

Team 2537 Code of Ethics

In this document we aim to outline expected behaviors and ideas held within our team. All team members must abide by these moral rules and judgements to ensure a healthy workplace environment. It is of paramount importance that all team members show full understanding of the expectations and consequences if they fail to uphold the code of ethics.

A more complete guide for professional engineers can be found here:

<https://www.nspe.org/sites/default/files/resources/pdfs/Ethics/EthicsReferenceGuide.pdf>

Preamble

Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

I. Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the team.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for the team as faithful members.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Uphold equality in the workplace.
7. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

II. Rules of Practice

- 1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the team.**
 - a. If engineers' judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their leader or mentor and such other authority as may be appropriate.
 - b. Engineers shall participate in only those engineering endeavors that are in conformity with applicable standards.

- c. Engineers having knowledge of any alleged violation of this Code shall report thereon to appropriate professional bodies, and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.

2. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.

- a. Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.
- b. Engineers shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document not prepared under their direction and control.
- c. Engineers may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project and sign and seal the engineering documents for the entire project, provided that each technical segment is signed and sealed only by the qualified engineers who prepared the segment.

3. Engineers shall issue statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

- a. Engineers shall be objective and truthful in reports, statements, or documentation. They shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or documentation.
- b. Engineers may express technical opinions that are founded upon knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.
- c. Engineers shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on technical matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they have prefaced their comments by explicitly identifying the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking, and by revealing the existence of any interest the engineers may have in the matters.

4. Engineers shall act for the team as faithful members.

- a. Engineers shall disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest that could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their projects.
- b. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for work on the same project, or for work pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.

5. Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts.

- a. Engineers shall not falsify their qualifications or permit misrepresentation of their or their associates' qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments.
- b. Engineers shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any contribution to influence the consideration for awards. They shall not offer any gift or other valuable consideration in order to secure work.

6. Engineers shall uphold equality in the workplace.

- a. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, economic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- b. Engineers shall not engage in harassment, offensive behavior, or bullying behavior.
- c. Engineers shall report any such incidents to the appropriate mentor.
- d. Engineers who are found guilty of such grievances shall receive swift and appropriate punishment.

III. Professional Obligations

1. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

- a. Engineers shall acknowledge their errors and shall not distort or alter the facts.
- b. Engineers shall advise the team when they believe a project will not be successful.
- c. Engineers shall not attempt to attract an engineer from another team or subteam by false or misleading pretenses.
- d. Engineers shall not promote their own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession.
- e. Engineers shall treat all persons with dignity, respect, fairness, and without discrimination.

2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.

- a. Engineers are encouraged to participate in outreach events and work for the advancement of the safety, health, and well-being of their community.
- b. Engineers shall not participate in projects that are not in conformity with applicable engineering standards. If a leader or mentor insists on such unprofessional conduct, they shall notify the team captains and lead mentors and withdraw from further service on the project.
- c. Engineers are encouraged to extend public knowledge and appreciation of engineering and its achievements.
- d. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and should keep current in their specialty fields by engaging in projects, participating in continuing education courses, reading in the technical literature, and attending meetings and seminars.

3. Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the team.

- a. Engineers shall avoid the use of statements containing a material misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact.
- b. Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may advertise for recruitment of team members.

- c. Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may prepare articles for newsletters and public media, but such articles shall not imply credit to the author for work performed by others.

4. Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests.

- a. Engineers shall not accept financial or other considerations, including free engineering designs, from material or equipment suppliers for specifying their product.
- b. Engineers shall not accept commissions or allowances, directly or indirectly, from other teams in connection with work for which the engineer is responsible.

5. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain leadership positions by untruthfully criticizing other engineers, or by other improper or questionable methods.

- a. Engineers shall not request, propose, or accept a project under circumstances in which their judgment may be compromised.
- b. Engineers in leadership positions shall accept additional work only to the extent consistent with policies of the team and in accordance with ethical considerations.
- c. Engineers shall not, without consent, use equipment, supplies, laboratory, or office facilities of the team to carry on outside private practice.

6. Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the reputation, prospects, practice, or recruitment of other engineers. Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to the proper authority for action.

- a. Engineers in leadership positions are entitled to review and evaluate the work of other engineers when so required by their duties.
- b. Engineers in sales or operations are entitled to make engineering comparisons of represented products with products of other teams.

7. Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional activities, provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification for services arising out of their practice for other than gross negligence, where the engineer's interests cannot otherwise be protected.

- a. Engineers shall conform with FRC laws in the practice of engineering.
 - i. Gracious Professionalism
 - ii. Cooperation
 - iii. <https://www.firstinspires.org/about/code-of-conduct>
- b. Engineers shall not use association as a “cloak” for unethical acts.

8. Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.

- a. Engineers shall, whenever possible, name the person or persons who may be individually responsible for designs, inventions, writings, or other accomplishments.
- b. Engineers using designs supplied by another team member recognize that the designs remain the property of said member and may not be duplicated by the engineer for others without express permission.