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# Subscriber Conduct Rules

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# Subscriber Conduct Rules

Subscribers of the British Psychological Society have chosen to align themselves with a learned society and professional body which seeks to set high standards of professional conduct. For the protection of the reputation of psychology and the Society, these Subscriber Conduct Rules (rules) set out our shared expectations of subscribers' behaviour.

## A. INTRODUCTION

1. The British Psychological Society (Society) is a learned society and a charity, registered in England and Wales with number 229642 and in Scotland with number SC039452.
2. The Society is incorporated by Royal Charter. Its governing document is the Royal Charter and Statutes, as amended from time to time.
3. The Society's objects (charitable purposes) are set out in the Royal Charter as follows. 'The objects of the Society shall be: to promote the advancement and diffusion of a knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of Members of the Society by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge.' (Royal Charter Article 3).
4. The Trustees are the governing body of the Society.
5. Under the Royal Charter and Statutes:
  - a. 'The Board of Trustees may at any time, terminate the rights, privileges and benefits of Subscribers.' (Statutes 11(3)).
  - b. 'Subscribers shall not use the description 'Subscriber of The British Psychological Society' in any context.' (Statutes 11(4)).

## B. SCOPE OF THE SUBSCRIBER CONDUCT RULES

1. The Subscriber Conduct Rules do not repeat obligations placed on subscribers by the general law, for example, in the areas of discrimination and employment.
2. The Society is not a statutory regulator. Where a subscriber is regulated by a statutory regulator such as the Health and Care Professions Council, the Society will defer to any findings by the regulator relating to the Subscriber's fitness to practise.

## C. RULES

1. Subscribers must not act in a way that is contrary to the objects of the Society as set out in section A3 above.
2. Subscribers shall not use the description 'Subscriber of The British Psychological Society' in any context.' (Statutes 11(4)).
3. Subscribers must not act in a way that damages, or is likely to damage, the standing of psychology or the psychological professions or the reputation of the Society.
4. Subscribers must uphold their fitness to be associated with the Society by not incurring the following:

- a. conviction, or caution, for a criminal offence of relevance to psychology or the Society;
  - b. imposition of a sanction by the HCPC;
  - c. imposition of a sanction by a relevant competent authority, professional body, tribunal, or employer (through formal procedures) of relevance to psychology or the Society.
5. Subscribers must notify the Society in writing within one month of any of the circumstances referred to in Rule 4 occurring to them.
  6. Subscribers must not claim to be Members of the Society, and must not use misleading titles or descriptions.
  7. Subscribers must not have provided false or misleading information in an application to become a Subscriber of the Society or an application to join a register.
  8. Subscribers must pay their subscriptions within the payment period.

#### **D. SANCTIONS THAT MAY BE IMPOSED FOR BREACH OF THE SUBSCRIBER CONDUCT RULES**

1. A Subscriber who breaches Rule 8 will be removed from Subscribership of the Society.
2. In the case of any other breach of the Subscriber Conduct Rules, the Society may take any of the following actions:
  - a. Reprimand a Subscriber. Reprimands may be accompanied by recommendations for reparative or developmental actions.
  - b. Suspend a Subscriber. A period of suspension will not normally exceed five years. Suspensions may be accompanied by conditions for readmission to the society at the end of a period of suspension.
  - c. Expel a Subscriber. A Subscriber who has been expelled may only rejoin the Society in exceptional circumstances.

#### **E. PROCEDURE**

1. Where a concern is raised about the conduct of a subscriber, the Procedure set out for the Member Conduct Rules will apply.

#### **REFERENCES**

British Psychological Society (2021). *Member Conduct Rules*. Leicester: Author.  
[www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/member-conduct-rules](http://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/member-conduct-rules)



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