



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION
FOR THE ATHLETIC TRAINER

May 15, 2019

Bethany Simons

[REDACTED]
Sparta, GA [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Simons:

Please be advised that the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) Professional Practice and Discipline Committee (Committee) has rendered the following decision with respect to the charge that you violated Codes 2.2 and 3.8 of the Code of Professional Responsibility (COPR) section of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice.

In a Charge letter dated April 8, 2019, the BOC informed you that the Committee had determined that good cause existed to believe that you have violated Codes 2.2 and 3.8 of the COPR section of the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice* based on the fact that your 2016-2017 audit was to be completed by November 9, 2018. To date, you still have not yet complied with the audit.

Factual Findings

1. February 27, 2018, you submitted your 2016-2017 CEUs and attested to the following relevant statements:
 - The information contained in this report is a true and accurate statement of my continuing education activities.
 - I am submitting no less than 25 CEUs required for the current reporting period including 5 CEUs in Category EBP on this form.
 - I am in possession of and prepared to present all original documentation confirming participation in reported activities. I am aware I must keep these records for at least 2 years after the reporting period has ended.
 - I am aware that I am required to maintain ongoing certification in Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) throughout the reporting period and I must keep these records for at least 2 years after the reporting period has ended.
 - I am aware that the BOC reserves the right to audit me at any time and that failure to comply with BOC audit policies may result in the suspension of my BOC certification.
 - I am aware that falsification of this report may result in the suspension of my BOC certification.
2. September 25, 2018, the BOC mailed you an audit notice for the 2016-2017 CEU reporting period.
3. October 10, 24 and November 5, 2018, the BOC emailed you audit reminders.
4. December 11, 2018, the BOC received some audit documentation from you.
5. January 30, 2019, the BOC mailed you an Investigation Notice as your audit documents had not been received. The BOC did not receive a response from you.
6. February 18, 2019, the BOC sent you a Consent Agreement for suspension of your certification electronically via Eversign giving you thirty business days for a response.
7. March 18, 2019, the BOC called you and left a message to return our call no later than March 22, 2019 confirming your email address as you had not viewed the Eversign documents. The BOC did not receive a response from you.

8. March 25, 2019, the BOC mailed you the Consent Agreement giving you thirty business days for a response. The Consent Agreement was mailed via Certified mail and was signed for by you as received March 29, 2018. The BOC did not receive a response from you.
9. April 8, 2019, the BOC mailed you a Charge letter giving you thirty business days for a response. The Charge letter was mailed via Certified mail and was signed for as received by Carol Simons April 12, 2019. The BOC did not receive a response from you.

Conclusions

Based on the lack of response to BOC notifications, the Committee determined that the facts above are valid and that such actions violate Codes 2.2 and 3.8 of the COPR section of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice:

Code 2.2: The BOC certified athletic trainer complies with the most current BOC recertification policies and requirements.

Code 3.8: The BOC certified athletic trainer ensures that any information provided to the BOC in connection with exam eligibility, certification recertification or reinstatement including but not limited to, exam applications, reinstatement applications or continuing education forms, is accurate and truthful.

As a result, the Committee has issued the following sanctions regarding your certification:

Your certification status is considered Suspended. Suspension of a BOC certification is considered public information and may be published or otherwise disclosed by the BOC. Further, while your certification is Suspended, you are not authorized to do the following:

1. Represent yourself to the public as a practicing Certified Athletic Trainer or use the certification marks "ATC" following your name; or
2. Serve as an item writer for the BOC certification exam; or
3. Serve as a supervisor of students who are satisfying the athletic training requirements for certification eligibility.

You may petition for reinstatement in accordance with Section 12 of the BOC Discipline Procedures. Such petition may be filed upon your ability to provide proof of compliance with the 2016-2017 CE audit or you are prepared to take the BOC Certification Exam for reinstatement. Such petitions may be subject to a background check and panel review. Contact the BOC office for reinstatement fees and procedures.

Ms. Simons, this matter will remain a part of your BOC certification file and may be used for the purpose of determining sanctions in any future matters that come before the BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee or other Disciplinary Panels. You have the right to appeal a decision made by the Committee. An appeal must be received by the BOC within thirty (30) days of receipt of this decision. The appeal must be written and addressed to the BOC Chief Executive Officer. For details regarding the appeal process, please see the enclosed procedures.

Sincerely,



Shannon Fleming, MA, ATC
Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

cc: BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee
BOC Counsel
Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers

Enclosures: *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*
Professional Practice and Discipline Guidelines and Procedures