

Dealing with Professionally Unethical Behavior

As is common with most professions, AASP, as a leader in the field of sport and exercise psychology has developed a code of ethics to help guide members' professional behaviors. This code of ethics is intended as a guide for member behaviors. It should be noted that AASP as an organization is not in the position to be an enforcement agency. Therefore, the organization does not take steps to track members' ethical behaviors and make initial judgments about the appropriateness of such behaviors. However, the organization takes the position that there may be times when members' behaviors should result in censure and/or removal of certification if such initial judgments have been made by other institutions, licensing bodies and/or organizations.

All members of AASP agree to practice their professional behaviors (i.e., teaching, research, practice and service) within the guidelines of the AASP Code of Ethics. In the instance that a member of AASP has behaved in a manner that is considered to be in opposition to the ethical standards of the organization, and this behavior also results in termination from employment or program of study, loss of professional licensure and/or censure from another professional organization, that member will be eligible for additional sanctions from AASP. Such decisions about possible ramifications to AASP members will be made by members of the Executive Board, Certification Committee and Ethics Committee.

AASP as an organization will not initiate such sanctions without having been informed about previous sanctions put in place by other organizations/institutions/licensing bodies. When members of the AASP Executive Board, Certification Committee or Ethics Committee are made aware of such inappropriate behaviors by members of the organization that have resulted in termination from employment or program of study, loss of professional licensure and/or censure from another professional organization, a meeting including the President, President Elect, Chairperson of the Certification Committee, Chairperson of the Ethics Committee, and Head of the Professional Standards Division will be called to discuss possible ramifications from AASP. Such ramifications might include loss of certification status, censure from organizational membership

and benefits and/or conference attendance. Such decisions will be based upon credible information gathered about the inappropriate behavior, the intensity of prior decisions of organizations/institutions/licensing bodies against this individual, and the perceived inappropriateness of the behavior in question. Furthermore, AASP takes the position that as a professional organization, it will take the responsibility of reporting any sanctions that they institute to relevant professional organizations, institutions and licensing bodies.

Inappropriate behaviors in all areas of professional practice are considered important to AASP and the field of sport and exercise psychology. However, certain inappropriate behaviors are likely to lead different types of sanctions. As such, inappropriate behavior in the practice domain are most likely to lead to the loss of certification status for one or more years for those individuals who are AASP Certified Consultants. Such inappropriate behaviors in the practice domain may also lead to the suspension or loss of future certification eligibility from AASP. Inappropriate behaviors in the areas of teaching, research and service will likely result in a loss or suspension of membership status, membership benefits, and/or the ability to attend annual/regional conferences. However, inappropriate behaviors in these areas may also lead to suspension or loss of certification or future certification privileges.