

Code of Ethics of the Saskatchewan Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences Association

This Code of Ethics has been published and distributed by The Saskatchewan Kinesiology and Exercise Sciences Association (SKESA) to guide its members in meeting and maintaining proper standards of professional conduct. The Code of Ethics shall be considered a general guide and not a denial of the existence of other responsibilities equally important and other rights not specifically outlined.

Certain terms used in the Code require definition as follows:
"Member" means an Individual who has met the requirements for membership of the Association and any person eligible for Individual Membership in the Association. "Client" means a person to whom a member renders professional services.

Article One

Professional Integrity and Professional Development

Members shall possess the qualities of integrity, loyalty, and reliability and shall maintain a standard of professional competency as required by the profession, and shall at all times demonstrate behavior which reflects the member's professional interest and attitude.

Members will assume responsibility for the performance of all services they provide. They are also responsible for any duties they delegate to personnel under their supervision, including students.

Members will practice in a professional and ethical manner that will not take physical, emotional, financial, or sexual advantage of a client.

Members will ensure their professional integrity and judgment is not compromised by motives of profit, and will only enter into contracts and agreements when professional integrity can be maintained.

Members will ensure that any advertising of their services is accurate, verifiable, and acceptable according to legal, social, and professional norms, and does not bring the profession into disrepute.

Members will engage in an evidence-based practice, and will provide service, information and education that are current and research driven. Opinions or information that are not generally held or scientifically proven should be qualified to the client as such.

Members shall maintain a progressive attitude by engaging in professional development to improve their skills, knowledge, and abilities and utilize current information to provide the highest standard of service.

Members shall recognize their professional limitations and work within their scope of practice to their level of competence.

Article Two

Client Care and Welfare

The provision of effective quality care, while respecting the rights and needs of the client, shall be the primary concern of each member of the profession.

Members will respect the client's rights, dignity, needs, wishes and values.

Members shall not refuse care to any client on grounds of race, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, and social or health status.

Members shall respect the confidentiality of all client information and will disclose such information only when properly authorized or legally obligated to do so.

Members shall provide service at the highest possible level of professional skill.

Members shall do what is reasonably possible to ensure the safety and welfare of all persons for whom service is provided.

Members shall recognize the special skills of other professionals, and when indicated, will recommend to the client that alternative options and services be obtained.

Members shall inform clients in advance of the fee to be charged for a service, when a direct fee is charged.

Members shall respect the client's or surrogate's right to be informed about the effects of treatment and inherent risks.

Members must give clients or surrogates the opportunity to consent to or decline treatment or alterations in the treatment.

The Rights of research subjects will be fully respected, and must comply with current scientific practice in the field. All information gathered in the course of research must be kept confidential, and only released with the express permission of the subject.

Article Three

Professional Responsibility

A member shall recognize and accept responsibility to the relevant employing agency, to other health care colleagues, and to the community at large.

Members shall maintain comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date records of professional activities which include the nature, extent, duration and outcome of services provided.

Where applicable, members shall co-operate and maintain appropriate communication with other health care colleagues or services dealing with the client in order that the combined desired results are achieved in the treatment of that client.

Members shall respect and uphold the dignity of each individual with whom they are associated within the profession.

Members will not provide misrepresentation regarding information relating to the practice of the profession, or regarding the provision of services to individual clients.

Members shall maintain an appropriate relationship with the public in order to facilitate the promotion of the goals and functions of the profession.

Members shall refrain from endorsing any goods or services related to the profession without having made an objective assessment of those goods and services. Members shall avoid using their SKESA membership status when advocating any products.

Article Four

Responsibility to the Association

Members shall recognize and accept their responsibilities to the profession, and shall do what is within their means to provide for the growth and development of the profession.

Members shall adhere to the policies and by-laws of the association, and support its mission and vision.

Members will act in a way that is beyond reproach, and will report to the association any member of the association who appears to be incompetent or whose professional conduct appears to be unethical, illegal or, in general, unbecoming to the profession.

Members shall advance the science of the profession by sharing relevant information and by supporting, or engaging in, research activities.

Members shall make themselves available to mentor students when opportunities are presented.

Article Five

Conflict of Interest

Members shall be responsible for the prompt identification and proposed resolution of conflicts of interest. If a real or potential conflict of interest arises, members will take all reasonable steps to resolve conflict of interest by informing all parties of the need to resolve the situation in a manner that is consistent with the code of ethics.

Members shall not exploit any relationship established as a therapist to further their own physical, emotional, financial, political, or business interests at the expense of the best interest of clients. This includes, but is not limited to: soliciting clients of the member's employer for private practice; using coercion or taking advantage of trust or dependency to engage in sexual activities or to initiate/continue treatment of a client where it is ineffective, unnecessary or no longer indicated; breaching an agreement with a client or employer regarding the use of resources for provision of services; securing or accepting significant financial or material benefit for activities which are already awarded by salary or other compensation; and, prejudicing others against a colleague for reasons of personal gain.