

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee serves to protect Members of the Association and the general public from breaches of the *Code of Ethics*, #7-1 and *Scope of Practice*, #7-2 under which Members of the Association practice. The policies and procedures governing the Ethics Committee can be found in *Code of Ethics*, #7-1.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MEETINGS

For more information, see *Committee Structure*, #3-1 and *Committee Meetings and Reports*, #3-2.

The Ethics Committee will consist of at least nine (9) Certified Members, with status maintained by the Association.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Chairperson

For more information, see *Committee Responsibilities*, # 3-3.

The Chairperson:

- must serve as liaison between the Association and Board of Directors;
- is elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a three (3) year term;
- shall not hold any other elected office of the Association. On the request of the Board of Directors, the Ethics Chairperson may serve in a non-voting capacity and represent the AATA at various functions;
- receive all complaints and follow the procedures outlined in this document;
- instruct the subcommittees of the Ethics Committee on their mandate to consider the evidence brought forth to determine whether unprofessional conduct is substantiated;
- maintain a cumulative file of past investigations, the final decisions of each and subsequent disciplinary action(s) and forward these files to the incoming Ethics Chairperson at the end of the outgoing Ethics Chairperson's term;
- remove himself or herself from any complaint proceeding in which the Ethics Chairperson perceives that he or she is in a conflict of interest or in a situation where there may be a reasonable apprehension of bias;
- have no vote in the Ethics subcommittee's decisions;
- report to authorities, if in the process of investigation, the Ethics Chairperson is made aware of unlawful activity; and
- report or refer the case to the Ethics Committee of the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA) if there are interests of national concern involved with the complaint.

In the event that the Chairperson vacates the Chair, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Member of the Ethics Committee to serve as an interim Chairperson until the next AGM at which time a new Chairperson shall be elected.

The nominees:

- must be Members of the Association who have maintained their status with the Association; and
- must maintain an arm's length relationship with any and/or all Committees of the Association.

Members of the Ethics Committee

For more information, see *Committee Responsibilities, # 3-3*.

In addition, Members of the Ethics Committee must:

- not be an Officer of the Board of Directors;
- be chosen in such a way as to reflect a diversity of practice settings, geography, backgrounds, gender and experience;
- represent the North, Central, and South regions of Alberta;
- not participate in any complaint where he/she perceives that there may be a reasonable apprehension of bias or the presence of an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest might reasonably be questioned; in which the Chairperson shall name another Member with status maintained to fill the Committee Member's place in the investigation and judging of the complaint until the complaint's conclusion; and
- remain on the Ethics Committee until the conclusion of the complaint proceeding in which they are involved regardless of the expiration of their term.

In the event that an Ethics Committee Member vacates his or her position on the Ethics Committee, the Ethics Chairperson shall, with approval of the Board of Directors, appoint a Certified Member, with status maintained, to serve the remainder of the vacating Member's term.

The nominees:

- must be Members of the Association who have maintained their status with the Association;
- shall not sit on more than one Ethics subcommittee for the same complaint;
- shall not sit on any other provincial Committees;
- shall not sit on a National Committee with the exception of the CATA Ethics Committee; and
- are expected to commit to a minimum one (1) year term on the committee.