

# **Code of Conduct for Elections to the Board of Executive (BoE) of Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA), Noida.**

## **Introduction**

Due to unsavory controversies raised by few of the members in the ongoing election process for the BoE of AHA, the Chairman- Election Committee asked the president for framing the code of conduct for the elections of BoE. The President- AHA in turn has appointed an Ethics committee as under for framing the norms for conduct of the elections vide tele-communication dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and E-mail from AHA dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.

- Maj Gen R K Garg : Chairman
- Prof (Lt Col) Dayakar Thota : Member
- Prof J K Das : Member

The Chairman- Ethics committee invited suggestions from other members of the ethics committee and the committee assembled at AHA House, Noida on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 10:30 Hrs onwards and the deliberations are recorded below.

## **Background**

1. Absence of code of conduct for elections of Executive Body of AHA.
2. 2-3 WhatsApp groups of AHA members which have similar names as that of official site of AHA and using the official logo of AHA are presently in circulation in social media. No formal sanction or permission of AHA has been accorded/ obtained for opening such groups.
3. AHA has no existing guidelines for opening any WhatsApp groups.
4. No specific provisos exist in the MoA of AHA on circumstances in which cancellation of election can be resorted to.
5. As a custom/ practice whenever the elections for BoE are called for, the outgoing BoE members continue to hold the charge till the newly elected members take over. However, there is no specific mention regarding situations wherein the elections are countermanded and fresh elections are called for whole or part of BoE.

## **Preamble**

1. All AHA members and candidates for the elections must keep in mind that this is an election for an academic body cum association of Health System and allied discipline members and it is not a political election. Certain amount of maturity, dignity and decorum must be maintained by all at all levels.
2. Once some of the senior most members of AHA, including the patron and founding members, have expressed their opinions and given their valuable advice, the same should have been respected and abided by all.

## **Requirement**

1. Draft Code of conduct for elections of Executive body of AHA.
2. Written code of professional conduct and ethics is formulated.
3. Submit the same within 10 days i.e., on or before 10 April 18.

## **Code of Conduct**

### **General**

1. This Code of Conduct will come into force once the schedule of AHA elections is announced.
2. AHA not to endorse any particular candidate.
3. No contributions in cash or kind shall be made by the contestants towards AHA once elections are notified.
4. No Bill boards, pamphlets or canvassing material in any form shall be displayed at AHA offices or at the site of election.
5. If any voting malpractices are detected, the same should be reported to the Chairman-Election Committee officially and not resorted to communication through social media platforms.
6. No candidate shall pass any aspersions on the election committee. If felt aggrieved, he/she may make a representation to Chairman- Election Committee with copy to BoE for redressal.

## **Guide lines for electioneering communication**

1. (a) All the contestants shall carefully prepare bio data with their photograph on it and the format should contain details such as Name, DoB (Age), Educational Qualifications with names of Institutes, Present address, Phone No. & E-mail ID, Present Assignment, important positions held in the past and contribution to the field of Hospital Admin.
1. (b) The candidates must also spell out their plans for growth of AHA during their tenure, if elected, and the strategic plans proposed to be adopted, in not more than 200 words. All this should not be more than two pages.
2. Election Committee can verify the credentials claimed by the candidate. An official copy of the bio data of all contesting candidates can be published in the shape of a booklet (Hard or Soft copy) and officially communicated to each life member along with notification of date of election etc.
3. The candidates may canvas and solicit the votes from the electorate for their **SELF** only and not as a pre-formed panel. The election will be contested purely on individual basis. The violation of this principle shall be viewed very seriously and may lead to disqualification of the members concerned. *If overlooked, this practice may lead to groupism in AHA.*
4. The candidates may highlight their own achievements but should not use derogatory words and false allegations about other candidates without substantial proof or else they may attract disqualification.
5. Use of unparliamentary language/ character assassination of other contestants, members of BoE or Election Committee shall be viewed seriously leading even to disqualification of candidate.
6. Any alleged violation by the rival candidate should be reported to EC/ BoE only and not raised through any social media including WhatsApp groups.
7. No candidate shall use coercion, threats, blackmail (including emotional blackmail) or offer of rewards etc. to garner votes.
8. Violation of any of the guidelines shall attract disqualification of the concerned member from contesting the elections and in case of members other than contestants; they may attract suspension of their membership of AHA.
9. Cancellation or postponement of elections to the BoE rests with the Election Committee. Decision of Election Committee in all matters related to the process of election shall be final.

10. In case the elections are postponed/ countermanded, fresh elections must be held within two months and the BoE will continue to function till the election process is completed.

### **Use of Social Media for Canvassing**

1. Social Media will not be used for airing any controversies by any contestant or their supporters. Failure to abide by the aforesaid will invite disqualification of candidate from contesting election.
2. Only official social media groups including WhatsApp, wherein the respective EDs of AHA (national or the regional) are the Group Administrators, will be permitted for professional information dissemination. No canvassing or soliciting of votes will be allowed in the official groups/ website, the violation of which will lead to disqualification.
3. All the WhatsApp groups which are functioning currently in the name of, or, akin to AHA or using AHA emblem shall be closed forthwith and no new groups shall be formed without prior written approval from AHA Noida.

**Sd/-  
Prof. J K Das  
(Member)**

**Sd/-  
Prof. Dayakar Thota  
(Member)**

**Sd/-  
Maj. Gen. R K Garg  
(Chairman)**

**Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Place: Noida**