**Obtaining a License to Practice as an Athletic Trainer in Virginia**

Virginia law requires that anyone working as an athletic trainer or holding himself out to practice athletic training must obtain a **license** to practice through the Virginia Board of Medicine.  Board of Certification (BOC) certification is required for licensure as an athletic trainer.

Individuals who are graduates of an accredited education program or who have fulfilled internship educational requirements through the BOC and have applied to take the BOC certification examination may be granted a **provisional license**.  The provisional license requires daily, on-site supervision by a licensed athletic trainer and requires a written statement, completed by the supervising athletic trainer, detailing how the daily supervision will be provided.

In addition, the Board of Medicine allows for a **provisional authorization** for those BOC-certified athletic trainers who have (1) completed the application for licensure by Board of Medicine and (2) submitted BOC certification verification.  The provisional authorization will allow a certified athletic trainer to work lawfully while awaiting a permanent license.  To obtain provisional authorization, the certified athletic trainer and his/her employer must submit a letter of request to the Board of Medicine.  If the request is granted, the Board will provide a letter of provisional authorization stating that the certified athletic trainer may practice for up to 45 days.

The intent of provisional authorization is to provide a means for certified athletic trainers to practice legally while pursuing state licensure.  Since the licensure process involves extensive paperwork, there is typically a 4-6 week lag time between applying for and receiving a license.  Without a provisional authorization to practice issued by the Board of Medicine, it is unlawful for an athletic trainer to practice athletic training in Virginia while their application is being processed.  Since far less paperwork is required for provisional authorization, the athletic trainer should be able to complete this process in a much shorter time- typically 3-5 business days after all paperwork has been received.  Therefore all certified athletic trainers are capable of and should be expected to practice lawfully while awaiting licensure.

A **temporary registration** is available for certified athletic trainers coming to Virginia to cover tournaments or provide volunteer services over a short period of time.  Call the Virginia Board of Medicine for more specific information regarding a temporary license.  Certified athletic trainers employed by a team, organization or institution participating in an athletic event in Virginia do not need to apply for a temporary license as long as they only treat the members of their team.

*The table below contains a comparison of provisional authorization, provisional licensure, and licensure.*

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| **License Type and Who Needs It** | **Term** | **ATC Supervision Required?** | **Time for BOM to Process** | **Required Paperwork** |
| **Provisional License**  [Non-ATC, eligible for NATA BOC exam] | ≤6 mos | Yes | 3-5 business days | * Proof of professional education * Proof of approval to take NATA BOC exam * Completed BOM licensure application * $130 Licensing Fee |
| **Provisional Authorization**  [Non-BOM-licensed ATC] | 45 days | No | 3-5 business days | * NATA BOC certification verification * Completed BOM licensure application * Letter of request from applicant * Letter of request from employer * No additional fee# |
| **Licensure**  [ATCs practicing in Virginia] | 2 years | N/A | 3-5 business days\* | * Completed BOM licensure application * NATA BOC certification verification * Proof of professional education * Claims History * Jurisdiction Clearance * Activity Questionnaire * $130 licensing fee |

\*Once all paperwork has been submitted. Typically the process of gathering this paperwork takes from 4-6 weeks. Hence the need for the provisional authorization.  
  
# No additional charge to obtain a letter of provisional authorization. However, completed BOM application must be accompanied by $130 licensing fee.