

Requirements for Recertification Sports Physical Therapy

1. Certification Status

Applicants must hold current certification as a Sports physical therapy specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

2. License

Applicants must hold a current license to practice physical therapy in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands.

3. Fees

Applicants will be required to pay an assessment review fee of \$650 for APTA members or \$910 for non-APTA members. Recertification applications are to be **due by October 31st** of a given recertification year. Recertification candidates, who are unable to submit their application **online** by this deadline, must contact APTA's Recertification Program to request a one-month extension of the application deadline. **A late application fee of \$300** will be charged and late applications must be submitted online by **November 30th** of a given recertification year.

4. Patient Care Experience

Candidates are required to document evidence of continued direct patient care activities in the specialty area, the equivalent of 200 hours per year since the date of most recent certification. Certified specialists are permitted to recertify up to 3 years prior to their certification expiration date. 200 of the total hours **must** have occurred within the last three [3] years.

Direct patient care in the specialty area must include activities in each of the elements of patient/client management applicable to the specialty area and included in the *Description of Specialty Practice* (DSP). These elements, as defined in the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, are examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention.

Please note: effective for 2017 recertification candidates there is a modification to the above direct patient care hour requirement.

100 hours of the required 2000 direct patient care hour requirement must be documented as ***athletic venue coverage***. Athletic venue coverage may include activities supporting or observing medical care provided in preparation for, during, or following practices, training, or competitions. Visit www.abpts.org/Recertification/Sports for additional details.

5. CPR Certification

The applicant must be currently certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) by completing the American Heart Association's BLS Healthcare Provider Course or the American Red Cross course CPR for the Professional Rescuer.

6. Emergency Care Requirement

The applicant must submit evidence of current knowledge in national First Responder standards and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) guidelines with your application. Acceptable evidence includes current evidence of one of the following:

- Certification as a First Responder by the American Red Cross
- Certification or licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Certification or licensure as a Paramedic

Acceptable training to attain the First Responder certification includes the American Red Cross Emergency Response Course. If you are planning to take the American Red Cross Emergency Response course to meet the emergency care minimum eligibility requirement but have not completed the course at the time of the application deadline (October 31st), please indicate when and where you anticipate taking the course.

7. Assessment Options

Candidates must obtain a passing score on one of the following assessment options:

Option 1 • Current Certification Examination

The applicant must sit for and pass a written examination that tests the application of advanced knowledge and clinical skills identified in the *Sports Physical Therapy: Description of Specialty Practice* (DSP) ©, 2002. Refer to DSP book for detailed information on the exam content.

Option 2 • Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) – see next pages for PDP requirements.

Option 3 • Completion of an APTA-accredited Sports Clinical Residency Program

Applicants must submit evidence of successful completion of an APTA-accredited post professional Sports clinical residency

Sports Professional Development Portfolio Requirements

1. Candidates must submit evidence of ongoing professional and educational development since their most recent certification in the appropriate format. **Please contact a member of APTA's Specialist Certification Department, the Sports Specialty Council, or ABPTS if you are not sure whether an activity can be included in the PDP, or if you have questions about where to record the activity on the PDP form.**
2. Candidates must submit professional development activities that relate to increasing knowledge and skill in sports physical therapy, providing a contribution to the specialty practice of sports physical therapy, or continuing clinical excellence in the provision of sports patient care.
3. Candidates must obtain a minimum of **thirty-five [35]** professional development activity points. **Please do not document in excess of sixty [60] professional development activity points when preparing your PDP.**
4. Candidates must obtain professional development activity points in at least **four [4] of the nine [9]** approved professional development activity categories (eg, professional presentations, publications, professional writing, clinical supervision). Candidates must earn **at least one [1] point in any one activity category** to count it toward this requirement. The activity categories, point values, and maximum points allowed in each category follow.
5. Candidates must document professional development activities that reflect the content of the *Sports: Description of Specialty Practice* (DSP). For this purpose the DSP has been grouped into **two** major categories:
 1. **Clinical Practice** (a minimum of 18 points required) includes professional development activities related to competencies in the following areas: rehabilitation and return to activity, acute injury/illness management, and medical/surgical considerations.
 2. **Prevention, Sports Science and Critical Inquiry** (a minimum of 6 points required) includes professional development activities related to competencies in the following areas: sports science, injury prevention and wellness, and critical inquiry.

(Please see the Sports Physical Therapy Description of Specialty Practice for detailed information about competencies related to clinical practice and prevention, sports science, and critical inquiry)
6. Professional development activities must have been completed within the past ten years or since the date of your most recent certification.

Sports Approved Professional Development Activities

Activity	Point Value
1. Direct Patient Care hours in specialty area <i>(beyond minimum eligibility requirement)</i>	0.1 (per 10 hours) Maximum Points 20
2. Participating in a continuing education course with specific goals and objectives related to specialty practice. <i>Calculations are based on contact hours (class time) rather than quarter or semester course credit hours.</i>	1² (10 contact hours) <i>(One [1] Proficiency Point = 10 contact hours, 0.1 Proficiency Point = 1 contact hour)</i>
3. Satisfactory completion of a college/university course for credit or audit related to specialty area	1pt per unit/credit hour
4. Teaching a continuing education course or college/university course related to specialty area. (Point value decreases for the second time a course is taught. Credit is given only for the first <u>two</u> times a course is taught.)	a. First Time = 0.2 (per contact hour) b. Second Time = 0.1 (per contact hour)
5. Professional Presentations in specialty area. (Credit is given only for first time a presentation is made.)	
a. Platform or poster presentation at a professional meeting	1 (per presentation)
b. Invited speaker to a group, classes, or portions of courses (including in-services)	0.1 (per hour)
c. Presentation to non-professional community or client-based groups on topic specific to specialty area	0.1 (per hour)
6. Professional Writing - Can include editor, author, or co-author of publications using "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals"	
<u>Author</u>	
a. book chapter – multiply number of chapters by 2 points if you wrote more than one chapter or an entire book	2.0 per chapter
b. peer reviewed journal article	3.0 per article
c. non-peer reviewed publication	0.5 per article
d. reviews or commentaries	0.5 per review or commentary
e. case study or case report (peer-reviewed journal)	2.0 per case
f. grant proposal, primary investigator or co-investigator	2.0 per internal proposal 3.0 per external proposal

²Calculations are based on contact hours (class time) rather than quarter or semester course credit hours.
(One [1] Proficiency Point = 10 contact hours, 0.1 Proficiency Point = 1 contact hour)

Editor		
g.	book editor – multiply number of chapters by 0.5 if you edited more than one chapter or an entire book	0.5 per chapter
h.	peer reviewed journal editor	1.5 per year
i.	editorial board member	1.0 per year
j.	non-peer reviewed publication	0.75 per year
k.	manuscript reviewer	0.5 per review
7. Professional services		
a.	Committee membership per year (eg, specialty council, section officer, special interest group, organization outside APTA related to specialty area) Note: Can be at local, state, or national level	1.0 per year as member 2.0 per year as chair
b.	Subject Matter Expert, Consultant (eg, expert witness, grant reviewer, insurance reviewer, liaison or consultant to professional association, service, or educational program, certification exam development, including item editing) Note: Can be at local, state, or national level	0.1 (per hour)
c.	Item writing for certification exam	1 (per 3 accepted items)
d.	Administration activities related to patient care/services (eg, development of policies and procedures; marketing and public relations; orientation and mentoring of new staff, and supervision of physical therapists in a management role)	0.5 (per year)
8.	Clinical Supervision of students/peers or consultation with peers in a health care profession The same hours cannot be counted for both clinical supervision and direct patient care.	0.1 (per 10 hours)
9. Research Activities		
a.	Contribution to a research project, supported by a letter from the primary investigator of the published research article	1.0 per project
b.	Contribution to a Physical Therapy Outcome Database System	0.5 (per year of participation)