacy to protect and advance our profession, such as our pursuit of an interstate licensure compact; Third-Party Reimbursement initiatives to support growing practice settings and strengthen our professional credibility; mentorship programs to build a stronger support network across the state; or the countless other initiatives and advocacy happening behind the scenes, IATA continues to move forward.

One of our goals for the 2026–2027 year is to make sure our membership has a meaningful seat at the table within IATA leadership. We want to accomplish this by creating opportunities for members to participate in Board of Directors meetings, finding smaller and less intimidating, but still meaningful and impactful, ways for members to get involved, building stronger relationships with our MSAT programs, and developing student representation on the IATA Board of Directors from each program.

Whatever “having a seat at the table” looks like for you, we want to hear from you, and we want to help make it happen. IATA leadership has fresh minds, big plans, and a tremendous amount of excitement for what is ahead. We would love for you to take the leap and play an active role in shaping the future of athletic training in Idaho.

IATA, thank you for an incredible six years.

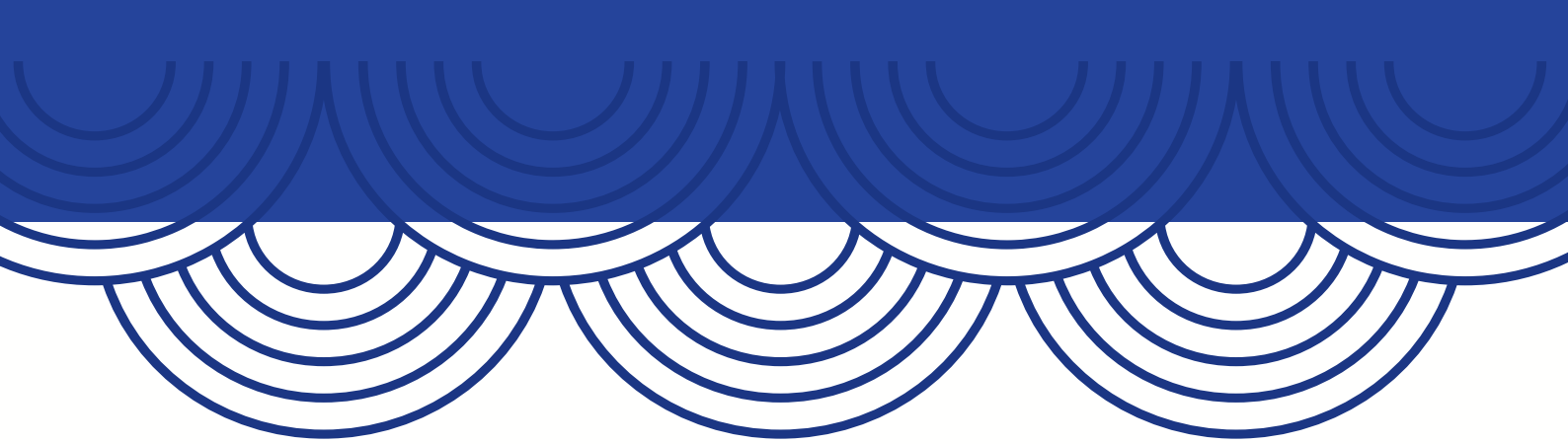
These years have been filled with so much joy, success, failure, growth, learning, and, above all, unbounding camaraderie. The memories, experiences, and relationships I have gained along the way will stay with me for a lifetime. I truly believe that if you take the leap and get involved with IATA, you will find many of those same things waiting for you.

As I conclude my time in IATA leadership, I also begin my next chapter, which will take me back to my home state of Montana. While I may be leaving Idaho, this profession, this organization, and the people who make it so special will always have my fullest support.

Thank you all for everything. It has been an absolute privilege.

Sincerely,

MaKenna Turk, MAT, LAT, ATC



IATA 2026 Award Recipients

Early Professional Award - Bailey Hill and Terisa Becker
Hall of Fame Award - Eric Taylor and David Andrews (Not pictured)
Scholarship - ISU student Bella Jones



SMAC/TUFFS Update

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee will be meeting 8/25/26 and will discuss the three key initiatives from the TUFFS meeting:

1. Emergency Action Plans (EAPs)

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) will create a proposal during the August meeting to develop standardized EAP templates for schools. These 2–3 page plans will be venue-specific and include clear roles, required components, and rehearsal procedures. Propose to present the reasoning behind EAPs and how to use/develop them during the AD conference in March/April with support from the Idaho Athletic Trainers' Association.





SMAC/TUFFS Update continued...

P2. Physical Exam Clarification

SMAC will discuss rewording Rule-13 on physicals to help support schools/districts in making decisions on the definition of a physician.

3. Heat Stroke Preparedness

Propose creating statewide guidelines for improved alignment. Giving resources to IHSAA on exertional heat stroke recognition and Cold Water Immersion treatment, emphasizing the "Cool First, Transport Second" protocol.

Resources shared:

Education

- Link to NFL/KSI Heat Education Video:
<https://www.nfl.com/playerhealthandsafety/health-and-wellness/player-care/preventing-and-treating-exertional-heat-stroke>
- [Ted Ed – What Happens When You Get EHS](#)
- Link to NFL/Dr. Drezner Cardiac Education Video:
<https://www.nfl.com/playerhealthandsafety/health-and-wellness/player-care/recognize-react-rescue-effectively-treating-sudden-cardiac-arrest>
- University of Washington 2 minutes to recognize SCA in athletes:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-iN9o-cKu0>
- [USA Football Heat Acclimatization](#)

Resources and Tools:

- New READYEAP website with many EAP tools and templates: <https://readyeap.com/>
- Resources/Templates (EAP, Medical Time Out, EHI and Lightning Policy, PPE):
<https://koreystringer.institute.uconn.edu/resources/>
- New NATA EAP Position Statement Resources:
<https://koreystringer.institute.uconn.edu/eap/>
- AEDs for Youth Program resources:
<https://www.smartheartsports.com/aeds-for-youth>
- o NFL AED Comparison Guide

WBGT Risk Zones and Prediction Tools

- Kestrel weather alerts training video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bb6Zn7fXx2E>

Invite to meetings

We want more of your involvement in our community! If you didn't already know, our monthly Board of Directors and Committee Chair meetings are completely open to the membership.

Beginning this month, we will send out meeting agendas and Zoom links ahead of time so you can join us. We welcome you in whatever capacity you are available. Whether you have concerns about a specific agenda topic or want to bring a fresh idea to the table, we want to hear from you!

Upcoming Meeting Schedule (7:00 PM PST / 8:00 PM MST):

September 22

October 20

November 17

Governmental Affairs

Your GAC is preparing for 2027 Hit the Hill this year to speak with legislation regarding the Compact Licensure.

For more information on the Compact please visit:
<https://atcompact.org/>

As November approaches, keep a look out for legislative position changes in your district! Take a chance to say hi on behalf of Idaho athletic trainers!

Reach out to your GAC representatives Lauren Hoyt and Nick Brunker for any questions, concerns or ways to reach out to your legislators!



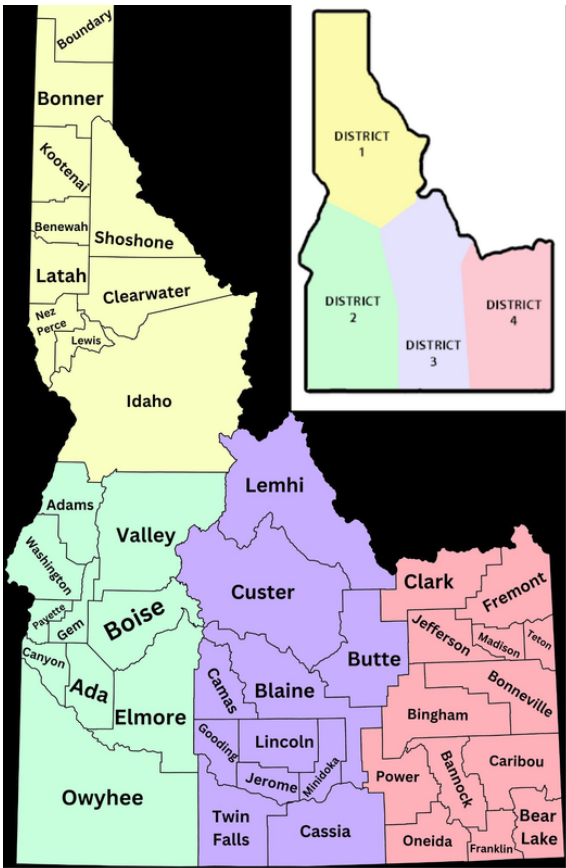


AT Student Seat on the IATA BOD/Committee Chairs

As an athletic trainer I have had the privilege of working with student athletic trainers as their preceptor. Their involvement in the clinic to student athletes has been important not only to our healthcare but to the student athletes who develop trusting relationships with them. From the scary bug-eyed thoughts of “you want me to evaluate a shoulder when I haven’t done the upper evaluation class” or to a bloody nose on the sidelines of a volleyball match. But as an AT I see confidence build and athletes who begin to look for the student AT daily.

As an association, we want to challenge AT students in another way. Participate with us at the state level. We are calling student athletic trainers to join the IATA. We want your opinions; we want to know what you are doing as student athletic trainers; we want you to know what we are doing for the state of Idaho and keep your fellow AT students up to date with the happenings on the IATA.

Reach out to idahoata@gmail.com if interested or have questions.



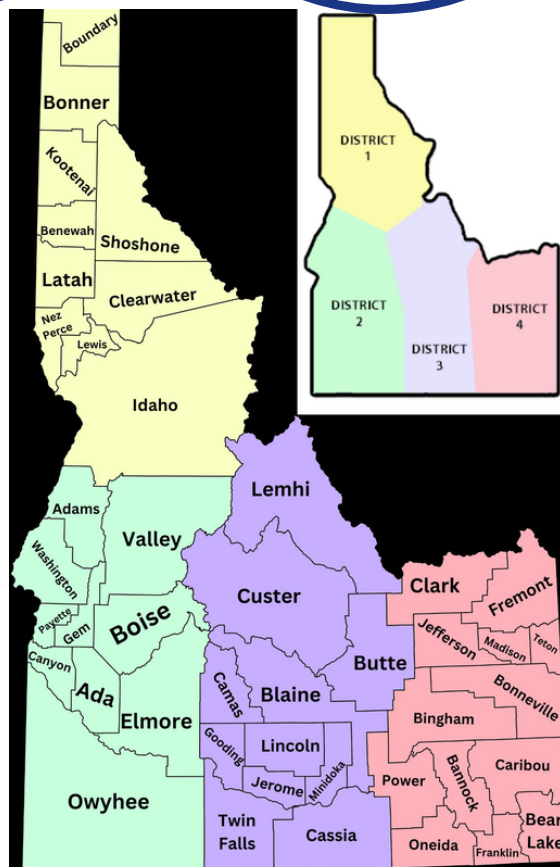
Position Openings

President - Providing direct oversight and collaborator over all IATA happenings as a public representative. Asked but not required to serve full 3 year term.

District 2 Director - Primary contact for ATs in their respective region within Idaho. Asked to but not required a 4 year term.

Secondary Education - Focused on enhancing the quality of healthcare provided to secondary school athletes and increase public awareness to the AT profession in the secondary school setting. Asked to but not required for at least a 1 year service. SMAC collaboration.

COPA - Dedicated to supporting athletic trainers in the nontraditional setting. Asked to but not required for at least a 1 year service. Opportunity to attend the COPA conference held annually.



Co-Chair Third Party Reimbursement - Assess current and ongoing status of TPR activity in Idaho and developing partnerships with targeted employers and commercial third party payors. Asked to but not required for at least a 1 year service.

Research and Education - Supporting the CE mandates set forth by the BOD by providing CE opportunities for IATA membership. Asked to but not required for at least a 1 year service.



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