



Statement on Montana High School Association (MHSA) reimbursement of Licensed Athletic Trainers for coverage of MHSA sponsored tournaments

Prepared by members of the MTATA Secondary Schools Committee

It is the belief of the Montana Athletic Trainers' Association (MTATA), The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), The American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians that having a licensed athletic trainer (LAT) present for all high school sporting events is essential to provide a high level of safety for competing student-athletes.¹ This is especially true when competition levels increase during district, divisional, and state tournaments for all sports. At these events, the MTATA Secondary Schools Committee (SSC) believes that the minimum standard of health care should include an adequate number of LAT's to provide an appropriate level of care to all venues and all athletes. It is also the view of the MTATA SSC that all LAT's providing coverage at these events should be paid an appropriate wage.

The Montana High School Association (MHSA) has a pre-determined number of LAT's that they believe are necessary for adequate coverage of each MHSA sponsored state event based on sport. Additionally, the MHSA has pre-determined fees for MHSA sponsored state events which is also based on sport. These fees are paid to the individual LAT by the school in charge of hosting the state event or to the hospital/clinic that has bid to cover the event.

While there is always room for improvement in athletic training wages, it is the view of the MTATA SSC that at this time the fees paid for athletic training services at MHSA state events is adequate, but LAT's should request for payment for ALL MHSA state events. The MHSA is a non-profit organization, and all profits made by the MHSA at state events are used to pay for officials, athletic training services, venue rentals, etc. Any additional profit is allocated evenly amongst member schools in the classification for which the tournament was held for. While hospital, clinic, and school districts may take a financial loss while providing the believed adequate LAT coverage, the MTATA SSC urges these entities to be mindful of the possibility that the money earned by member schools from these tournaments may aid in paying for outreach LAT coverage or to pay salaries for LAT's that are employed by a specific school district.

1. NATA Governmental Affairs Committee. Official Statement on Athletic Trainers in High Schools. <https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/atsinhss.pdf>. Published 2004. Accessed April 9, 2018.