

**Michigan State University  
Department of Kinesiology  
Athletic Training Education Program  
First Responder Acknowledgement**

This Acknowledgement is intended to confirm an understanding as to the role and limited responsibility of MSU student athletic trainers functioning as a "First Responders".

**Definition of Supervision**

- *"Supervision" entails daily personal/verbal contact at the site between the athletic training student and the certified athletic trainer who plans, directs, advises, and evaluates the athletic training student's athletic training experience. "Direct supervision" means the physical presence of an Approved Clinical Instructor (ACI) or Clinical Instructor (CI).*

**Athletic Training Student Clinical Capacity**

**Under Direct Supervision:**

- When under direct supervision, an MSU athletic training student is regarded as taking part in the formal clinical education program and using this time to learn, develop, refine, and integrate required educational competencies and clinical proficiencies in athletic training. Under direct supervision, a student may perform the following tasks:
  - Perform orthopedic injury assessments utilizing the secondary survey, e.g., HOPS protocol, SOAP protocol.
  - Initiate therapeutic treatments beyond standard first aid procedures.
  - Directly apply therapeutic modalities.
  - Apply or deliver therapeutic exercise techniques to the athlete/patient, e.g., ROM exercises, manual resistance, PNF techniques, joint mobilizations.

All MSU athletic training students are required to maintain current first aid and CPR certifications for eligibility to participate as a volunteer in the clinical education activity.

**Absent Direct Supervision:**

- When not under direct supervision, an MSU athletic training student, the student may function ONLY in the voluntary role of a **first responder**, and such does not regarded as constituting formal clinical education.

**Examples of tasks and skills athletic training students may only perform with direct supervision**

- Performance of musculoskeletal injury assessments beyond the primary survey, e.g., "ABC" protocol.
- Application of a therapeutic modality (beyond cryotherapy) for the treatment of an acute or chronic injury, e.g., ultrasound, electrical muscle stimulation, hydrotherapy.

- Administration of any physical rehabilitation or exercise technique to an injured athlete, e.g., manual therapy, PNF stretching/strengthening techniques, progressive resistance exercises.
- Making return-to-practice or return-to-play decisions. This decision is the domain and responsibility of the coach or other designated supervisory personnel.

I have read and fully understand the definitions and athletic training student responsibilities mentioned above. By signing below I agree to comply with the First Responder Policy and the terms of this Acknowledgment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Training Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Undergraduate Athletic Training Program Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date