THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSIO- THERAPISTS (IAP)

ELECTION RULES AND MANDATORY CODE OF CON DUCT

Central Executive Committee and State Branch Elections, 2027–2030

Issued by: The Competent Election Authority ,The Indian Association of Physiotherapists **Applicable to :** All contesting candidates, their authorised representatives, campaign volunteers and participating members, subject to the authority of the IAP Memorandum and duly approved election directions.

1. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.1. The election of the Indian Association of Physiotherapists shall be conducted with dignity, fair- ness, transparency, professional integrity and mutual respect.

1.2. The purpose of the election is to select competent leaders who can strengthen IAP, advance the physiotherapy profession and work for the welfare of its members.

1.3. Every candidate shall promote their own qualifications, experience, achievements, vision, plans and proposed contributions rather than attempting to damage the reputation of another candidate.

1.4. The election shall not be used as a platform for personal hostility, factionalism, character assassination, defamatory allegations or activities that undermine the unity and institutional reputation of IAP.

1.5. These rules shall be read together with the IAP Memorandum, 2024, its Election Mandatory Protocol, applicable resolutions and directions issued by the competent election authority.

2. POSITIVE CAMPAIGNING SHALL BE THE STANDARD

2.1. **Every candidate shall conduct a positive, issue-based and professional election campaign.**

2.2. Candidates may campaign by explaining:
a. Their professional qualifications and experience;
b. Their contribution to IAP and the physiotherapy profession;

c. Their vision, priorities and proposed plans for the 2027–2030 term;

d. Their ideas for membership development, professional education, research, employment opportunities, member welfare and organisational growth; and

e. Their commitment to transparent, accountable and inclusive leadership.

2.3. Candidates shall focus on what they intend to contribute to IAP rather than on personal criticism of opponents.

2.4. Candidates shall not make personal attacks, use insulting or humiliating language, circulate derogatory nicknames, or publish material intended to ridicule or demean another candidate or member.

2.5. Differences of opinion regarding policies, professional issues or proposed programmes may be expressed respectfully and factually. Such disagreement shall not be converted into a personal at- tack.

2.6. No candidate shall encourage supporters to engage in hostile, abusive or defamatory campaigning on their behalf.

3. PROHIBITION ON UNJUSTIFIED OR UNSEEMLY CRITICISM

3.1. In accordance with the conflict-of-interest provisions of the IAP Memorandum, members shall refrain from unjustified or unseemly criticism of fellow members and the parent organisation.

3.2. During the election period, candidates and their campaign teams shall not: a. Make personal allegations.

b. Spread rumours, insinuations or unverified claims concerning another candidate's personal life, professional integrity or conduct;

c. Circulate defamatory, malicious, fabricated or misleading statements concerning candidates, existing office bearers, former office bearers or IAP;

d. Attribute improper motives, dishonesty or misconduct to another person without a substantiated basis;

e. Use abusive, threatening, humiliating or inflammatory language in speeches, messages, posters, circulars, meetings or online communications; or

f. Encourage members to boycott, harass, intimidate or publicly shame a candidate because of a personal disagreement.

3.3. No candidate shall use an election campaign as a substitute for the formal complaint, disciplinary or dispute-resolution procedures provided by IAP.

4. TRUTHFULNESS AND RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICA- TION

4.1. All campaign statements shall be truthful, fair, relevant and capable of reasonable verification. 4.2. Candidates shall not knowingly publish or circulate false claims regarding:
a. Their own qualifications, membership duration, eligibility or previous achievements;

b. The eligibility, nomination or professional credentials of another candidate;

c. Decisions, achievements, legal proceedings, financial matters or official policies of IAP; or

d. The position of any candidate or office bearer on an organisational matter.

4.3. No candidate shall falsely claim endorsement, support or approval from the IAP CEC, a State Branch, a committee, a government authority or another organisation.

4.4. Candidates shall not present personal opinions, proposals or campaign promises as official decisions or policies of IAP unless duly authorised.

4.5. Any correction of a demonstrably false campaign statement should be made promptly through an appropriate channel. Where a violation is established, the competent authority may direct a correction or other proportionate remedial action, subject to its powers and applicable rules.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA, DIGITAL MESSAGES AND CAM- PAIGN MATERIAL

5.1. These conduct standards apply to all forms of campaigning, including WhatsApp groups, email, social media platforms, websites, videos, digital posters, recorded speeches, telephone messages and printed material.

5.2. Candidates and their supporters shall not circulate fabricated screenshots, manipulated documents, misleading recordings or edited material intended to deceive members or damage another candidate's reputation.

5.3. No candidate shall use another person's photograph, name, statement or professional identity in a misleading or derogatory manner.

5.4. Campaign messages shall not disclose private or confidential information about another member unless disclosure is lawfully authorised and relevant to a legitimate process.

5.5. Candidates shall not use fake accounts, impersonation, coordinated harassment or anonymous defamatory messages to influence the election.

5.6. Every candidate is expected to take reasonable steps to prevent persons acting under their direction or with their authorisation from engaging in prohibited campaigning.

5.7. Where a campaign message is circulated by an unauthorised third party, responsibility shall be determined on the available evidence. A candidate shall not automatically be held responsible solely because the message supports them.

6. NO INTIMIDATION, COERCION OR IMPROPER IN- DUCEMENTS

6.1. Every eligible member shall be free to exercise their voting rights without pressure, intimidation or interference.

6.2. Candidates and their supporters shall not threaten, coerce, harass or improperly pressure members to vote for or against any candidate.

6.3. No candidate shall offer an improper inducement or make a threat concerning membership benefits, professional opportunities, organizational positions or other benefits in exchange for a vote.

6.4. Candidates shall not obstruct another candidate's lawful campaign activities or interfere with members' ability to receive election information.

6.5. Members shall not be threatened with retaliation merely for supporting, voting for or expressing a preference for another candidate.

7. RESPECT FOR IAP AND ITS INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

7.1. Candidates shall maintain respect for IAP as the parent organisation and for its duly constituted bodies, office bearers and members.

7.2. Candidates may offer constructive criticism of policies, administration or proposed programmes in a factual and professional manner. Such criticism must not become unjustified or unseemly personal criticism or defamatory conduct.

7.3. No candidate shall falsely represent personal campaign material as an official IAP circular, election notice or CEC resolution.

7.4. The IAP name, logo, letterhead and other official identity materials shall not be used in campaign material in a manner that falsely implies official endorsement or approval. Any use requiring prior permission under the Memorandum or an applicable direction shall require that permission.

7.5. No candidate shall misuse IAP records, confidential communications, official resources or organisational information for an unauthorised purpose.

7.6. Candidates shall not knowingly circulate confidential election information, tamper with election documents or interfere with the proper functioning of the election authority.

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

8.1. Candidates shall comply with the conflict-of-interest provisions of the IAP Memorandum, 2024.

8.2. Candidates shall not engage in associations or activities with other physiotherapy organisations where such association or activity creates a conflict with IAP or is prohibited under the Memorandum or applicable rules.

8.3. Any affiliation or position that is to be disclosed, or that is materially relevant to an actual or potential conflict of interest, shall be disclosed to the competent authority.

8.4. Candidates shall not use the IAP election to promote a competing organisation in a manner that violates the Memorandum or creates a prohibited conflict of interest.

8.5. Questions concerning whether a particular affiliation constitutes a conflict of interest shall be considered by the competent authority under the Memorandum and applicable rules, based on the facts of the case.

9. FAIR ACCESS TO ELECTION INFORMATION AND VOTING

9.1. Election information shall be communicated in accordance with the Memorandum and directions of the competent election authority.

9.2. Under the Election Mandatory Protocol, each contesting candidate is entitled to the electoral- roll member list by email in Excel format on payment of the prescribed fee of ₹5,000, subject to the terms of the Memorandum.

9.3. Electoral-roll information shall be used only for legitimate election-related purposes and handled responsibly. It shall not be used for harassment, unrelated solicitation, unauthorised disclosure or other improper purposes.

9.4. Members entitled to vote shall follow the ballot instructions and voting procedure prescribed by the election authority.

9.5. As provided in the Memorandum, members shall mark their choice for each post in accordance with the ballot instructions. A ballot that fails to meet the prescribed requirements or has been altered or tampered with may be treated as invalid under the applicable protocol.

9.6. Any complaint concerning the electoral roll, ballot, counting or result shall be submitted through the applicable election procedure.

to iapelectioncommittee27@physiotherapyindia.org

10. NOMINATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

10.1. Every candidate shall comply with the applicable eligibility and nomination requirements contained in the IAP Memorandum and the official election notification.

10.2. Each candidate must submit the prescribed affidavit along with the nomination. The Memorandum states that failure to submit the affidavit will disqualify the candidate from contesting.

10.3. A candidate may contest either the Central or the State election at one time, as provided in the Election Mandatory Protocol.

10.4. The applicable membership-duration requirements shall be observed: five years of IAP membership for a Central CEC post and ten years for the Central President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer posts. The Memorandum also states that a person with less than five years of membership is not eligible to contest any post.

10.5. Each elected member shall hold only one CEC post, whether at the Central or State level, as provided in the Memorandum.

10.6. Candidates shall provide accurate information and supporting documents requested by the competent election authority for verification of eligibility.

11. COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

11.1. A candidate or member who believes that these rules or the IAP Memorandum have been violated may submit a written complaint to the designated election authority.

11.2. Wherever reasonably possible, a complaint should identify:

a. The conduct complained of;
b. The date and relevant circumstances;
c. The person or persons alleged to be involved; and

d. Supporting documents, messages or other available evidence.

11.3. Complaints shall be made in good faith. Knowingly fabricated evidence or malicious allegations may themselves be considered under the applicable disciplinary provisions.

11.4. The competent authority shall consider complaints within its powers and in accordance with the Memorandum, applicable rules and any approved election procedure.

11.5. Before an adverse finding or disciplinary consequence is imposed, the person concerned should be informed of the substance of the allegation and given a reasonable opportunity to respond, consistent with the applicable rules and procedure.

11.6. No candidate shall declare another candidate guilty of misconduct merely because a complaint has been filed. Findings and consequences shall be determined by the competent authority.

12. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND CONSEQUENCES

12.1. Complains of election-related violations shall be referred to the competent authority for examination and action under the relevant

provisions. Any consequence affecting a nomination, candidature or election result must be supported by the applicable rules and the authority's lawful powers.

12.4. Depending on the applicable rules and the facts established, the competent authority may consider appropriate corrective or disciplinary measures, including a direction to remove or correct prohibited material, a formal warning, or referral for disciplinary proceedings or exclusion of candidate from the election process.

12.5. No additional penalty, automatic disqualification or automatic cancellation of election results shall be imposed solely under this Code unless authorised by the Memorandum, a validly adopted election rule or another applicable provision.

13. ELECTION AUTHORITY AND INTERPRETATION

13.1. The Chief Election Officer and other competent authorities shall perform their respective functions under the IAP Memorandum and the official election notification.

13.2. Election schedule, nomination deadline, withdrawal deadline, voting deadline, counting date or declaration of results shall be governed by the applicable Memorandum of 2024 and the formally issued election notification of 2027–2030 election.

13.3. Any question of interpretation, alleged violation or election dispute shall be referred to the authority designated under the applicable rules and procedures.

13.4. These Rules shall not override the IAP Memorandum, applicable law or a valid decision of the competent authority as per MOA 2024 of IAP. If a provision of this supplementary Code conflicts with a controlling provision, the controlling provision shall prevail.

14. MANDATORY UNDERTAKING BY EVERY CANDIDA- TE

Every contesting candidate shall sign the following undertaking, as part of the official election procedure:

#I have read and understood the IAP Memorandum, 2024, the Election Mandatory Protocol and the IAP Election Rules and Code of Conduct applicable to the 2027–2030 election.

I undertake to conduct a positive, factual and professional campaign; to promote my own qualifications, achievements and vision; to refrain from unjustified or unseemly criticism, personal attacks, defamatory or malicious statements, intimidation and misleading communications; to respect fellow candidates and members; to comply with the conflict-of-interest provisions; and to respect the integrity of the election process.

I understand that a complaint alleging a violation may be examined by the competent IAP authority and that any action taken against me shall be governed by the IAP Memorandum, applicable rules and prescribed procedure.”

Candidate’s Full Name: _____
IAP Membership Number: _____
Post Contested: _____
Central / State Election: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____