

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4 • JANUARY 2026

IATA NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

BY MAKENNA TURK, IATA PRESIDENT

Hi All!

2026 is upon us and we are so excited to share with you the opportunities the IATA is working on over the next year. In 2025 we sought feedback from membership and the crucial constructive criticism and suggestions from membership brought on self reflection from myself and the BOD. I am confident IATA is in a strong place that will allow us to be more proactive than ever, continue to learn and grow, and strive to achieve what's in the best interest of the Idaho Athletic Training Community and our patient populations across the entire state. This work is going on as we speak!

The IATA GAC, EPC, SSC, and TPRC are all making meaningful progress on actionable initiatives that impact athletic trainers and patients across a wide range of practice settings throughout the state. Whether it be Leah Smith of the EPC utilizing Idaho to be a trailblazer in launching their NavigATe program, Jared Olsen of the SSC partnering with the IHSAA SMAC to bring KSI's TUFSS program to Idaho, Lauren Hoyt and Nick Brunker of the GAC leading the charge to pursue licensure compact in the Northwest, and then Dave Hammons of the TPRC opening doors and creating opportunity for ATs and AT employers to add more strength to ATs as healthcare providers.

IATA is busy and showing no signs of slowing down! Please reach out to your district director any time if you:

- Want to let them know your thoughts, questions, concerns, wants and needs
- Want to learn about how any current IATA initiatives may effect you, your practice setting, or your patient populations
- Want to get involved in IATA in any way or need IATA's help with anything you are facing

IATA has an open door mindset and we are here for you whenever you need us.

LETTER FROM IATA
PRESIDENT

PAGE 01

TUFFS MEETING

PAGE 02

IHSAA SMAC

PAGE 03

ATHLETIC TRAINERS
LICENSE COMPACT

PAGE 04

THIRD PARTY
REIMBURSEMENT
UPDATE

PAGE 05

UPCOMING MEETINGS

PAGE 06

NAVIGATE

PAGE 07

D2/D4 OPENINGS

PAGE 08

COMMITTEE CHAIR
POSITIONS

PAGE 9

DIRECTORY

PAGE 10



Idaho High School Athlete Health and Safety Meeting

JUNE 3, 2026 BOISE, ID

Team Up for Sports Safety (TUFSS) project is an initiative to support athletic safety in secondary school athletics working to be able to drive changes and adoption of policies proven to reduce catastrophic sport injury across the United States and Canada (<https://koreystringer.institute.uconn.edu/tufss/>).

Currently, The Idaho TUFSS planning committee and the Korey Stringer Institute are inviting Idaho stakeholders that include state high school athletic association, representation from the state athletic training leadership, other medical groups (physicians, EMS, etc), high school administrators, statewide leadership from Idaho coaches association, legislators and others to meet in Boise, ID on June 3, 2026 to discuss health and safety policy in Idaho specifically catastrophic injury in high school sport.





Idaho High School Activities Association Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

PROJECTS FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Our SMAC members are currently working on the following projects:

1. Drafting new physical forms which includes removal of genital checks and specifics required “physician” clearance as “MD/DO”.
2. Updating lightning, heat, smoke protocols for more state wide uniformity.

If any IATA members have any questions, comments, concerns or actionable items they want the SMAC to address for the 2026- 2027 school year they can reach out to Jared Olsen.

Here are the current SMAC members and the vacancies. If anyone is interested for their respective district reach out to Jared Olsen @ jaredolsen35@gmail.com.

District 1: Megan Cox (ATC), Sam Schumacher (DC)

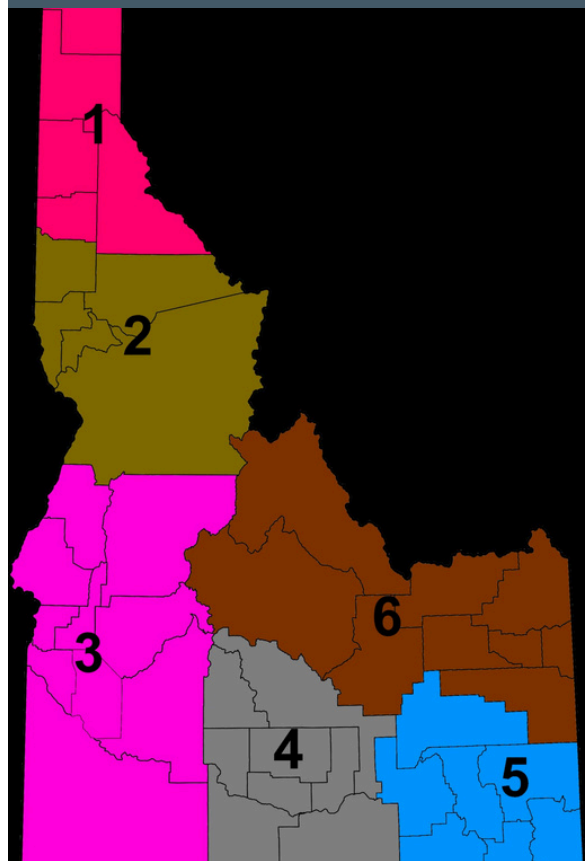
District 2: Vacant

District 3: Kaleb Redden (MD), Shayla Foster (ATC),
Kip Drebnik (ATC)

District 4: Vacant

District 5: Vacant

District 6: Jared Olsen (ATC), Haddi Burr (LMSW)





Athletic Trainers License Compact

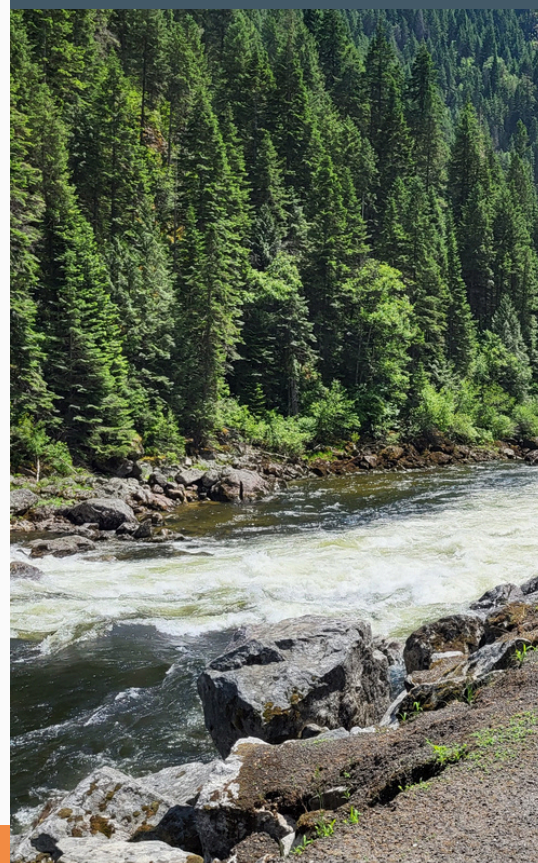
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hello Idaho Athletic Trainers' Association,

We hope the new year is starting off well for you! With the fresh start, we have some exciting news on the legislative front. Our association has chosen to pursue an Athletic Training License Compact. This decision was made with the assistance of the Board of Certification and The Council of State Governments, within the National Center for Interstate Compacts. Prior to the new year, we have been meeting with these fellow organizations, as well as the rest of the NWATA states, to gather information, answer questions and create a plan for the potential of an AT License Compact in Idaho. We have also notified the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) and intend to meet with them as well. There is a lot to be done in the next couple of months and we will keep our membership updated as we progress. For those of you who are not sure what an Athletic Training License Compact is or how it would benefit our Idaho athletic trainers, and ultimately patients, please take a look at the helpful website ATCompact.org. Under the upper right Educational Resources tabs, documents like "Fact Sheet" and "Frequently Asked Questions" can likely answer a lot of your questions. However, we as your governmental affairs co-chairs are available and ready to talk with anyone wanting to know more or how they can help.

To an eventful, and hopefully progressive 2026,

Lauren Hoyt and Nick Brunker



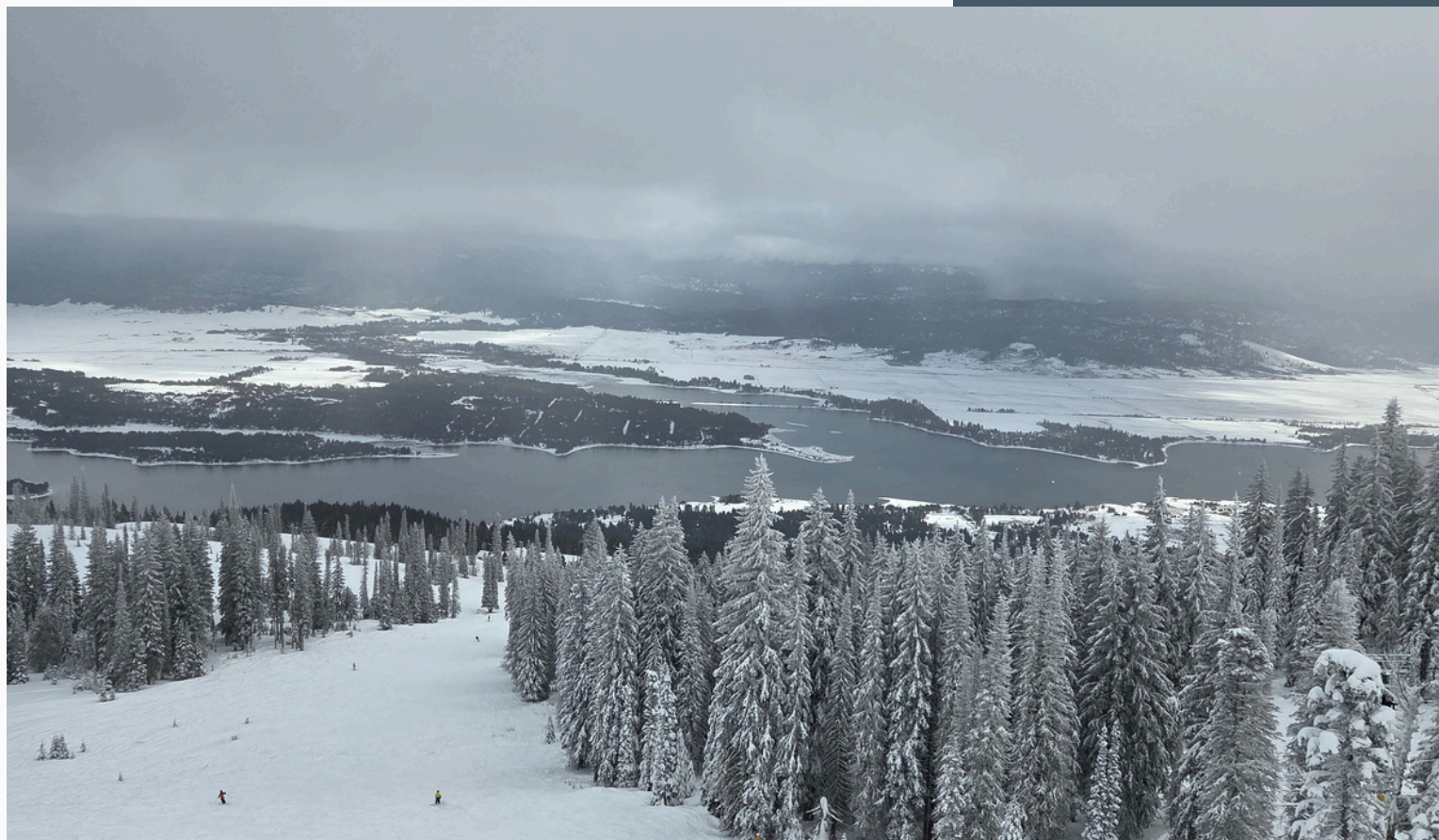


Third Party Reimbursement Update

DAVE HAMMONS, TPR COMMITTEE CHAIR

Are you an AT working in a setting that treats worker compensation patients? Many worker's compensation companies will cover AT services provided by licensed and certified providers either individually or through clinic you work in.

If you think this is something that you or your employer may be interested in please reach out to your IATA TPR committee representation, Dave Hammons @ davidhammons@boisestate.edu.





54th Annual NWATA Meeting and Symposium 2026

MARCH 19TH - 22ND THE BOISE CENTER, BOISE ID

Please join us in Boise for up to 12 CEUs, plus the ability to pay for an additional 6 CEUs as workshops.

NEW THIS YEAR! We have added in a 1 day registration option, eligible for partial CEUs.

Registration cost will increase March 5th. And reservations must be made by February 18th if staying at the Grove Hotel with the NWATA room block.

Please contact Nick Cromidas @ secretary@nwata.org or Katy Pietz @ katy.pietz@wsu.edu for any questions, concerns.

Visit nwata.org/annual-meeting-2026 for registration and hotel information.

Idaho Athletic Trainers' Association Symposium 2026

JULY 2026, BOISE ID VENUE TBA

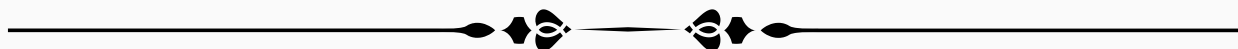


NavigATe: The D10 Mentorship Initiative Launches!

LAUNCHED JANUARY 2026

On behalf of the NWATA and IATA Early Professionals Committee, we are excited to announce the launch of NavigATe, our new mentorship pilot program. This initiative will run from January through May 2026 and is designed to foster meaningful connections, professional growth, and support within D10.

Interested in joining NavigATe in the future? Applications for the next cohort will open in May 2026 and will be available for both mentees and mentors. New graduates are highly encouraged to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to build confidence and expand networks in the early stages of their careers.



The goal of NavigATe is to help early-career athletic trainers accelerate their professional growth, through guidance, shared wisdom, experience and valuable support. It is a concrete method for early professional to navigate networking and to connect with mentors they may not otherwise have a chance to interact with.

Requirements for the program is again a 1 year commitment (minimum) with an initial meeting/call. Following will be weekly check ins however the individuals deem most fitting i.e. text/email/coffee/walk. Following the program there will be an exit survey.

Mentor: BOC certified for >5 years

Mentee: BOD certified for <6 years.

If you have interest, questions or concerns please reach out to Lea Moose @ leakmoose@gmail.com. Or our IATA EPC Chair Leah Smith @ leah.smith@lpsod.org.



District 2 Open for Nominations

Currently held by Tyler Smith from Boise State. District 2 region includes the following counties: Adams, Washington, Valley, Payette, Gem, Canyon, Ada, Boise, Elmore and Owyhee.

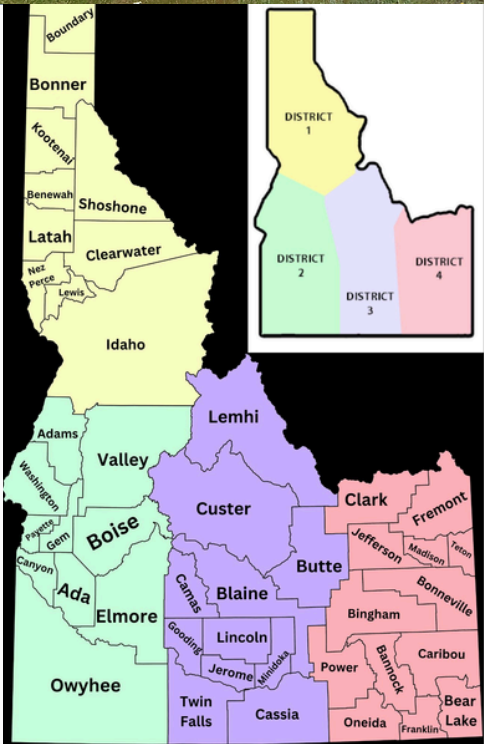
District 4 Open for Nominations

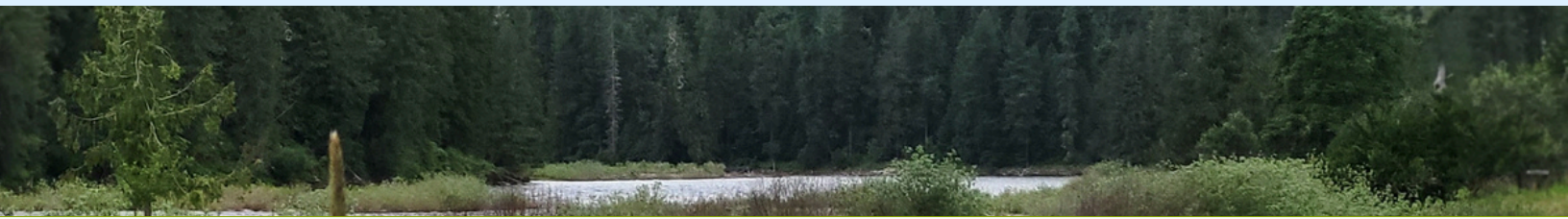
Currently held by Karla Judge from Idaho State University. District 4 includes the following counties: Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville, Bingham, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin and Bear Lake.

Board of Directors (BOD) Position Statement

The BOD are elected by the membership of the state of Idaho every 4 years. They play an integral role to set strategies, advise policy and protect the profession of athletic trainers in the state of Idaho. They are the primary contact and voice of their respective region. Further explanation can be found on idahoata.org Board of Directors including expectations, duties and responsibilities, terms of service and termination.

If interested **please email your resume, cover letter and 1 letter of recommendation to idahoata@gmail.com. Vacant until filled.**





Committee Chair Positions Available

Committee on Practice Advancement Chair

Goals

Supporting athletic trainers in nontraditional setting.
Develop resources, address concerns, strengthen opportunities and expand recognition of our members in those emerging settings.

Third Party Reimbursement Co-Committee Chair

Goals

To serve as a resource and catalyst to the membership as a tool for both educational advocacy and professional wellbeing of AT

Research and Education Committee Chair

Goals

To provide continuing education opportunities for IATA Membership
To assist Idaho AT meet the CEU requirements to keep their BOC certification in good standing

If you would like to apply to an open position please reach out to your district director to discuss the responsibilities and expectations associated with the position you are interested in. If you decide to apply for a position please send your district director your resume and a cover letter.

See directory below to contact your IATA Board anytime for any information, questions and/or concerns.



Directory

Directors

Jacob Casebolt

District 1 – North Idaho

jacob.casebolt@outlook.com

Tyler Smith – Interim until filled

District 2 – Southwest Idaho

tylersmith1@boisestate.edu

Natalie Cooper

District 3 – Southcentral Idaho

natalie.cooper.la@gmail.com

Karla Judge – Interim until filled

District 4 – Southeast Idaho

judgkarl@isu.edu

IATA Officers

Makenna Turk

President

idahoata@gmail.com

Monica Kraack– Martin

Vice President

martin.monica@westada.org

Taryn Cadez–Schmidt

Secretary/Tresurer

Co–Chair Public Relations

tlcadezschmidt@lcsc.edu

Jess Kerns

Past President

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Tracy Collins

Public Relations

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Nick Brunker

Governmental Affairs

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Lauren Hoyt

Governmental Affairs

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Dave Hammons

Third Party Reimbursement

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Dani Moffit

Honors & Awards

moffdani@isu.edu

Michele Loftis

Scholarship

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Leah Smith

Early Professionals

leah.smith@lposd.org

Vacant Committee Positions

Research and Education

Committee on Practice Advancement Chair

Third Party Reimbursement Co–Chair