

CPC / Pathfinder

General Q&A for Athletic Trainers

Updated 5/18/2026

Quick CPC/Pathfinder Clarifications

- Pathfinder is NOT graded
- There is NO passing score
- You receive ONE grace segment during the full renewal period
- Goals must be CREATED, not completed
- Learning activities must be ADDED to your Learning Path, not completed
- Traditional continuing education is still required towards renewal
- NATA, district and state association meetings still count for CEUs
- CEUs are still reported separately in BOC profile
- Missing Segment 1 does NOT automatically remove you from CPC Renewal
- Your Pathfinder dashboard tracks your progress and completion status

CPC Overview & Purpose

What is CPC Renewal?

Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) Renewal is a new renewal pathway that launched in February 2026, combining targeted professional development through Pathfinder with traditional continuing education units (CEUs).

What is Pathfinder?

Pathfinder is an interactive professional development platform/tool that helps Athletic Trainers (ATs) map out their growth. It provides a personalized dashboard where ATs set goals, challenge themselves with evidence-based questions in segments throughout the renewal period, and explore recommended learning opportunities. It makes professional development interactive, more engaging, timesaving, and aligned with their goals.

Why was CPC introduced?

To help ATs make continuing education (CE) more relevant and aligned with their current practice and career goals, while still meeting BOC standards and licensure requirements.

How is CPC different from Legacy Renewal?

CPC Renewal: Utilize Pathfinder to complete requirements for each segment + 40 CEUs from any approved sources

Legacy Renewal: 50 CEUs from any approved source

CPC Renewal is goal-driven and personalized; Legacy Renewal follows the current system.

Eligibility & Options

Can I choose between CPC Renewal and Legacy Renewal?

All ATs were automatically enrolled in the CPC Renewal option early in 2026 with full access to explore and use the Pathfinder platform. While ATs certified before 2026 are encouraged to remain in CPC Renewal, they will be able to opt out of CPC Renewal and into Legacy Renewal any time during the renewal period, after the option is posted. ATs certified in 2026 and beyond must

complete CPC Renewal and will not be able to opt out.

How can I opt out to Legacy Renewal if I choose not to participate in CPC Renewal?

To opt out of CPC Renewal, you need to watch the Quick Start Guide and answer at least one Challenge Question. Once both those tasks are completed, the Opt Out button on your dashboard will become accessible.

Will CPC Renewal be available for the next renewal period if I opt out to Legacy Renewal now?

Yes, CPC renewal will be available for the next renewal period if you opt out to Legacy Renewal for the current renewal period.

Will the Legacy Renewal option always be available?

The Legacy Renewal option is available for ATs certified before January 1, 2026, for the current renewal period. ATs certified on or after that date will use CPC only. We expect requirement changes may occur for renewal periods following the current one; those requirements will be decided and announced in the future.

Switching Between Renewal Paths

Can we try Pathfinder and then switch back to Legacy Renewal?

Yes, if you were certified before 2026, you can switch to Legacy Renewal as outlined. If an AT switches to the Legacy Renewal path, they are required to complete those requirements, including 50 CEUs.

What happens if someone certified in 2026 or later would prefer to change to Legacy Renewal? Can they change to Legacy Renewal?

All newly certified ATs will complete their CPC Renewal path using Pathfinder. This renewal path is designed to be flexible and supportive of individual professional growth. CPC Renewal is the expectation for maintaining certification for all ATs certified after January 1, 2026, including Reinstatement by Exam.

Will there be a notification before automatic placement into CPC Renewal or a change to Legacy Renewal?

All ATs will begin in the CPC Renewal path. If ATs switch to Legacy Renewal following the outlined steps, they will receive confirmation.

Pathfinder Platform

What is Pathfinder?

An online platform in your BOC profile that guides you through setting goals, answering challenge questions, and receiving targeted CE recommendations. Check out the [Pathfinder Quick Reference Resource](#).

Will Pathfinder work for ATs in all settings, including non-traditional?

Yes, you create goals that match your practice setting and align learning and coursework that's relevant to your role. The My Challenge Questions align with the most recent Practice Analysis, which defines essential domains of athletic training practice. Pathfinder was built for and is applicable to all ATs regardless of years certified, practice setting, geographic area, career paths or other demographics.

Pathfinder: General Access & Availability

When will Pathfinder be available?

Pathfinder became an official renewal option starting with the current renewal period (1/1/26 – 1/31/28).

Will there be step-by-step CPC instructions?

Yes. BOC has provided clear, step-by-step instructions, including a downloadable Quick Reference, tutorials and screenshots that show how to navigate Pathfinder.

Is there an app planned for CPC or Pathfinder?

Not currently. Pathfinder is accessible through your BOC profile online and is compatible with most mobile devices.

Is there an extra cost for Pathfinder?

No. ATs do not incur an additional cost or fee for Pathfinder.

Are recommended CE courses free?

Some are free, while others may incur a cost. All are chosen based on relevance, not sponsorship. If the options provided are not suitable for you, you can search for additional courses in the Activity Directory to find an ideal fit for your situation.

How do I access Pathfinder?

You log into your BOC profile; the platform is built into the system and is mobile-friendly.

Pathfinder: Structure & Requirements

How will Pathfinder segments be delivered, and how long will we have to complete them?

My Challenge Questions are released on a set schedule, allowing three months to complete each segment. Deadlines will be clearly communicated, along with reminders.

How many segments are there during the full renewal period, and how many are required?

Seven of eight segments are required to be completed over the full two-year CPC Renewal period for ATs certified before January 1, 2026. ATs certified in 2026 will begin Pathfinder on January 1, 2027, and be required to complete three of four segments for their renewal completion.

What happens if I miss a segment or fall further behind?

ATs certified before 2026 receive one grace segment during the renewal period. If you miss a segment, you may continue in CPC Renewal by completing the remaining required segments. ATs certified in 2026 and beyond who miss required segments may complete remediation requirements outlined in the BOC Certification Renewal Handbook.

Can I finish segments early?

No. Segments follow a scheduled release model and are designed to support longitudinal learning over time rather than one-time completion. My Challenge Questions are designed to encourage ongoing engagement with current evidence, self-awareness and professional growth throughout the renewal cycle. Research across health care professions shows that spaced learning over time supports retention and reflection more effectively than completing all activities at once.

What does the Pathfinder workflow/steps look like?

Pathfinder is designed to be flexible and self-directed rather than follow a rigid step-by-step workflow. While My Challenge Questions (MCQs) must be completed during each segment, ATs may engage with the other elements in the order and manner that best fits their needs. Most ATs begin by creating goals, then continue completing MCQs and building their My Learning Path over time. My Reflection opens during the final segment of the renewal period.

How much time does Pathfinder take?

Time spent in Pathfinder varies by user and level of engagement. Early implementation feedback indicated many ATs completed Segment 1 in under 30 minutes, while pilot participants reported approximately 1–1.5 hours per segment when engaging more extensively with readings and learning recommendations.

Does Pathfinder contain its own education components or only link to external resources?

Pathfinder delivers the goal setting and My Challenge Questions in-platform, then links you to targeted external CE options provided by BOC Approved Providers for Category A CEUs. CEUs are completed and logged in your BOC profile as usual.

Do I need to have a certain score on the My Challenge Questions? What happens if I miss some?

The My Challenge Questions are not scored, there is no passing score, no grades and they do not determine your competence as an AT. Each question shares new and emerging best practices in athletic training and is intended as a reflective learning opportunity. Your response, organized by question and by domain, can help you identify awareness, growth opportunities and confidence patterns.

Can I review previously completed challenge questions and learning resources?

Yes. Previously completed challenge questions, rationales, journal articles and recommended learning activities remain accessible through the My Challenge Questions dashboard and Learning Awareness Dashboard.

What if some challenge questions do not match my current practice setting?

Challenge questions are based on the Athletic Training Practice Analysis and are intended to support broad professional competence across athletic training domains. While some questions may align more closely with certain settings or experiences, all questions are designed to support continued learning, awareness and evidence-based practice across the profession.

Do I have to complete the goals I create in Pathfinder?

No. ATs are required to create goals within Pathfinder, but they are not required to fully complete or achieve those goals. Goals are intended to support reflection, planning and professional development over time and may evolve throughout the renewal cycle.

Do I have to complete the activities I add to My Learning Path?

No. My Learning Path is designed as a flexible planning and organizational tool. ATs are required to add at least two activities to the learning path timeline, but they are not required to complete, enroll in or pay for those specific activities.

How can I track whether I've completed all CPC Renewal requirements?

Pathfinder dashboards display progress for each required component, including goals, challenge question segments and learning path activities. Progress indicators update automatically as requirements are completed. BOC will also provide reminders throughout the renewal period.

What level are the questions?

They are relevant to any AT engaged in learning and best practice for optimal patient outcomes. The difficulty of each question will depend on the AT's direct experience with each topic, their skills, and their exposure to the most up-to-date evidence. Regardless of your background, each question offers an opportunity to challenge yourself, identify areas of mastery and growth, and guide your continued learning.

CEU Rules & Credit

Do you earn CEUs from Pathfinder or just recommendations?

Upon completion, documentation will be provided demonstrating that completing the required components in Pathfinder is equivalent to 10 CEUs. Completion of Pathfinder does not count toward the required 40 CEUs.

Do Pathfinder CEUs replace all other CEUs?

Completing Pathfinder is one component of CPC; you will still need to complete 40 CEUs. The 40 CEUs may be discovered while completing Pathfinder or in the Activity Directory.

Can my 40 CEUs be unrelated to my Pathfinder goals?

Yes. You may choose CE topics outside your identified goals.

Can the 40 CEUs outside Pathfinder be earned through any provider?

Yes, 10 of your 40 CEUs must be from Category A, the remaining CEUs can come from any category like how you earn CEUs now. Pathfinder helps guide those selections, but you are not bound to those topic areas.

Are there still limits for CEU Categories B, C and D?

Yes, category maximums will remain (e.g., Category D maximum of 28 CEUs) and can be found in the Certification Renewal Handbook.

Are traditional CE courses going away?

No. Traditional CE opportunities will remain available for both CPC Renewal and Legacy Renewal paths.

How are CPC CEUs calculated?

CEUs are still awarded at a rate of one CEU per contact hour. You are not directly earning CEUs within Pathfinder, but through the coursework you select and complete.

Does Pathfinder automatically track CEUs I complete, or do I still need to log them manually in BOC360?

CEUs are not automatically tracked in Pathfinder currently. You will log them in BOC 360 for your reporting.

Special Situations

How does CPC Renewal affect state licensure requirements if my state requires 50 CEUs?

BOC will provide documentation indicating that completion of Pathfinder is considered equivalent to 10 CEUs for licensure purposes. Athletic Trainers should still verify specific licensure requirements directly with their state licensing board, as acceptance policies vary by state. BOC continues ongoing communication and education with state regulatory boards regarding CPC Renewal and Pathfinder.

What options exist for maintaining certification if no longer practicing, including industrial or non-traditional settings?

CPC is customizable through your goal selection, allowing you to align segments with your current situation. If you choose to participate in Legacy Renewal, you may opt out of CPC renewal.

What flexibility exists for life events that prevent completing a segment?

Contact BOC as soon as possible; accommodations or extensions are available for qualifying situations.

Is Pathfinder appropriate for semi-retired or near-retirement ATs?

Yes, Pathfinder is suitable for all ATs regardless of stage of career or practice setting.

Privacy & Integrity

Are Pathfinder responses recorded, and what privacy protections are in place?

Data is stored securely within the BOC system and used only for your professional development and ongoing learning. Pathfinder responses are designed as a self-assessment and reflective learning tool, not as a high-stakes test of competence.

How does BOC prevent ATs from using AI to find out the answers of the My Challenge Questions?

The MCQ items are copyrighted property of the BOC and may not be copied, reproduced, discussed or distributed in any manner. Unauthorized copying or distribution of any portion of these assessments may be subject to civil liability for copyright infringement and disciplinary action pursuant to the “BOC Standards of Professional Practice.”

ATs are allowed five minutes per question. ATs should remember that this learning tool isn't “scored” – and nothing negative occurs if an answer is wrong. It is simply a bite-sized learning opportunity to identify gaps and/or increase knowledge confidence.

Support & Resources

Where can I get more information?

Visit the BOC website, review the [CPC Quick Reference Guide](#), and watch the [recorded webinar](#) or email pathfinder@bocatc.org. More tools and information will be provided as we approach and initiate launch.