*****NOTICE: UPDATE ON THE NEW RULES EFFECTIVE 08/20/2026*****

RULES OF

THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

CHAPTER 1150-01
GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

~~*****EFFECTIVE 12/29/2025*****~~

****EFFECTIVE 08/20/2026****

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SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES IN THE RULES FROM DECEMBER 2025 AND AUGUST 2026

NOTE: THE NEW AUGUST 2026 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

1150-01-.01 Definitions

- **American Physical Therapy Association (APTATN)** instead of Tennessee Physical Therapy Association
- **Foreign educated PT or PTA** instead of internationally trained
- **Manual therapy techniques – (New definition)** Comprises a continuum of skilled movements to joints and/or related soft tissues at varying speeds and amplitudes which physical therapists and/or physical therapist assistants may administer.
- **Telemedicine –** The use of real time audio, video, or other electronic median, and telecommunication technology that enables interaction between a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant and a patient for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment of a patient at a distant site where there may be no in-person exchange between a healthcare provider and a patient; or store-and-forward telemedicine services.

1150-01-.02 Scope of Practice CHANGED IN AUGUST 2026 VERSION

(1)(a) Previous language related to written or oral referrals has been deleted.

New language for (1)(a):

- **Physical therapists may provide physical therapy services without a referral in accordance to T.C.A. § 63-13-303.**
  All previous language detailing direct access has been deleted. Physical therapists are now directed to the Practice Act (63-13-303) for this information.

  (NOTE: 63-13-303 was revised by the legislature in 2023. Previous stipulations related to limitations of visits, 30-day follow-up with a physician, 90-day treatment limitations, and physical therapist educational requirements were eliminated by this legislation. See link provided above.)

(1)(b) The reference in (b)(2)(ii) is corrected to 1150-01-.04 (5) in relation to physical therapists who perform diagnostic electromyography.

(1)(b)(5.) Manual Therapy Techniques. Definition has been removed here.

(2) Supervision.

Changed language pertaining to supervision of physical therapist assistants:

- **(2)(a)(3)** **60 mile and 1 hour restriction has been deleted. This area now reads:** The supervising licensed physical therapist must be available to communicate by telephone or other means whenever the physical therapist assistant is delivering services.
- All other supervision rules for PTAs remain the same.
- No change in supervision language for physical therapy assistive personnel (aides).

1150-01-.03 Necessity of Licensure

(5) Licensee Use of Titles

Updated language to include "Doctorate of Physical Therapy" and "D.P.T."

Note the correct title of the PTA is physical therapist assistant, not physical therapy assistant.

1150-01-.04 Qualifications for Licensure **CHANGED IN AUGUST 2026 VERSION**

Language revisions in (1) and (2) eliminates redundancy and adds the requirement of verification of United States citizenship or lawful presence in the United States for applicants graduating from a CAPTE accredited educational program.

(3) This area stipulates the licensure requirements for foreign educated physical therapists or physical therapists assistants who did not graduate from a CAPTE accredited educational programming.

Note: There is considerable new detail in (3). If this area applies to you or if you are an employer please reference this area for complete details.

1150-01-.05 Procedures for Licensure **CHANGED IN AUGUST 2026 VERSION**

This language has been changed to reflect the requirements for electronic application process. However, a paper version can be obtained upon request from the Board's administrative office.

1150-01-.06 Fees

From time to time, the Tennessee Department of Health's Health Related Boards may utilize reserve funds from individual licensing boards to address statewide operational needs. Earlier this year, this occurred when funds from several boards, including the Board of Physical Therapy, were reallocated to support a mandatory statewide software upgrade.

Because the Physical Therapy profession is statutorily classified as a "professional" board, it is required to maintain a positive fund balance at all times. The transfer of reserves placed the Physical Therapy Board in a deficit position, necessitating an adjustment to licensure fees to restore compliance with state requirements. This marks the first fee increase for Tennessee physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in many years.

The APTA Tennessee Board of Directors fully recognizes the concern this adjustment has caused among our members. While we were not part of ongoing discussions with the Department of Health regarding board operations and fiscal management, the final decision regarding the fee increase rested solely with the Health Related Boards and the PT Licensing Board. We remain committed to advocating for transparent and predictable fiscal policies that support both the sustainability of the Board of Physical Therapy and the continued affordability of licensure for Tennessee's PT professionals.

Fee Schedule:		PT	PTA
(a)	Application Fee	$150.00	$140.00
(b)	Duplicate (Replacement License Fee	$25.00	$25.00
(c)	Endorsement/Verification Fee	$25.00	$25.00
(d)	License Fee	$45.00	$45.00
(e)	Provisional License/Application Fee	$25.00	$25.00
(f)	Reciprocity	$100.00	$100.00
(g)	Reinstatement Fee	$100.00	$100.00
(h)	Renewal Fee (biennial)	$140.00	$130.00
(i)	Late Renewal Fee	$50.00	$50.00
(j)	State Regulatory Fee (biennial)	$10.00	$10.00

1150-01-.07 Application Review.

Minor changes in relation to the electronic application.

1150-01-.08 Examinations **CHANGED IN AUGUST 2026 VERSION**

Minor changes in relation to the applicant's responsibilities with the FSBPT.

1150-01-.09 Renewal of License

Language changes only specifying the preferred method of renewal being through the Board's authorized licensure system. Timeliness of renewal and CEU verification language remains.

1150-01-.10 Provisional License **CHANGED IN AUGUST 2026 VERSION**

Minor wording change.

1150-01-.11 Retirement and Reactivation

Minor wording change.

1150-01-.12 Continuing Competence

Significant changes here!

(1) Just a reminder – The requirements for continuing competence per the Rules are "planned learning experiences which occur beyond entry level educational requirements" and that have content related to physical therapy in the areas of "intervention, examination, research, documentation, education, management, leadership (NEW), of some other [applicable] content area."

(3) 24-month requirement –

Course approval information has been deleted from this section and is now found solely in (5)(b). See below.

(3)(a) and (b) – The stipulation of only ten (10) [hours] may be acquired online has been deleted. Thus- Class I hours may be acquired in an online format!

(4) Ethics and Jurisprudence rules have not changed. Remember that these are Class I hours (2 hours each) and, per the Rules, must have been approved by APTATN and must contain specific content as delineated in the Rules.

(5) Class I acceptable continuing competence evidence . . .

This area has been reorganized to be easier to understand. Content is essentially the same with the **EXCEPTION** of:

(b) Approved courses must have been provided or approved by the following: APTA or its academies/sections, FSBPT, the APTATN, or accredited PT or PTA programs. NOTE: Other state chapters of APTA are no longer approval sources.

Explanation: At the request of the Licensing Board of PT a survey of other states' CEU approval processes was completed by the Licensing Board administrator. This survey found that there currently is no consistent process used by many other states for CEU review in order to determine course approvals, and that some states had little to no process at all with which to verify CEU content relevancy or accuracy. Because of this the Licensing Board determined that it was in the best interest of our licensees, as well as for public safety, to eliminate this approval source.

(6) Same in terms of reorganization without change.

NOTE: Licensees are strongly encouraged to review the Continuing Competence section of the Rules very carefully and, as referenced in (5)(b)(2), refer to the Licensing Board's Policy Statements (changes pending) on the Licensing Board's website for further information or clarification!

1150-01-.13 Advertising

(1) This is a revised statement by removing "Policy Statement" from the paragraph

Other areas are unchanged.

1150-01-.14 Code of Ethics

New language can be noted here as the Board is adopting the new APTA Code of Ethics for PTs and PTAs that becomes effective 01/01/26.

NOTE: With the above noted, it is important for licensees to make sure that the Ethics coursework taken after 01/01/26 has been updated to contain this new information.

1150-01-.15 Disciplinary Action CHANGED IN AUGUST 2026 VERSION

Minor changes but notably is that the first level of disciplinary action is changed from Advisory Censure to LETTER OF WARNING.

1150-01-.16 Duplicate (Replacement License)

The language in this section has been modified.

(1) A license holder whose "artistically designed" license has been lost or destroyed may be issued a new license upon receipt of a request in the Board's administrative office. Such requests shall be accompanied by the required fee pursuant to Rule 1150-01-.06.
(2) license holder whose renewal certificate license has been lost or destroyed may be issued a new license upon receipt of a request in the Board's administrative office. Such requests shall be accompanied by the required fee pursuant to Rule 1150-01-.06.

1150-01-.17 Change of Address and/or Name

Sections (1) and (2) added the following sentence: **Licensees shall complete the change of address process through the electronic license portal within thirty (30) days of the address change.**

1150-01-.18 Mandatory Release of Client Record

No wording change.

1150-01-.19 Board Meetings

Minor wording changes in **(7)(d). Complaints made against a licensed practitioner may only become public information pursuant to T.C.A. § 63-1-117.**

1150-01-.20 Consumer Right-To-Know

No change.

1150-01-.21 Professional Peer Assistance

This Rule has been reworded.

The Board shall utilize the services of a professional assistance program, as approved by the Board, for situations regarding licensee substance abuse, chemical abuse, or lapses in professional and/or ethical judgments. Information regarding persons entering the program upon referral by this Board shall be confidential.

1150-01.22 Dry Needling

(4) has been revised to state **that training documentation obtained in another state or country must provide the documentation to the Board upon their request or audit.**

(5) This area restricts the performance of dry needling to only licensed physical therapists and further states that the procedure MAY NOT be delegated to a PTA, a student (NEW), or support personnel (refer to definition of support personnel).

1150-01-.23 Telemedicine (a new section)

(1) A provider-patient relationship with respect to telemedicine or telehealth is created by mutual consent and mutual communication, except in an emergency, between the patient and the provider. The consent by the patient may be expressed or implied consent; however, the provider-patient relationship is not created simply by the receipt of patient health information by a provider unless a prior provider-patient relationship exists. The duties and obligations created by the relationship do not arise until the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant:
   a. Affirmatively undertakes to diagnose or treat the patient; or
   b. Affirmatively participates in the diagnosis or treatment.

(2) The scope of practice of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant is prescribed and limited by Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 13 and the rules set forth in this chapter and Chapter 1150-01-.02.

(3) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who delivers services through the use of telemedicine is held to the same standard of professional practice as through in-person encounters, and nothing in this section is intended to create any new standards of care.

(4) Patient Identity and Communication. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant using telemedicine to deliver physical therapy services or who practices telemedicine, upon an initial contact with the patient shall:
   a. Verify the identity of the patient prior to each session;
   b. Obtain alternative means of contacting the patient;
   c. Arrange for the patient to have alternative means of contacting the physical therapist or physical therapy assistant;
   d. Provide contact methods of alternative communication the physical therapist or physical therapy assistant shall use for emergency purposes;
   e. Use personal identifying information only in secure communications; and

f. Obtain written, informed consent from the patient or other appropriate person with authority to make health care treatment decisions for the patient before services are provided through telemedicine.

(5) Compliance with Laws and Regulations. A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant practicing telemedicine must:

a. Have an active Tennessee license or current compact privileges in Tennessee in good standing to practice telemedicine in the state of Tennessee.
b. Otherwise be authorized by law to practice in another jurisdiction where the patient is physically present or domiciled.
c. Abide by the Board's law and rules and regulations and all current standards of care.
d. Comply with all other applicable State and Federal Laws, rules and regulations.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-1-155, 63-13-103, 63-13-301, and 63-13-304.