



Society of American Fight Directors

Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

The Society of American Fight Directors maintains the highest standards of ethical conduct between teachers and students. The following code provides a basis for individual conduct both in and out of the classroom:

1. The Teacher offers a learning environment that nurtures student potential by providing excellent instruction without personal bias or prejudice, encouraging diverse points of view, and administering an honest assessment of each student's strengths and challenges.
2. The Teacher engages in practices aimed to ensure the physical, psychological and emotional security of all students and makes every effort to protect students from conditions harmful to learning, health or safety.
3. The Teacher speaks and acts toward students with respect and dignity, protects each student from exposure to embarrassment, disparagement and harassment, and delivers pedagogy in ways that avoid punishment or inappropriate competition.
4. The Teacher upholds the rights of all students to be treated with equity and without discrimination against age, race, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, political convictions, social class, financial status, disability, or any other factors irrelevant to the learning experience. No student shall be afforded unfair advantages or privileges.
5. The Teacher recognizes the importance of employing respectful boundaries of communication with students. The Teacher may make appropriate physical contact for the purpose of effective pedagogy after receiving a student's consent. The Teacher will not make sexual advances toward a student nor enter into a sexual or intimate emotional relationship that compromises the learning experience. If there is a previous or existing such relationship between the Teacher and a student, an inherent conflict of interest arises. The Teacher must disclose this relationship so that a resolution to this conflict of interest can be sought and provisions made to recuse the Teacher from evaluating the student's work.
6. The Teacher respects all students' legal and personal rights, personal freedom and privacy. The Teacher will preserve students' anonymity if discussing aspects of their work with others and will not disclose confidential information without consent from the student, unless required by law.
7. The Teacher acknowledges the authority of the teaching position and refrains from exploiting this privileged relationship with any student for private advantage, for gaining restricted information, or for influencing the student on matters outside the domain of the class.
8. The Teacher strives to ensure all students receive the best possible learning experience by adopting the highest professional standards. These include but are not limited to: maintaining one's skills and understanding of the craft, staying informed of advancements in the field, and conducting class in a professional manner, including refraining from teaching while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

February 8, 2016, SAFD Special Committee on a Code of Ethics.