

could produce a short video depicting the proper removal procedures for face masks, helmets, and shoulder pads.

Steve Moore, EMT, ATC
Cookeville, TN

There seem to be a lot of ideas floating around about face mask removal and how it must be accomplished in 30 seconds or less. Why hasn't someone made mention of the fact that by using the "Trainer's Angel" you can safely remove any face mask in 20 seconds or less?

At a Pittsburg State University football game last week, we removed the complete face mask from a Riddell helmet in approximately 10 seconds. PSU's team physicians, Dr. Grimaldi, Dr. Dillion, and Dr. Neighbor, insist on complete removal in case we need more freedom giving CPR, so we athletic trainers remove the complete mask.

This tool can be purchased from Bio Medics for \$29.95; such a small price to solve so many problems. For more information, write:

The Trainer's Angel
11681 Sterling Ave., Suite C
Riverside, CA 92503

In years past, removal of a face mask or helmet from a potential broken neck victim has always been a nightmare for athletic trainers, but articles like the one Putman (*JAT*, 1992; 27: 170-172) has written makes everyone better acquainted with the face mask and helmet removal problem. The use of a "Trainer's Angel" just helps solve another small problem.

I am also in favor of incorporating this problem in our NATA oral-practical exam. What good is knowing CPR if you can't remove a helmet safely?

Al Ortolani, MS, ATC
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Texas AT Certification

I am responding to a recent Letter to the Editor by Moshak (*JAT*, 1992; 27: 198-199). Before anyone decides that "If Texas cannot be made to accept the NATA standards, we should consider relocating our headquarters," you need to look at the history of our association and what transpired in Texas in the early 1970s.

There may well be a debate as to whether Texas had licensure before we even had NATA certification. As we all know, Texas was the first state to have licensure. When you write a licensure bill you need to protect your profession. What you write in a bill may, but probably will never be changed, because if you open your bill for change, every Tom, Dick, Mary, and other special interest groups will want to add on to your bill helping *them* affect your profession. Texas tried to make some changes a few years ago and had to kill the bill in committee so that athletic trainers could continue without having therapists, chiropractors, and podiatrists affecting their professional work.

During the last District 6 meeting, recognition of the NATA Certification in lieu of state licensure was discussed. There was concern as to whether this could be done without new problems being created. I reiterate—if you open your bill, *other people* will try to manipulate your law.

The other aspect of this problem is that the NATA does not recognize state associations and licensure. That is a *fact!* If you want a change, look at how we can change the NATA so we at the state level can receive help and backing from our national organization. Let's get licensure in the remaining 30 states, then refine each state's laws to best assist the ATCs in that state.

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Chair, MOATA Government Affairs
Committee
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(Licensed Athletic Trainer in Texas)

I am writing to address the Letter to the Editor written by Moshak (*JAT*, 1992; 27: 198-199). First let me say that I am a licensed athletic trainer in Texas. I also am an associate member of the NATA. I was insulted to find that Moshak thinks that athletic trainers licensed by the state of Texas are less qualified than those who are certified. I consider myself no less of a professional than my certified colleagues. There are hundreds of highly qualified and skilled athletic trainers in Texas who have cut their ties to the NATA because of the attitudes expressed by Moshak and others. I, myself, have stayed with the NATA, but I am beginning to ask myself why.

In the early 1970s, Texas made ath-

letic training a recognized profession by establishing laws, policies, ethics, and guidelines for athletic trainers to follow. Schooling standards were established and an exam was adopted to ensure the quality of those entering the profession of athletic training. A state license was adopted and is still issued today to those who fulfill all requirements set forth by the state legislature. A continuing education program was established to make certain that all athletic trainers stay abreast of changes. A governor-appointed advisory board of athletic trainers, made up of licensed and certified trainers, worked hard to establish the rights we enjoy in our profession today. They continue to work hard, updating schooling, testing, and continuing education procedures to stay in step with changing times. Every year we fight hard to keep special interest groups from changing our law to suit their purposes. Our governing body does not tell the NATA how to run its business, so we expect them to stay out of ours.

Moshak made mention of a threat to move the national office from Dallas. The placing of the national office in Dallas was not a gift from God. Now don't get me wrong, I like having the office in Dallas. It is centrally located and convenient for those of us in Texas. I would not be heartbroken, however, if it were moved.

In closing, I would like to say that there are athletic trainers around the United States who would love to work in Texas. I do not think it is unfair to ask those athletic trainers to adhere to our state laws and regulations if they want to work here. Having national certification does not make one better, nor does it give one permission to run roughshod over others. We should try to work together as a profession and not stab each other in the back. After all, we all are working toward the same end. If we are not careful, others may step in and fill the niche we have so carefully carved for ourselves.

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In response to Moshak's statements in her Letter to the Editor, "Texas AT Certification," (*JAT*, 1992; 27: 198-199), the Texas Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers and the Test and Continuing Education Committee wish to clarify athletic trainer