

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I: GENERAL**

- A. The organizational year for the Board of Physical Therapy shall be from July 1st through June 30th.
- B. Members shall attend all scheduled meetings of the Board and committee to which they serve. In the event of two consecutive unexcused absences at any meeting of the Board or its committees, the President shall make a recommendation about the Board member's continued service to the Director of the Department of Health Professions for referral to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and Secretary of the Commonwealth.

**ARTICLE II: OFFICERS OF THE BOARD**

**A. Election of Officers**

- 1. The officers of the Board of Physical Therapy shall be a President and a Vice-President.
- 2. At the first regularly scheduled meeting of the organizational year, the board shall elect its officers.
- 3. The term of office shall be one year, an officer may be re-elected in that same position for a second consecutive term.
- 4. Nominations for office shall be selected by open ballot, and election shall require a majority of the members present.
- 5. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled during the next meeting of the Board.

**B. Duties of Officers**

- 1. The President presides at all meetings and formal administrative hearings in accordance with parliamentary rules and the Administrative Process Act, and requires adherence of it on the part of the board members. The President shall appoint all committees and committee chairpersons unless otherwise ordered *or delegated* by the Board.
- 2. The Vice-President shall act as President in the absence of the President.

3. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the President shall appoint another board member to preside at the meeting and/or formal administrative hearing.
4. The Executive Director shall be the custodian of all Board records and all papers of value. She/He shall preserve a correct list of all applicants and licensees. She/He shall manage the correspondence of the Board and shall perform all such other duties as naturally pertain to this position.

### **ARTICLE III: MEETINGS**

- A. For purposes of these Bylaws, the Board schedules full board meetings to take place during each quarter, with the right to change the date or cancel any board meeting, with the exception that a minimum of one meeting shall take place annually.
- B. Board members shall attend all board meetings in person, unless prevented by illness or similar unavoidable cause. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- C. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall apply unless overruled by these bylaws or when otherwise agreed.
- D. The order of the business shall be as follows:
  1. Call to order with statement made for the record of how many and which board members are present and that it constitutes a quorum.
  2. Approval of minutes.
  3. The Executive Director and the President shall collaborate on the remainder of the agenda.

### **ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES**

There shall be the following committees:

#### **A. Standing Committees:**

1. **Special Conference Committee.** This committee shall consist of two board members who shall review information regarding alleged violations of the physical therapy laws and regulations and determine if probable cause exists to proceed with possible disciplinary action. The President may also designate another board member as an alternate on this committee in the event one of the standing committee members becomes ill or is unable to attend a scheduled conference date.

Further, should the caseload increase to the level that additional special conference committees are needed, the President may appoint additional committees.

2. **Credentials Committee.** The committee shall consist of two board members. The members of the committee will review non-routine licensure applications to determine the credentials of the applicant and the applicability of the statutes and regulations.
3. **Legislative/Regulatory Committee.** The committee shall consist of at least three Board members. The Board delegates to the Legislative/Regulatory Committee the authority to recommend actions in response to petitions for rulemaking. This committee is responsible for the development of proposals for new regulations or amendments to existing regulations with all required accompanying documentation; the review or development of proposals for legislative initiatives of the Board; the drafting of Board responses to public comment as required in conjunction with rulemaking; conducting the required review of all existing regulations as required by the Board's Public Participation Guidelines and any Executive Order of the Governor; and other required tasks related to regulations. In accordance with the Administrative Process Act, any proposed draft regulation and response to public comment shall be reviewed and approved by the full Board prior to publication. Any proposed draft legislation shall be reviewed and approved by the full board prior to publication.
4. **Continuing Education Committee.** This committee shall consist of at least two board members who review requests from licensees who seek a waiver or extension of time in complying with their continuing competency requirements.

**B. Ad Hoc Committees:**

There may be Ad Hoc Committees, appointed by the Board as needed each of which shall consist of at least two persons appointed by the Board who are knowledgeable in the particular area of practice or education under consideration by the Board. The committee shall review matters as requested by the Board and advise the Board relative to the matters or make recommendations for consideration by the Board.

**ARTICLE V: GENERAL DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

**A. Delegation to Executive Director and/or Board staff**

1. The Board delegates to Board staff the authority to issue and renew licenses, registrations and certificates where minimum qualifications have been met.

2. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to reinstate licenses, registrations and certificates when the reinstatement is due to the lapse of the license, registration or certificate and not due to previous Board disciplinary action, and there is no basis upon which the Board could refuse to reinstate.
3. The Board delegates to Board staff the authority to develop and approve any and all forms used in the daily operations of the Board business, to include, but not limited to, licensure applications, renewal forms, and documents used in the disciplinary process. New or revised application or renewal forms shall be presented to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
4. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to approve applications with criminal convictions in accordance with Guidance Document 112-23.
5. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to sign as entered any Order or Board-approved Consent Order resulting from the disciplinary process.
6. The Board delegates to the Executive Director, who may consult with a special conference committee member, the authority to provide guidance to the agency's Enforcement Division in situations wherein a complaint is of questionable jurisdiction and an investigation may not be necessary, and the authority to approve requests for disclosure of investigative information pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2 (D) and (F).
7. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to negotiate a Consent Order in consultation with the chair of a Special Conference Committee or formal hearing.
8. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to close non-jurisdictional cases and fee dispute cases without review by a board member.
9. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to offer a confidential consent agreement or a Consent Order for action consistent with any board-approved guidance document.
10. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to represent and to make decisions on behalf of the Board as the designated state representative on the Physical Therapy Compact Commission.
11. The Board delegates to the Executive Director the authority to implement the policies and procedures of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact as outlined in the current policies manual.

**B. Delegation to Board President**

The Board delegates to the President, the authority to represent the Board in instances where Board “consultation” or “review” may be requested where a vote of the Board is not required and a meeting is not feasible.

**C. Delegation to Agency Subordinate**

The Board delegates an informal fact-finding proceeding to any agency subordinate upon determination that probable cause exists that a licensee may be subject to a disciplinary action. Cases that may not be delegated to an agency subordinate include, but are not limited to, those that involve: intentional or negligent conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury to a patient; mandatory suspension resulting from action by another jurisdiction or a felony conviction; impairment with an inability to practice with skill and safety; sexual misconduct; and unauthorized practice. The Board may delegate to the Executive Director the selection of the agency subordinate who is deemed appropriately qualified to conduct a proceeding based on the qualifications of the subordinate and the type of case being convened.

**ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS**

A board member or staff personnel may propose amendments to these Bylaws by presenting the amendment in writing to all Board members prior to any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Such proposed amendment shall be adopted upon favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the Board members present at said meeting.