



CODE OF ACADEMIC ETHICS OF LITHUANIAN SPORTS UNIVERSITY

Lithuanian Sports University (hereinafter referred to as the University) promotes the sustainable development of physical, mental, emotional and social well-being, helps to train elite athletes, Olympians and Paralympians through the creative application of modern technologies and top-level knowledge in sports science, motor control, physical activity and nutrition, recreation and rehabilitation. It constantly and promptly provides recommendations to politicians, and all interested institutions on the development of Lithuanian social and economic well-being through sport, physical activity, recreation and rehabilitation. As a higher education institution that fosters respect for excellence, promotes new ideas, initiatives, professionalism and teamwork based on mutual respect, tolerance, competence and trust, disseminates Olympic ideas and promotes a healthy lifestyle, ensures access to academic services, fosters citizenship and patriotism without representing any political ideology, and maintains an active dialogue with other Lithuanian and foreign higher education institutions, state institutions, the business community and public organizations in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Statute of the Lithuanian Sports University, the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts in force in the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian Sports University adopts the present Code of Academic Ethics taking into account international experience in the implementation of the Code of Academic Ethics.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1. The Code of Academic Ethics of the University lays down the values and moral principles of the community of the institution and regulates behavioural patterns of the University community to comply with the requirements of the Code.
- 1.2. The Code provides the basic cases of academic behaviour to be avoided (inappropriate behaviour) and establishes the main provisions of ethical conduct, which are not directly covered by the Lithuanian legislation, employment contracts or the internal documents of the University.
- 1.3. The Code is based on the Declaration of Human Rights, the European Universities' Charter, the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian legislation, the Statute of the University and the Codes of Ethics of other Lithuanian and foreign universities.
- 1.4. The Code applies to all members of the academic community.
- 1.5. The Code defines typical cases of breaches of ethics, but their list is not exhaustive.
- 1.6. The Code also applies in cases where members of the community independently provide intellectual services to third parties and these services are not directly related to the activities of the University.
- 1.7. Definitions:

- 1.7.1. **Academic community** (hereinafter referred to as community) means students, the teaching staff, the research staff, other researchers, and professors emeritus of higher education and research institutions¹.
- 1.7.2. **Academic ethics** means a set of universally recognized values that ensure the transparency, fairness, justice, equality, non-discrimination, responsibility, sustainable use of resources, academic freedom, impartiality, trust, respect and protection of intellectual property in research and educational activities.²
- 1.7.3. **Academic integrity** means the commitment of the community to base teaching, learning and research activities on the values of openness, trust, integrity, respect and responsibility.
- 1.7.4. **Core values of academic ethics** means academic honesty, responsibility, equality, justice, non-discrimination, accountability, transparency, sustainable use of resources, academic freedom, the impartiality of evaluation of research and study papers, trust, and respect.
- 1.7.4. **Violation of academic ethics** means an action or an attempt of a community member to violate academic values, general ethical norms and ethical norms of research and educational activities observed by other members of the University community, which may create preconditions for gaining an unfair advantage or harm a member of the academic community or society.
- 1.7.5. **LSU Academic and Professional Ethics Commission** means a body approved by the Senate, which initiates and improves the literacy in academic ethics of the University community and considers violations related to academic ethics.
- 1.7.6. Other terms used in the Code are defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF ACADEMIC ETHICS

- 2.1. Objectives of the LSU Code of Academic Ethics shall be as follows:
 - 2.1.1. to promote ethical behaviour of members of the University community; to prevent inappropriate behaviour rather than punish for such behaviour.
 - 2.1.2. to define the limits of liability, as the Code shall clearly regulate the liability of community members and protect them from illegal decisions and activities (actions and / or inactivity).
 - 2.1.3. to perform the function of moral education; by encouraging members of the community to follow the principles of academic ethics, the Code can be used in the process of educating both formal and informal ethical behaviour.
 - 2.1.4. to discipline community members, to exercise ethical control over their activities and decisions in accordance with the Code.
 - 2.1.5. to strengthen public trust. Members of the community must implement the values and standards of the University set out in the Code in accordance with the requirements and principles of academic ethics.
 - 2.1.6. to regulate the behaviour of the members of the University community, to help the members of the community to evaluate and solve specific situations related to academic ethics that arise in the academic environment.
- 2.2. Functions of the code shall be as follows:

¹ Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (June 29, 2016, No. XII-2534)

² Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (June 29, 2016, No. XII-2534)

- 2.2.1. to defend the needs and interests of the members of the University community, to combine organizational behaviour with the values of society and the principles of academic ethics.
- 2.2.2. to be the main means of ensuring academic ethics at the University.
- 2.2.3. to help members of the University community to understand the impact of their activities on society and their social responsibility.
- 2.2.4. to help members of the community to achieve greater transparency in the activities of the University.
- 2.2.5. to show the public that responsible, professional behaviour is important to the University.
- 2.2.6. to form and preserve the image of the University.
- 2.2.7. to establish criteria that members of the University community should follow when communicating.
- 2.2.8. to encourage the community to perform their functions fairly and effectively.
- 2.2.9. to encourage the community to rely on the values of the University.
- 2.2.10. to identify measures to regulate behaviour (for example, sanctions: suspension of academic activities, dismissal, etc.).
- 2.2.11. to help members of the University community to improve their competencies (for example, by initiating training, seminars, discussions of the issues of ethical behaviour).
- 2.2.12. to help the University community achieve a high level of academic awareness and social responsibility.

3. GENERAL STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC ETHICS

- 3.1. Members of the university community have an inalienable right to academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility. Academic freedom is understood as freedom of speech and belief, freedom to have and express a critical attitude, a culture of open dialogue through the exchange of ideas. Academic freedom is accompanied by responsibilities associated with tolerance towards different opinions, respect for different standpoint and a culture of open dialogue. Academic freedom and responsibility are incompatible with:
 - 3.1.1. intolerance to different opinion or reasoned criticism.
 - 3.1.2. restriction or ignorance to the right of any member of the community to express and defend his / her opinion in decision-making.
 - 3.1.3. disregard or deliberate restriction of the right to respond to criticisms or accusations.
 - 3.1.4. concealment of information that is important to community members.
 - 3.1.5. deliberate dissemination of incorrect information, knowledge, data, etc.
 - 3.1.6. falsification of data and biased unilateral interpretation.
- 3.2. Relationships between members of the University community are based on the principles of honesty, mutual respect, trust, impartiality and non-discrimination. These principles are violated by:
 - 3.2.1. discrimination against a member of the community in any form, as well as tolerance of such discrimination.
 - 3.2.2. harassment, intimidation or other adverse behaviour.
 - 3.2.3. humiliation of community members.
 - 3.2.4. initiation and provocation of conflicts at the University.
 - 3.2.5. pressure on another member of the community to gain an undeserved advantage or to conceal academic misconduct.

- 3.2.6. claiming any kind of remuneration for (not) making certain decisions, as well as giving and receiving remuneration for it.
 - 3.2.7. taking advantage of more vulnerable persons (caused by subordination or other social relationships).
 - 3.2.8. discrimination against members of the community in language, action or academic assessment, and tolerance of such discrimination.
 - 3.2.9. diminishing the abilities, attitudes, or personal qualities of a member of the community.
 - 3.2.10. disclosure and discussion of confidential information about members of the community, except when such information is made public in accordance with the procedures established by the University or discussion of such information is necessary for assessment of suitability to hold office.
 - 3.2.11. a recommendation to award an academic degree or academic title, to grant an award or other forms of recognition to a colleague on the basis of a personal, business or political relationship other than a business-like evaluation of the work submitted and the professional qualities of the candidate.
- 3.3. Members of the University community are loyal to the mission and values of the University, they are characterized by collegiality, academic solidarity, they try to solve problems within the University, contribute to satisfying the general interests of the University and implement the educational and research activities. These principles are violated if:
- 3.3.1. professional competition between colleagues takes place in violation of the requirements of fair conduct, or through participation in illegal, dishonest transactions, or escalation of petty conflicts and intrigues.
 - 3.3.2. students are involved in dissension between colleagues.
 - 3.3.3. the name of the University is humiliated due to the misconduct of a member of the community, or violations of academic discipline inside and outside the University.
 - 3.3.4. damage to the prestige of the University is done.
 - 3.3.5. the problems of the University are discussed in other institutions or in public, without using the opportunities to solve them inside the University.
 - 3.3.6. the right to vote is exercised when an issue resolved at the University may cause a conflict of public and private interest.
 - 3.3.7. other behaviours manifestly undermine the prestige of the University and do not live up to the expectations of community members.
- 3.4. The material and financial resources of the University must be conserved and used responsibly by the members of the community and only for the purposes of meeting the commitments of the University as an institution. This provision is infringed if:
- 3.4.1. the material and financial resources of the University are used for political activities, private business or personal needs.
 - 3.4.2. the University's internal resources are misused when carrying out non-University projects.
 - 3.4.3. the University property is destroyed due to malice or negligence.
 - 3.4.4. the University assets suffer from manifestly irrational decisions of those directly responsible for them.

4. STANDARDS OF ETHICS FOR TEACHERS

- 4.1. The teacher-student relationship is based on academic requirements. Non-academic commitments or disrespectful treatment of students can lead to conflicts of interest; thus, ambiguous or disrespectful teacher-student relationships should be avoided. In this case, academic ethics is incompatible with:
 - 4.1.1. the teacher's desire to establish an intimate relationship with the student with whom he / she is involved in academic activity.
 - 4.1.2. disrespectful behaviour of the teacher, causing emotional tension, intimidation or humiliation.
 - 4.1.3. direct and indirect requests and / or acceptance of direct and indirect gifts from students or services of a (non) academic nature not directly related to the subjects studied.
 - 4.1.4. disclosure of information about students' academic achievements or penalties imposed on him / her to third parties in the absence of a special basis (student consent, legal basis, benefit to the student) or due to foreseeable harm to others.
 - 4.1.5. disclosure of personal information about the student and its use for study or research purposes without the student's consent.
 - 4.1.6. requirement to disclose personal information during group discussions, except for the cases provided for in the Law on Legal Protection of Personal Data of the Republic of Lithuania.
 - 4.1.7. touching the student during classes in the absence of any basis.
 - 4.1.8. touching the student without his / her consent.
- 4.2. The assessment of the level of competencies acquired by the student must be fair, honest, consistent with the objectives of the module (subject) or final project work and correspond to the description of the module (subject). In this case, the academic ethics of the teacher is incompatible with:
 - 4.2.1. tolerance of students' academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, falsification of data, falsification of exam or test results, use of external assistance during the exam or test, submission of someone else's written work as their own, writing essays for money, submission of written work on a subject other than required).
 - 4.2.2. mechanical evaluation of all or most students' work with the highest or lowest scores, obviously regardless of the level of competencies they have acquired.
 - 4.2.3. demand to provide personal information to assess the student's knowledge.
 - 4.2.4. linking assessment of academic achievements to services of an academic or non-academic nature or student participation in activities not related to the module (subject) being taught, such as political, social, etc.
 - 4.2.5. evaluation of students' works according to personal or ideological attitudes, and not taking into account the quality of submitted works or competencies demonstrated by students.
 - 4.2.6. disclosure of comments on the student's written work not submitted for the public defence to third parties.
 - 4.2.7. failure to provide appropriate facilities for students with special needs (e.g., visual, hearing, mobility or other disabilities) to perform tasks during assessment.

5. STANDARDS OF ETHICS FOR STUDENTS

- 5.1. University students and unclassified students, recognizing the values of their studies, undertake to adhere to the principles of academic ethics. The principle of academic integrity of the student and unclassified student is violated by plagiarism, fraud, falsification, coercion, bribery, and other cases of misconduct.
 - 5.1.1. Plagiarism, i.e., presenting ideas or thoughts of other people as one's own. Cases of plagiarism include:
 - 5.1.1.1. presentment of the text written by other people without quotation marks or other indication of quoting (e.g., separate paragraph, italics) with no reference to the source.
 - 5.1.1.2. verbatim transcripts of other authors, which make up the bulk of the work, indicating the sources, but without providing the student's own thoughts, summaries, discussions or insights.
 - 5.1.1.3. using retold or quoted text, illustrative material or data without reference to the source.
 - 5.1.1.4. using a translated text and submitting it together with the cited authors as their own.
 - 5.1.2. Cheating during a colloquium, credit test, examination, etc. Cases of cheating include:
 - 5.1.2.1. cribbing or knowingly allowing another student to crib.
 - 5.1.2.2. using cribs, (online) texts on smartphones or other unauthorized devices.
 - 5.1.2.3. presenting a written work of someone else as one's own.
 - 5.1.2.4. submitting the same written work in more than one course.
 - 5.1.2.5. performing an assignment for another person or using someone else's work as one's own.
 - 5.1.2.6. providing a false or fictional source, source page or date of visit to a website.
 - 5.1.2.7. citing sources that the student has not read.
 - 5.1.2.8. falsification of research data.
 - 5.1.2.9. putting less effort into group work in anticipation of equal treatment of group members.
 - 5.1.3. Cases of forgery/ falsification:
 - 5.1.3.1. forging teachers' signatures, certificates, other documents.
 - 5.1.3.2. falsification of the data or results of academic assignments (laboratory, course papers and other works).
 - 5.1.4. Helping another person to commit a dishonest academic act by plagiarising, cheating or falsifying.
 - 5.1.5. Bribery – offering or giving a remuneration for academic services (individually or together with other persons).
 - 5.1.6. Coercion for a better or positive evaluation. Cases of coercion include:
 - 5.1.6.1. when the teacher is constantly disturbed in order to force him / her to write a positive or better grade.
 - 5.1.6.2. when the teacher is disturbed in order to force him / her let the student defend the final thesis (project work) or when the commission is disturbed in order to achieve a positive evaluation of the final thesis (project work) during the approbation in the department, even though more than half of the appointed consultation time has not been used or the teacher has not been consulted.

- 5.1.6.3. when administrative staff are addressed in order to force them to make an exception for a student in violation of the normative documents of the University or the established procedure.
- 5.1.7. The principle of responsibility of the student and unclassified student is violated by unethical behaviour that damages the personal reputation and image of the University: drinking alcohol, using drugs or other harmful habits; harsh or violent behaviour; arrogant attitude in communication with teachers or administrative staff, obvious disregard for the material taught, disrespectful treatment of the University staff, failure to follow their written or verbal instructions, unauthorized access to University premises, etc.
- 5.1.8. The principle of tolerance and respect for the human dignity is violated by:
 - 5.1.8.1. disrespect for the opinion of other members of the University community, intolerance towards their personal qualities.
 - 5.1.8.2. public discussion and dissemination of confidential information about other members of the University community.
 - 5.1.8.3. promotion and tolerance of all forms of discrimination and harassment, non-compliance with the principle of equal opportunities in communication and cooperation.
- 5.1.9. The principles of responsible use of the University resources by the student and unclassified student, as well as the principles of environmental protection are violated by improper use and misuse of the University property, and non-compliance with the established procedure for behaviour in the University premises and territory.

6. STANDARDS OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCHERS

- 6.1. The aim of the University is to harmoniously develop scientific knowledge in various fields, to carry out international research and experimental development of the highest level, to prepare internationally recognised scientists, scientific publications, and to cooperate with Lithuanian and foreign partners in the field of science. In pursuit of these objectives, research must be based on the ideals of honest research and the pursuit of truth, and the conduct of members of the academic community must be socially responsible, not detrimental to or precondition for harm to researchers, society or the environment. The achievements of the members of the academic community must be adequately assessed according to the results of scientific activity. This provision of academic integrity is violated by:
 - 6.1.1. planning and conducting studies on humans and animals without the approval of the relevant research ethics committee.
 - 6.1.2. planning and conducting research without complying with the ethical requirements of social and biomedical research.
 - 6.1.3. falsifying or manipulating empirical research data.
 - 6.1.4. deliberately incorrect citation, presenting the theses that are beneficial for the writer rather than the conclusions or main results indicated in the source.
 - 6.1.5. deliberate concealing of data obtained that contradict the research hypothesis.
 - 6.1.6. deliberate presentation of misleading information about the methodology of empirical research.
 - 6.1.7. stealing or intentionally corrupting empirical research data, software, samples of empirical materials and manuscript.
 - 6.1.8. plagiarising, i.e., submitting the text, idea or invention of another person as one's own.
 - 6.1.9. submission of the same or very similar manuscript for publication in several scientific publications (self-plagiarism). Parts of the published work can be used to fulfil the requirements for the degree of final theses and doctoral dissertation at the institution. Parts

of the final work and dissertation may be published in accordance with the rules of research work ethics.

- 6.1.10. concealment of information in publications and research reports about the financial support used in the research.
- 6.1.11. exclusion of a person who meets the authorship criteria from the list of co-authors (authorship criteria: approval of the final version of the work submitted for publication; taking responsibility for proper analysis and resolution of any issues related to the accuracy or academic integrity of the work; at least two other criteria: development of research ideas and design, data collection and processing, data analysis and interpretation, writing, critical rewriting or improvement of individual parts of the work or chapters);
- 6.1.12. incorrect indication of the institution to which the author of the research belongs or concealment of information about the institution.
- 6.1.13. bias in reviewing research papers or projects.
- 6.1.14. incorrect and tendentious criticism and intentional debasement of peer's work for personal antipathy, competition, political or other reasons not pertaining to the professional character of the research work under evaluation.
- 6.1.15. making a recommendation to award a scientific degree, academic title, award or the recognition of research activity in other forms based on a personal or political relation but not on efficient evaluation of the submitted work and the candidate's professional qualities.

7. FINAL PROVISIONS. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE

- 7.1. Every member of the University community who has started working, holding a position or studying at the University shall be aware of the Code of Academic Ethics of Lithuanian Sports University.
- 7.2. Every member of the University community undertakes to comply with the norms and principles of conduct set forth in the Code, and not to tolerate its violations inside or outside the University.
- 7.3. The Code and the Regulations of the Academic and Professional Ethics Commission are published on the University website.
- 7.4. The Code shall be supervised, and its implementation ensured by the Academic and Professional Ethics Commission approved by the Senate, which operates in accordance with the regulations and rules of procedure approved by the Senate.
- 7.5. Members of the community should report any violation of the Code to the Chair of the Academic and Professional Ethics Commission by sending a notification from the University email to: etika@lsu.lt

Chairman of the Senate

Vidas Bružas

Secretary of the Senate

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