

ATABC Code of Ethics

Part 1 Preamble

- 1 (1) One identifiable characteristic of a profession is the dedication of its Members in performing service to humanity. In becoming a Member (as defined in the Constitution) of the Athletic Therapists Association of British Columbia (the “Association), an individual assumes obligations and responsibilities to act in accordance with the ideals and standards of the Athletic Therapy profession. These ideals, standards, and principles are set forth in the Constitution of the Association (the “Constitution”), the Scope of Practice, the Membership binder containing the CATA Policies and Procedures, the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct.

Each Member of the Association must adhere to the highest standards of conduct in attending to the needs of participants in activity, irrespective of the level of participation. The Association embraces the belief that the ideals, standards and principles contained in the aforementioned documents must be adhered to by each Member.

While the Code of Ethics describes the ideals towards which each Member will strive, not every failure to achieve perfection will result in disciplinary action. The Association also needs a set of minimum rules with which each Member must comply. This Code of Conduct is the Standard by which a Member’s behavior is judged in the complaints and discipline process.

The Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct are complementary. The first sets out the goals which members attempt to achieve. The second specifies the rules that must be achieved to avoid possible disciplinary action. The Code of Ethics can help interpret any ambiguity in the application of the Code of Conduct relative to a particular situation. Members who make the Code of Ethics part of their culture of practice will have no fear of breaching the Code of Conduct. This document which is to be known as the “ATABC Code of Ethics”, will represent both the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.

Part 2 Code of Ethics

- 2 (1) Members will strive to achieve the following ideals
- (a) Members act with honesty and Integrity
 - (b) Members respect human rights

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- (c) Members provide competent care consistent with the requirements and the limitations of the profession.
- (d) Members do not discredit or lower the dignity of another Member of the Association. This principle does not prevent a Member from providing, in a professional manner, an honest and competent second or expert opinion about the actions of another Member where appropriate.
- (e) Members provide only those services for which they are qualified.
- (f) Members are transparent and candid in all their communications. For example, Members do not misrepresent in any manner of their skills, training, professional credentials, identity or service.
- (g) Members support the mission of the Association and adhere to the Constitution, the Scope of Practice, the ATABC policies and Procedures, the Code of Conduct.
- (h) Members comply with the law.
- (i) Members shall enter into contractual agreements only when professional integrity is maintained.
- (j) Members recognize that the self-regulation of the profession is a privilege and that each Member has a continuing responsibility to merit this privilege and to support the Association.
- (k) Members conduct themselves in a manner that merits the respect of society, the profession and its Members.
- (l) Members engage in continuing education and professional development throughout their career.
- (m) Members participate in the promotion of the profession through advocacy, research and maintenance of the highest possible standards of practice.
- (n) Members make themselves aware for the policies, rules, regulations and legislation regarding the use of ergogenic aids and banned methods for athletes under the member's care and foster compliance with them.
- (o) Members keep their professional commitments by integrating Athletic Therapy principles into their daily practice.

- (p) Members shall recognize they are part of a larger medical community and shall work respectfully in cooperation with other professional peers for the benefit of the Association as well as their clientele.

Part 3 Code of Conduct

- 3 (1) Members shall comply with the following Code of Conduct recognizing that failure to do so is professional misconduct and can lead to disciplinary action.
- (2) **Responsibilities to the Profession**
 - (a) Members shall report to the appropriate authority any professional misconduct by a colleague.
 - (b) Members shall report to the Association a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Member.
 - (c) Members shall fulfill the continuing education requirements of the Association.
 - (d) Members shall enter into contractual agreements only when professional integrity is maintained.
 - (e) Members shall treat their colleagues with dignity and respect.
 - (f) Members shall cooperate fully with any inquiries, investigations or requests for information by the Association including replying promptly to any communication from them.
 - (g) Members shall attend, when requested, before the Investigative Subcommittee to receive a verbal caution or advice.
 - (h) Members shall fulfill any undertaking given to the Association.
 - (i) Members shall reply promptly to any communications from the Association.
 - (j) Members shall not benefit from the practice of Athletic Therapy while their membership is suspended or terminated.
 - (k) Members shall not employ as an Athletic Therapist, a suspended or terminated member of the Association.
- (3) **Responsibilities to the Client**

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- (a) Members shall not have a conflict of interest.
- (b) Members shall respect the client's dignity, needs, values, and wishes.
- (c) Members shall not violate the human rights of an individual. For example, Members shall not discriminate in the provision of services to a client based on grounds of race, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability or any similar grounds.
- (d) Members shall not treat or attempt to treat a condition that they know or ought to know is beyond their expertise or competence.
- (e) Members shall refer a client to a qualified health practitioner where they recognize or ought to recognize a condition that requires health services that they are not able to provide.
- (f) Members shall not assess or treat a client without informed consent unless it is not required by law.
- (g) Members shall not practice, as Athletic Therapists, outside of the scope of practice of Athletic Therapy.
- (h) Members shall assume full responsibility for all care they provide including supervising appropriately persons to whom they delegate duties.
- (i) Members shall maintain the generally accepted standard of practice.
- (j) Members shall maintain appropriate documentation for all clients.
- (k) Members shall keep all client information confidential and shall not communicate such information to any person without the consent of the client or the client's substitute decision maker except when required or permitted by law.
- (l) Members shall disclose their fees to clients before providing services.
- (m) Members shall not charge fees that are excessive for the services provided.
- (n) Members shall not submit accounts that are false or misleading.
- (o) Members shall provide services, make referrals and seek compensation only for those services that are necessary.
- (p) Members shall not permit, participate in or assist in the use of prohibited ergogenic aids or banned methods for athletes.

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- (q) Members shall be aware of sport governing rules and regulations that affect their practice as Athletic Therapists and the delivery of care.
- (r) Members shall not physically, emotionally or sexually abuse or harass a client or any other person.
- (s) Members shall not practice while under the influence of a substance or while incapacitated.
- (t) Members shall not discontinue professional services that are needed unless;
 - a. the client terminates the service;
 - b. has reasonable opportunity to obtain alternative services;
 - c. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the client has or will become abusive; or
 - d. in the case of emergency services, it is apparent the attempts to save the patient's life are futile or potentially life threatening to the Member
- (u) Members shall not make a document or statement that is false or misleading.
- (v) Members shall not contravene a law that is relevant to the suitability to practice.
- (w) Members shall not engage in conduct that is relevant to the practice of Athletic Therapy that would reasonably be regarded by Members as disgraceful, dishonorable or unprofessional.
- (x) Members shall not engage in conduct unbecoming an Athletic Therapist.
- (y) A member shall not a) engage in sexual conduct with a patient, b) engage in sexual conduct with a former patient within one year of termination of athletic therapy, or c) make an inquiry into a patient's sexual history unless such an inquiry is directly related to the assessment of treatment of the patient's condition.

(4) Conflict of Interest

- (a) No Member may engage in a conflict of interest.
- (b) For the purpose of this document, a conflict of interest exists where there is an arrangement or relationship between the Member or a related person or a related corporation and a person, where a reasonable person could conclude that the exercise of the Member's professional expertise or judgment may conflict with or be influenced by the arrangement or relationship. A conflict of interest may be actual, potential or perceived.
- (c) Without limiting the general subsection (a), a Member has a conflict of interest where the Member or related person or related corporation, directly or indirectly,
 - i. accepts a rebate, credit, or other benefit by reason of the Member referring a client to any other person;
 - ii. offers, makes or confers a rebate, credit or other benefit to a person by reason of the referral of a client to the Member;
 - iii. accepts, makes or confers a rebate, credit or other benefit in respect of athletic therapy materials, or equipment including those intended to be provided to clients that influence or may appear to influence the exercise of professional judgment in respect of the purchase or use of those materials or equipment;
 - iv. uses without reasonable payment any promise of equipment provided by a person who stands to gain financially from the supplying of premises, athletic therapy materials or equipment by or to the athletic therapist; or
 - v. charges clients a different amount for the same good or service depending on whether the clients are paying directly for good or services except that a different amount can be charged for a service where the amount charged is set by the government;
- (d) For the purpose of this document, a conflict of interest also exists where the Member permits his or her personal beliefs or values to interfere with, or appear to interfere with, the exercise of the Members' professional expertise or judgment.
- (e) Despite subsection (a) and (b), a Member may refer a client to the related person or a related corporation for either a service or a product so long as the client is first advised both verbally and in writing of the following;

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- i. The nature of the relationship with the related person or related corporation;
 - ii. The name of the contact information of at least three other local providers of the service or product (or if there is not local provider, three other providers who are as close as possible to the client); and;
 - iii. That the client's choice of another provider of the service or product will not affect the client's ability to obtain the same service from the Member as if the client had chosen the related person or related corporation.
- (f) A Member shall promptly provide to the representative of the Association any document or explanation requested about the Member's arrangement or relationship with another person to enable the Association to assess whether there is a conflict of interest.

Part 3 Limitations

- 4 (1) The Association will decline to proceed with a complaint against a Member, past or current after two (2) years from the incident.

Part 4 Jurisdictions

- 5 (1) The Association shall have jurisdiction over any Association Member for disciplinary actions during the time that they are Members of the Association, and also for acts or omissions that occurred during the membership despite the fact they may no longer be Members.
- (2) Any Member of the Association, who becomes disqualified from being a Member or voluntarily ceases to be a Member, shall remain subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the ethics Committee for acts or omissions committed while being a Member of the Association.
- (3) If the Ethics Committee has commenced an investigation into the conduct of the Member, the Member may not resign from the Association until the Ethics Committee has completed their investigation and rendered a decision.
- (4) If a Member decides to resign as a member the Association after any disciplinary proceedings, the Member must submit an application in writing signed by the Member stating their reasons for resignation from the Association. Additionally, the

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Member must provide a Statutory Declaration setting out the particulars of the Member including their Date of Birth, Date on which they received their membership, place of residence, office address, and the number of years in practice.

(5) The Association is a recognized regional Chapter of the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA). The CATA maintains its own Code of Ethics and Conduct. However, any case of misconduct in which the respondent is a member of the Association and the incident occurred in British Columbia it will be referred to the Association's Ethics Committee.

(6) The Association shall reserve the right to refer any case to the CATA when:

- (a) the incident occurred outside the province of British Columbia;
- (b) the case is complex;
- (c) the case involves parties from outside of British Columbia;
- (d) There is a lack of unbiased Association Ethics Committee members to investigate, prosecute, or hold an appeal.

(7) The Chair of the Ethics Committee shall report all possible violations of federal or provincial law to the appropriate authorities.

(8) In the case the respondent has been found in breach of the Code of Ethics, any dual professional designations, the Ethic committee shall report this breach to the respondent's other professional body(ies).