

Chapter 2—Legal Considerations and Administration

TRUE/FALSE

1. Gambling is unsportsmanlike conduct, but it is legal.

ANS: F PTS: 1

2. It is not the athletic trainer's responsibility to keep track of documentation such as release and consent forms and waivers.

ANS: F PTS: 1

3. An athletic philosophy and regulations document can include a code of ethics; regulations about participating in school-sponsored sports, such as grade requirements and practice rules; and rules about travel or team tryouts.

ANS: T PTS: 1

4. An athletic trainer should ignore any breaches of conduct by team members and let the coach handle them.

ANS: F PTS: 1

5. Athletes and their parents or guardians usually file lawsuits against an athletic trainer because they want to ruin the trainer's career.

ANS: F PTS: 1

6. Athletes who are about to participate in a sport should sign consent and liability release forms and, if possible, should watch an educational video on the risks of participating in a particular sport.

ANS: T PTS: 1

7. The majority of lawsuits involving athletic injuries are negligence.

ANS: T PTS: 1

8. Sports medicine professionals should have malpractice insurance.

ANS: T PTS: 1

9. The laws for athletic training and fitness instruction vary from state to state.

ANS: T PTS: 1

MODIFIED TRUE/FALSE

1. A written standard for conduct, behavior, and moral philosophy is known as a code of ethics.

ANS: T PTS: 1

2. According to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Code of Ethics, members should respect the rights, welfare, and liability of all individuals. _____

ANS: F, dignity

PTS: 1

3. If there is a conflict between a professional code of ethics and the laws of a particular state, the code of ethics prevails. _____

ANS: F, laws

PTS: 1

4. Acting in the best interests of individual athletes as well as the team as a whole is a simple process. _____

ANS: F, complex

PTS: 1

5. The failure to give reasonable care or to do what another prudent person with similar experience, knowledge, and background would have done under the same or similar circumstances is called damages. _____

ANS: F, negligence

PTS: 1

6. An athlete's medical records are confidential. _____

ANS: T

PTS: 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. When an athletic trainer keeps thorough and accurate paperwork, it
 - a. establishes the athlete's assumption of risk.
 - b. may indicate the trainer is more interested in papers than in the client's performance.
 - c. eliminates the team's legal liability.
 - d. gives a lawyer suing the team more information to work with.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct.
B	Thorough documentation is essential for showing that all parties are aware of risk and are doing everything they can to reduce risk, both of which are essential in limiting liability and avoiding charges of negligence.
C	No action can completely eliminate a team's legal liability.
D	Please try again.

PTS: 1

2. Which of the following is true about ethics?
 - a. They are applicable only on the field, not off the field.
 - b. They are essential for bringing about the best sports experience for all participants.
 - c. They seldom influence behavior on the playing field.
 - d. Ethical questions are clear and easy to answer.

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Ethics are applicable in both places.
B	Correct.
C	Ethics should influence all behavior on the playing field.
D	Ethical questions are often complex and difficult to sort through.

PTS: 1

3. Parents or guardians who are behaving ethically will
 - a. argue with the coach about training routines.
 - b. support all the participants in an athletic contest.
 - c. teach their children that winning is the most important goal.
 - d. help distract athletes on the opposing team during competition.

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	This is not ethical behavior and sets a bad example for players.
B	Correct.
C	This is not ethical behavior.
D	This is not ethical behavior.

PTS: 1

4. All sports medicine professionals should carry insurance to protect against claims of
 - a. malpractice.
 - b. torts.
 - c. battery.
 - d. liability.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct. Malpractice is a special type of liability that applies to a professional with a given body of knowledge in a special area, such as sports medicine.
B	A tort is a private or civil wrong against another person or her property.
C	Battery is the unlawful touching of an individual without his consent.
D	This is not the best choice.

PTS: 1

5. In general, the sports medicine professional has which of the following legal responsibilities?
 - a. sharing a client's medical information with as many people as possible so they may assist in an emergency
 - b. instructing athletes to help them avoid injuries
 - c. calling paramedics to treat every athletic injury
 - d. consulting with an attorney if a client has a preexisting medical condition before designing

an exercise program

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Sharing confidential information can be negligent.
B	Correct.
C	Paramedics do not need to be called for every injury that occurs, although they should be called if there is any question of serious injury or cardiac event.
D	The athletic trainer should use his own experience and training to design a customized program that takes a preexisting medical condition into consideration.

PTS: 1

6. Steps that an athletic trainer can take to avoid legal wrongdoing include
- having male and female athletes use the same equipment.
 - treating an athlete in private, with no one else present.
 - developing an emergency action plan for all sports.
 - keeping mental notes on the trainer's and the team's activities.

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	Appropriate equipment for men and women may be different, depending on the sport.
B	This could leave a trainer open to charges of harassment or inappropriate behavior.
C	Correct.
D	Mental notes are not sufficient; written documentation is best.

PTS: 1

7. The degree of care, skill, and diligence an equally qualified caregiver in the profession would provide in similar circumstances is known as
- standard of care.
 - standard of excellence.
 - symbol of care.
 - degree of skill.

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct.
B	Please try again.
C	Please try again.
D	Please try again.

PTS: 1

8. What must be the primary goal of sports activities?
- winning
 - having fun
 - the safety of the athletes
 - the performance of the athletes

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	Please try again.
B	Please try again.

C	Correct.
D	Please try again.

PTS: 1

9. What determines liability?

- a. injury
- b. litigation
- c. risk
- d. action

ANS: B PTS: 1

10. Behavior is guided by

- a. the coach.
- b. the playbook.
- c. the administration.
- d. ethics.

ANS: D PTS: 1

11. Sports medicine is

- a. often practiced in front of crowds and cameras.
- b. practiced only in hospitals.
- c. public medicine.
- d. both A and C.

ANS: D PTS: 1

12. Who is responsible for making sure all other members of the sports medicine team understand the nature of the injury and its treatment?

- a. the physician
- b. the athletic trainer
- c. the coach
- d. the athlete

ANS: B PTS: 1

13. Who is responsible for setting a good example of proper behavior for athletes in a competitive environment?

- a. the physician
- b. the athletic trainer
- c. the coach
- d. the crowd

ANS: C PTS: 1

14. The athlete is responsible for

- a. good conduct, sportsmanship, and a strong performance.
- b. winning the game at all costs.
- c. attending classes when they feel like it and avoiding alcohol.
- d. both B and C.

ANS: A PTS: 1

15. Which of the following statements is true of the emergency action plan?

- a. it should be rehearsed at home games only
- b. it should be rehearsed at games and practices
- c. it should be rehearsed at away games only
- d. it should be rehearsed at practices only

ANS: B PTS: 1

16. Which of the following is considered a primary risk?

- a. anything that negatively impacts the organization
- b. litigation
- c. anything that negatively impacts the health of the athlete or client
- d. anything that negatively impacts the sports medicine staff

ANS: C PTS: 1

MATCHING

Match each item to a definition listed below.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| a. battery | f. risk management |
| b. ethics | g. safety committee |
| c. liability | h. standard of care |
| d. malpractice | i. tort |
| e. negligence | |

1. morals; a set of principles or values that influences behavior
2. the unlawful touching of an individual without consent
3. the failure to give reasonable care or to do what another prudent person with similar experience, knowledge, and background would have done under the same or similar circumstances
4. reduction of the potential for injury
5. professional misconduct or lack of professional skill that results in damage to the patient
6. a wrongful act resulting in injury to another's person, property, or reputation, for which the injured party is entitled to seek compensation
7. the degree of care, skill, and diligence an equally qualified caregiver in the profession would provide in similar circumstances

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. ANS: B | PTS: 1 |
| 2. ANS: A | PTS: 1 |
| 3. ANS: E | PTS: 1 |
| 4. ANS: F | PTS: 1 |
| 5. ANS: D | PTS: 1 |
| 6. ANS: I | PTS: 1 |
| 7. ANS: H | PTS: 1 |

YES/NO

1. If an athlete is injured but does not want to report the injury to the coaching staff because she wants to keep practicing, it is the athletic trainer's responsibility to communicate with the coaching staff?

ANS: Y PTS: 1

2. If an athletic trainer thinks the team physician is being too conservative about keeping injured athletes from playing in a crucial game, should the trainer allow the athletes to practice if they feel like it?

ANS: N PTS: 1

3. If an athletic trainer discovers that an athlete is gambling, should the trainer report this to the coach?

ANS: Y PTS: 1

COMPLETION

1. Each state has laws requiring certain people to report concerns of _____.

ANS: child abuse and neglect

PTS: 1

2. As a member of a team, the athlete is a _____ of the school and therefore expected to set a good example and to display high standards of conduct at school and while on trips away from the school.

ANS: representative

PTS: 1

3. Keeping an athlete S.A.F.E. uses the methods of _____, aid, facilities, and _____.

ANS: supervision, equipment

PTS: 1

4. The control of factors that produce some amount of hazards is known as _____.

ANS: risk management

PTS: 1

SHORT ANSWER

1. Define malpractice.

ANS:

the professional misconduct or lack of professional skill that results in damage to the patient; negligence by a professional such as a physician, nurse, certified athletic trainer, or coach

PTS: 1

2. List five items that one can safely assume the athletic trainer is responsible for.

ANS:

providing and maintaining safe and effective equipment and facilities; instructing the athlete or client in safety procedures and methods to minimize injury; planning and executing an appropriate response for medical emergencies; taking reasonable steps to provide medical assistance when required; preventing the athlete or client from returning to participation if there is risk of aggravating the injury; maintaining confidential medical records

PTS: 1

3. List and explain the responsibilities that correspond to the S.A.F.E. acronym.

ANS:

Supervision must be maintained from the locker room to the practice field.

Aid the athletes when needed by creating and practicing the emergency action plan, keeping proper records of injuries, and making sure first aid kits are available and well stocked.

Facilities must be checked daily for possible hazards. Hazards must be clearly marked, work orders established, and follow-through must be done.

Equipment in facilities should be checked daily.

PTS: 1

4. In terms of risk management, what is a primary risk?

ANS:

Primary risk can be anything that negatively impacts the health of an athlete or client. In addition, it may diminish the patient's quality of life.

PTS: 1

5. In terms of risk management, what is a secondary risk?

ANS:

Secondary risk is the risk to the staff or organization of liability for the injury.

PTS: 1

6. From a risk management perspective, list three things that often result in damage or loss in the fields of athletic training and fitness instruction.

ANS:

inadequate supervision of the athlete or patient; inadequate training of the athlete or patient; improper or inadequate medical treatment by one or more members of the sports medicine team; faulty equipment or facilities; sexual harassment, discrimination, or other inappropriate behavior by one or more members of the sports staff (Note: Any three will suffice.)

PTS: 1

7. The text lists 16 steps you can take to avoid legal wrongdoing. List 8 of them.

ANS:

(1) Do not allow a patient, client, or athlete to begin any program without obtaining a signed informed consent and liability release. (2) Agree upon fees/costs and put them in writing before the start of services. (3) Make sure adequate facilities are available for both male and female athletes. (4) All efforts should be made to avoid being alone in a room with an athlete or patient to avoid the suggestion of inappropriate behavior. (5) Keep detailed notes about all professional activities. (6) Become familiar with the products and supplies used, and read all manufacturer's warnings and disclaimers; make sure the athletes or patients are aware of them. (7) Develop an emergency action plan for every sport. (8) Consider *all* the sports involved in the athletic program, not just the ones that are conducted on a court or field, when developing emergency action plans. (9) Follow appropriate procedures on all injury assessments. (10) Ensure supervision of all athletes during treatment modalities, whether in the clinic or on the sidelines, and make sure those performing the treatment modalities are aware of any health conditions the athlete may have. (11) Educate the coaches regarding up-to-date training techniques. (12) Conduct pre- and post-season reviews of past years and seasons, and learn from both the positive and negative events that occurred. (13) Create a daily approach to safety; make a daily checklist for key items of concern. (14) Create a safety committee. (15) Know personal limitations. (16) Be aware of changes in standards of care and any other changes that affect your field of work.

PTS: 1

8. Describe the purpose of a safety committee, and list the five types of people who would be beneficial to have on such a committee.

ANS:

A safety committee should consist of a group of individuals responsible for identifying safety measures and assuring their implementation. This group can be made up of administrators, coaches, parents, athletes, and sports medicine personnel.

PTS: 1

9. What is the ethical role of the team physician?

ANS:

The captain of the sports medicine team is the team physician or the athlete's family physician. The team physician must exercise the ultimate in good ethics and integrity, not allowing decisions to be influenced by personal or professional motives, or by undue persuasion of other sports medicine team members, including an athlete.

PTS: 1

10. What is the purpose of a code of ethics, such as that of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA)?

ANS:

A code of ethics outlines the principles of ethical professional behavior that athletic trainers should strive to follow as they do their work.

PTS: 1

11. Define negligence.

ANS:

Negligence is the failure to give reasonable care or to do what another prudent person with similar experience, knowledge, and background would have done under the same or similar circumstances.

PTS: 1