

# Virginia Government Simulation Code of Conduct

## Article I Simulation Attire

### Section 1: Dress Code.

All legislators are expected to maintain a professional appearance (business formal) that reflects the dignity and decorum of their position. Professional business attire appropriate for the General Assembly must be worn at all times. It is the procedure of the Virginia Government Simulation that all participants should be neatly and appropriately dressed at all times while engaged in the work of the General Assembly.

### Section 2: Business Formal Dress Code.

Delegates must wear business attire when participating in **all** Virginia Government Simulation activities and be free from distracting odors. This includes, but is not limited to, suit jackets, ties, dresses, skirts, shoes, etc. that are clean and free from rips or tears. Per the rules of the Virginia General Assembly, masculine presenting delegates must wear suit jackets and a tie (or bowtie) when at the Capitol building. Participants will dress in a fashion that promotes respect and the individual's dignity. For example, jeans (of any color), tank tops, t-shirts, flip-flops, opened-toed shoes, crocs, leggings, transparent fabrics, and tennis shoes are inappropriate attire.

- Skirts and dresses should be of a professional length, falling below the knee or no more than one to two inches above the knee.
- Please abstain from using strong perfumes and cologne, as they exacerbate many people's allergies.
- All participants, regardless of gender identity, should ensure their attire reflects professionalism and appropriateness for the occasion.

Participants must be neatly attired, well-groomed, and present a professional appearance. Fashion and styles should be conservative.

- Personal cleanliness and grooming are required.

Exceptions pertaining to accidents may be permitted by faculty discretion under these circumstances

- An accident is only qualified to be as such if it occurs on the way to or while at

the simulation itself.

- Accidents would be included as any form of tear, spill, or other mishap affecting already proper WBA for that delegate, which would violate the current rules, but was not done intentionally.

- If the accident is deemed by staff or by leaders of both party caucuses to be too offensive the delegate will be referred to the proper action regarding the offense as per the Business Formal Dress Code section of the code of conduct.

No hats or sunglasses are to be worn inside any building and/or chambers of the capital building and/or the parameters of all buildings that host and are actively hosting GSP.

- Cultural and religious attire is permitted, provided it aligns with the professional nature of the legislative environment.

No member shall display any lapel pins, buttons, or any attire that attaches externally to a person's clothing that displays a political message or is sponsored by a political candidate, organization, group, or party during the entire duration of the simulation.

- No participant shall wear any clothing, hats, or attire that displays a political message or is sponsored by a political candidate, organization, group, or party during the entire duration of the simulation.

### **Section 3: Religious and Medical Exemptions.**

Religious and Medical exceptions may be permitted under the following guidelines

#### **A. Religious Accommodation.**

Participants whose sincerely held religious beliefs require specific attire, head coverings, grooming practices, or accessories shall be permitted to wear such items, provided that:

1. The attire does not contain political messaging or symbols prohibited under this Code of Conduct; and
2. The attire maintains a professional appearance appropriate for the legislative environment.

#### **B. Medical Accommodation.**

Participants with documented medical conditions that necessitate deviations from

the standard dress code—such as footwear modifications, fabric accommodations, mobility-related attire, or avoidance of certain materials or scents—shall be granted reasonable modifications, provided that the attire remains as professional in appearance as reasonably possible.

#### C. Process for Accommodation.

1. A participant requesting a religious or medical exemption must notify the faculty in writing prior to the start of the simulation or as soon as reasonably possible.
2. For medical exemptions, a brief statement from a licensed medical provider may be required solely to verify the necessity of the accommodation; no diagnosis or confidential medical details may be demanded.
3. Faculty shall review accommodation requests promptly and approve reasonable modifications that do not compromise the decorum, neutrality, or safety of the simulation.

#### D. Scope of Exemptions.

Approved religious or medical accommodations shall not be grounds for disciplinary action under the dress code. Accommodations may not be used to circumvent unrelated provisions of this Code of Conduct, including prohibitions on political messaging or inappropriate attire.

All members residing within the legislative chambers must hereunto abide by the rules of the dress code set forth by the assembly

## **Article II Personal Conduct**

### **Section 1: Nondiscrimination Policy**

No legislative body member may use derogatory or offensive remarks or language to members of the body or those who reside in each respective chamber.

- Derogatory and offensive remarks within the chambers are defined as profanity, rude and inappropriate gestures, stereotyping and caricaturing, sexually explicit remarks, and hostile and aggressive language.

- All members must refrain from acts of lying or spreading misinformation.

Honesty and integrity are essential to maintaining trust and credibility.

- No derogatory or offensive remarks shall be made based on a member's physical appearance, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, ability, nation of birth and/or origin, or any other personal identity.

Remarks made on one's dress, personal conduct, physical behavior, and other personal actions do not qualify as offensive or derogatory remarks.

All members shall respect and recognize all members' pronouns and identification of a person, as well as the name with which they identify. During the session, all members shall first be addressed as 'delegate' followed by the name they identify with.

- Online harassment and or behavior deemed as bullying and or behavior that causes personal mistreatment or harm to another, is not tolerated during the IDEP simulation program. Offenders shall face immediate expulsion from the program and future involvement with the program. Respect the property of the chamber as means to preserve the conditions, state of, and integral structure of the chamber's property.

A committee will be made up of a board attorney general, governor, and lieutenant governor to form as an executive board.

Members found in violation of the code of conduct will be subjected to the assembly and the decision will ultimately fall on the faculty.

No member shall use any gum products during session.

No member shall be under the influence or be in possession of any substance, which includes, but is not limited to, alcohol, unprescribed medication, drugs, or any substance in which possession, consumption, or influence of said substance is found illegal by state or federal law, as well as any nicotine products.

It is the responsibility of the members of the legislative body and their respective chambers to hold each other accountable and ensure that they are in compliance with the code of conduct.

## **Section 2: Prohibited Items and Actions.**

Theft of property from the chamber and/or property of faculty and/or property of all members will not be tolerated.

- All members are prohibited from opening and or altering materials on and within

the desks of the chambers.

Firearms, pocket knives, or any devices deemed as a weapon, or item is deemed to be used for the intent to cause bodily harm, are prohibited from entering the chamber as well as the capital building, as well as in the parameter of the capitol building, nor shall any member be in possession of firearms, pocket knives, or any devices deemed as a weapon, or item deemed to be used for the intent to cause bodily harm.

Facial jewelry or piercings worn during House sessions or other official functions shall be

small, unobtrusive, and non-distracting.

- Facial piercings should be kept to natural or neutral metal tones such as silver, gold, or similar subtle colors. Bright, fluorescent, or otherwise visually distracting colors or designs are discouraged.

- If a facial piercing cannot be easily removed due to medical, cultural, or permanent-closure reasons, the individual shall not be required to remove such jewelry. In such cases, reasonable effort should be made to ensure the jewelry remains as minimal and unobtrusive as practicable.

- Simulation faculty or advisors may privately offer guidance or recommendations regarding compliance with this rule to preserve professionalism and decorum within the simulation.

### **Article III Powers of the Faculty**

It is the responsibility of the faculty to maintain order similar to a de facto clerk, remain neutral and impartial, and act as an advisory board.

The faculty in no way whatsoever may influence or affect members of the legislative body or the legislative process.

A majority of the faculty has the executive power to expel members of the assembly. The responsibility for enforcing the dress code guidelines lies with the faculty as a whole, with the majority holding the authority to make enforcement decisions. No single faculty member may override the collective judgment regarding proper attire, and enforcement may include requesting a participant to return home to comply with the dress code.

The Institute of Democratic Empowerment and Pluralism (IDEP) at Virginia

Commonwealth University retains the responsibility of handling finances, public relations, maintenance of historical records, and other administrative tasks. IDEP bears no responsibility for stolen, lost, or broken property during or within the chambers of the assembly.