



# IVSA Code of Conduct

## Mission statement

The mission of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) is: *"To benefit the animals and people of the world by harnessing the potential and dedication of veterinary students to promote the international application of veterinary skills, education and knowledge."*

## Introduction

This code of conduct has been created for IVSA and all its members.

It aims to formulate the parameters of behaviour:

- to create a comfortable, positive, and safe environment and atmosphere for all participants of every cultural background.
- to be in accordance with the principles and values of IVSA.
- to achieve the best outcomes for all events organised by IVSA and its subsidiaries (for example congresses, symposia and exchanges).

In short each person is required and expected to take responsibility for their actions and to act respectfully, with dignity and consideration for each other.

General rules and behaviour

- Be **aware** and **respectful** of other cultures.
  - Every culture and each individual has different values, personalities and opinions. Hence, it is important to be open minded and act in a way that is positive for everyone. For example: any activity involving nudity or crude acts during an IVSA event is prohibited.
- Take **care** of yourself and others
  - This includes your wellbeing: try to get enough sleep, eat and drink enough and see to it that others do the same. Also try to watch your and other people's belongings.
- **Participate** in General Assemblies (GA) and be **supportive** of others.
  - Creating a positive environment in GA is important, also participation is required to make good and informed decisions to ensure that GA's finish on time.
- Be **on time** to any events being held.
- Follow the instructions of the Organising Committee (OC) and IVSA Officials
- Be considerate towards other delegates.
- Do not cause disruptions at any time during the event.
- Do not act in any way that may harm the reputation of the IVSA, the hosting Member Organisation, other organisations involved, or fellow veterinary students.
- Do not act in any way that may cause damage to the venue and clean up after yourself.
- Do not post any public videos, pictures or statements on social media that could damage the reputation of IVSA, any of its members or associated organisations. Additionally, if any of these are posted on social media, consent must be obtained from all parties concerned.





- Smoking / drinking alcoholic beverages is forbidden within formal IVSA meetings. There will be designated smoking areas for use in breaks.
- Consumption of alcohol in the evening programmes should be done so in moderation and not affect the involvement of the participant in the event.
  - *See also the point about participation*
- Adhere to the local laws considering illicit substances.
- Sexual harassment will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the event.

## Local Laws

- Every participant must respect and comply with all applicable National, Federal, State, and local laws. Any illegal activity will be reported to the proper authorities and subject to the applicable jurisdictional actions.
- The following actions or behaviours are forbidden at all IVSA events and may result in removal from the event and alerting of the local government:
  - Use of illegal drugs
  - Damage or theft of property
  - Underaged drinking (defined by local legislation)
  - Violence or threat of violence, intimidation or harassment to any party
  - Discrimination towards any other person, sexual harassment, racial slurs or Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) based discrimination
  - Consuming alcohol in formal meeting rooms
  - Smoking inside any formal or informal meeting room (including during all social programs)

## Raising concerns

- If you see or feel that one of these rules is being broken, please talk to one of the OC, IVSA Officials or EXCO as they will be able to help you.
- You can send an email to [codeofconduct@ivsa.org](mailto:codeofconduct@ivsa.org) if you have any questions or would like to raise any concerns.

## Code violation

Consequences of violating the code of conduct may include:

- An official warning from OC or EXCO.
- Removal from the event.
- Ban from participation in future IVSA events

