

## Rationale for RMATA By-Law Changes

In May of 2008 the RMATA Board of Directors determined that the governance of the Association warranted study and possible revision. To accomplish this task the Board appointed a Governance Task Force. The first activity of that task force was to review the By-Laws of the Association. After that review the Governance Task Force has proposed that revised By-Laws be adopted by the membership.

For procedural purposes the recommendation is to replace the entire current By-Laws with the proposed set. Much of the By-Laws remain unchanged but with changes throughout the document it will be easier to approach this as a single change. For purposes of review, the working copy of the changes (with strikeouts and additions noted) used by the Governance Task Force has been appended to this document as well as the “clean” proposed new By-Laws members will be asked to approve.

The changes from the current By-Laws fall into three categories: consolidation, clarification and substantive changes.

The current By-Laws state many items multiple times in various parts of the document. These were consolidated into one statement whenever possible. The current By-Laws also had items on a single topic spread throughout the Articles. These were also consolidated whenever possible. Some items will be moved into Policies and Procedures because they area better fit in that document, either because of length or the item not being important enough to be included in By-Laws.

Many Articles were clarified to give a more understandable document for the reader. Items were changed to avoid confusion or to make the intended meaning more apparent. Current practicalities were considered when changing some of the procedural items.

As to the substantive changes there are several of note. First is the replacement of the Purpose and Mission Article with a new mission. The rationale for this was to focus the Association’s resources and efforts on those things that the Association has done well and that have the members’ interest. This mission holds the possibility to give the Association a niche in the profession that no other athletic training organization addresses. It also maintains the Association’s educational and professional focus.

The Membership Article consolidates several articles and gives the Association the flexibility to adapt to future changes. A major change is to include those holding state licensure voting rights as members. Our profession has invested significant efforts and financial resources to attain licensure. Denying a person who holds a license the ability to be a full member of a professional organization makes no sense and may deny the Association the participation of potential members.

The terms of office for President and Secretary were changed from three to two years. The major reasoning behind this is that many feel that a six year commitment to serve two terms is too long. If we are to attract more candidates we need to make the offices less onerous. Changes

to the District Director position reflect the changes that the NATA made to their bylaws. The duties of officers were also modified to fit current practices.

The Governance Task Force is available to answer any questions members may have on these proposed changes.