
CODE OF ETHICS
Ethical Principles of the EMSEP Student Practicum

Introduction¹

Sport and Exercise Psychology is a term used to refer to the psychological aspects of sport, physical recreation, physical education, exercise, health, and related physical activities. The European Masters in Sport and Exercise Psychology (EMSEP) is dedicated to the education of future professionals in the field of sport and exercise psychology. The following ethical principles are guidelines that regulate the EMSEP student - client conduct throughout the students' practicum experiences in sport and exercise psychology. It is of highest significance for the EMSEP students to act responsibly and ethically in the provision of services to insure the dignity and welfare of clients (i.e., athletes, coaches, teams, exercisers, students, etc.). These ethical standards are expressed in general terms in order that they can be applied by EMSEP students engaged in varied consulting roles. The application of the ethical standards may vary depending upon the context (i.e., country and organization). The ethical standards outlined in this statement are not exhaustive, and the fact that a conduct is not addressed by these principles does not indicate that the EMSEP program endorses it as either ethical or unethical. It is the individual responsibility of each EMSEP student to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. It is expected that each EMSEP student will act in accordance, and not violate, the values and rules described in the ethical principles, as well as the values and norms of one's culture.

General Principles

Principle A: Competence. EMSEP students strive to maintain the highest standards of competence in their work. They recognize the boundaries of their particular techniques and methods and the limitations of their expertise. They must not misrepresent their qualifications or expertise in any way. Students must provide only those services and use only those techniques for which they are qualified by education, training or experience. They must maintain knowledge related to the services rendered, and recognize the need for additional education. EMSEP students should be aware of the role and function of psychological assessment, and should use only those tests for which they have received appropriate training. Claims for the effectiveness of sport and exercise psychological interventions and other practices must not be exaggerated or misleading. EMSEP students are cognizant of the fact that the competencies required in servicing individuals or groups of people vary with the distinctive characteristics of those individuals or groups. In the event of being requested to work in any way beyond their training, EMSEP students should report the request to their supervisor for referring a suitable colleague. In those areas in which recognized professional standards do not exist, EMSEP students should exercise careful judgment, take appropriate precautions, and consult with practicum supervisor to protect the welfare of those with whom they work.

Principle B: Consent and Confidentiality. EMSEP students should obtain informed consent of participants in practicum. Potential clients should normally be informed of the practicum intended aims and procedures and sign the practicum agreement form. When children are involved, the practicum agreement form should be signed by the parent or guardian. All consenting parties must be informed that participation can be terminated by them at any time and that they are free to withhold any information they wish; EMSEP students must endeavor to preserve the confidentiality of information they acquire. Information should not be divulged without the prior consent of the individual(s) concerned. If an individual's practicum client-case is being published in any way, anonymity must be preserved unless consent is given for disclosure.

Principle C: Integrity. EMSEP students seek to promote integrity in the practice of sport and exercise psychology. In this activity students are honest, fair, and respectful of others. In describing or reporting their qualifications, services, products, they do not consciously make statements that are fake, misleading or deceptive. To the extent that it is feasible, they should attempt to clarify the roles that they can assume as well as the obligations they accept. EMSEP students must try their absolute best to avoid improper and potentially harmful dual relationships and conflicts of interest.

Principle D: Personal Conduct. EMSEP students shall conduct themselves in a manner beneficial to the well-being of their clients and in a way that brings credit to the field of sport psychology. EMSEP students should not:

1. Exploit relationships with clients for personal gain through the media or publicity;
2. Exploit relationships with clients for personal gratification;
3. Jeopardize the safety and well-being of clients;
4. Engage in behavior that is harassing or demeaning to persons with whom they interact in their practicum work;
5. Engage in romantic/sexual relationships with clients over whom the EMSEP student has evaluative, direct, or indirect authority, because such relationships are so likely to impair judgment or be exploitative;
6. Practice or work when they are unfit to operate effectively;
7. Allow their practices or judgments to be influenced by considerations of religion, sex, race, age, nationality, politics, social standing, class, or other extraneous factors.

Principle E: Professional Responsibility. EMSEP students are responsible for safeguarding the public and the EMSEP program from individuals who are deficient in ethical conduct. They must uphold professional standards of conduct and accept appropriate responsibility for their behavior. The moral conduct and standards of the EMSEP students are personal matters to the same degree as is true for any other person, except as their conduct may compromise their professional responsibilities or reduce the public's trust in the profession or the



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EMSEP program. EMSEP students are concerned about the ethical compliance of their fellow students' professional conduct.

Principle F: Social Responsibility. EMSEP students should be aware of their professional responsibilities to the community and the society in which they study/work and live. EMSEP students are sensitive to real and ascribed differences in power between themselves and others, and they do not exploit or mislead other people during or after professional relationships. They comply with the law and encourage the development of social policy that serves the interests of the general public.

**On my honor as a student,
I have read and I accept the EMSEP Code of Ethics**

Name of Student _____

Signature _____

Date _____

¹Note

Material in this ethics statement is heavily based on the International Society's of Sport Psychology Code of Ethics and the guidelines of The American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, the British Association of Sports and Exercise Sciences - Code of Conduct, and the Ethical Principles and Standards of the Association of Applied Sport Psychology. The abovementioned codes along with the EMSEP institutions' codes of ethics and conduct were examined in the preparation of this statement.