

Speaker Code of Conduct

Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy & Surgery Society

1. Introduction

The Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy Society (AGES) is committed to fostering an environment that promotes academic freedom, freedom of expression, and respectful discourse. This Speaker Code of Conduct outlines the rights, responsibilities, and expected behaviours of speakers at AGES conferences.

2. Speaker Rights and Responsibilities

Speakers have the right to express views and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds within the law, including those that may be considered offensive by some. However, speakers are required to recognise that freedom of speech, thought, and expression come with responsibilities. When expressing ideas or planning activities where differing ideas are likely to be aired, speakers are required to consider the potential impact on individuals or groups within the AGES community who may be affected by the subject matter, either directly or indirectly.

3. Academic Freedom of Expression

AGES is committed to promoting academic freedom and freedom of speech within the law. Speakers are encouraged to engage in intellectual inquiry, express their opinions and beliefs, and contribute to public debate in relation to their subjects of study and research. However, this freedom does not extend to a duty to protect any person from feeling offended or shocked or insulted by the lawful speech of another.

4. Expected Behaviours

Speakers are expected to adhere to the following behaviours:

- Respect the rights and dignity of all participants.
- Avoid any form of discrimination, harassment, or violence.
- Refrain from making defamatory statements.
- Ensure that their speech does not incite violence or break the law.

5. Lawful Behaviours

Speakers must ensure that their speech is lawful. This includes not engaging in speech that is likely to humiliate or intimidate other persons and is intended to have either or both of those effects. The content of the speech should not be unlawful or prejudice the fulfilment by AGES of its duty to foster the wellbeing of staff and attendees.

6. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Non-compliance with this Speaker Code of Conduct may result in the speaker being asked to leave the conference. In severe cases, the speaker may be barred from future AGES events.

7. Action

Speakers who believe that their speech could potentially contravene this code of conduct are strongly encouraged to contact the organising committee or a member of the AGES Board in advance of the meeting to discuss the relevant issues.

8. Conclusion

AGES is committed to fostering an environment that respects the rights and dignity of all participants. By adhering to this Speaker Code of Conduct, speakers can contribute to a respectful, inclusive, and productive conference.