

Code of Conduct

Part A – Applicable to all members

1. Purpose

This Code sets the minimum standards of ethical, professional and lawful conduct expected of all PAA members.

Compliance with this Code is a condition of membership.

Members must act with integrity, professionalism, competence, respect and accountability.

2. Compliance with Professional Framework

Members must comply with:

- The PAA Scope of Practice
- The PAA Standards of Practice
- All mandatory membership requirements
- Applicable Commonwealth, state and territory legislation

Failure to comply with these documents may constitute a breach of this Code.

3. Scope of Practice

Members must:

- Practise within their education, training and experience
- Clearly communicate their professional role and limitations
- Refer clients to appropriately qualified health practitioners when required

Members must not:

- Diagnose medical conditions
- Provide medical treatment beyond their competence
- Misrepresent their qualifications, registration or authority

4. Client Safety and Duty of Care

Members must:

- Prioritise client safety and wellbeing
- Obtain informed consent
- Monitor client response and modify services where necessary
- Deliver services appropriate to the individual

5. Evidence-Informed Practice

Members must:

- Practise in a manner informed by credible evidence where available
- Communicate benefits and limitations accurately

5. Evidence-Informed Practice (contd.)

Members must not:

- Overstate evidence or certainty of outcomes
- Present anecdote as scientific fact

6. Claims and Representations

Members must ensure all communications comply with Australian Consumer Law.

Members must not:

- Claim or imply that Pilates can cure disease, injury or medical conditions
- Make false, misleading or unsubstantiated claims
- Guarantee outcomes
- Represent Pilates as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment
- Attempt to dissuade a client from seeking or continuing care from a registered medical practitioner or other appropriate health professional
- Misrepresent services for rebate or insurance purposes

Members providing rebate-eligible services must comply with all applicable insurer requirements and PAA Health Fund Provider Requirements.

7. Advertising and Marketing

Advertising, social media and public communications must:

- Be accurate and verifiable
- Reflect qualifications and professional role
- Avoid exploiting vulnerability or fear

Members must not misuse PAA membership status or logos.

8. Professional Conduct and Financial Integrity

Members must:

- Treat clients, colleagues and stakeholders with respect
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries
- Disclose or manage conflicts of interest

Members must not:

- Financially exploit clients
- Offer or accept inducements, commissions or gifts in exchange for client referrals

9. Privacy and Confidentiality

Members must:

- Comply with privacy and data protection laws
- Maintain accurate, secure and confidential client records

10. Workplace Safety and Hygiene

Members must:

- Comply with workplace health and safety obligations
- Maintain appropriate professional indemnity and public liability insurance
- Maintain a safe and hygienic practice environment
- Implement infection prevention measures appropriate to the setting and applicable public health requirements
- Hold and maintain legally required clearances, including Working With Children Checks and Working With Vulnerable People Checks where applicable

11. Integrity and Association Responsibilities

Members must:

- Act honestly and in good faith in dealings with PAA
- Not engage in conduct that brings the profession or Association into disrepute
- Cooperate with PAA complaints and disciplinary processes
- Notify PAA of matters affecting membership eligibility

12. Breaches

Breaches of this Code may result in education requirements, conditions on membership, suspension or termination in accordance with PAA procedures.

Part B – Additional Requirements for Health Fund and Rebate-Eligible Services

This Part applies only where a member provides, advertises, or supports services that are claimed or intended to be claimed through a private health insurer, compensable scheme or third-party payer.

Health Fund and Rebate Compliance

Members must:

- Comply with all applicable insurer, scheme and third-party payer requirements
- Only claim or support claims for services that meet eligibility criteria
- Use correct item codes, descriptors and class ratios
- Ensure services are delivered by appropriately qualified providers

Members must not:

- Misrepresent the nature, format, supervision, duration or delivery of services
- Encourage or assist clients to submit false or inaccurate claims
- Claim rebates for services that do not meet insurer requirements

Compliance with this Code is a condition of PAA membership. Breaches of this Code may result in education requirements, conditions on membership, suspension or termination, in accordance with PAA constitutional procedures.