18th WORLD CONGRESS OF MUSIC THERAPY CODE OF CONDUCT

Approved by World Federation of Music Therapy Council, May 2026

INTEGRATING CORE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES INTO CONGRESS PRACTICE

1. Purpose & Scope

- State the guidelines for ensuring a safe, respectful, and ethically governed World Congress environment for all participants, presenters, volunteers, exhibitors, and organizers.
- Apply ethical principles of confidentiality, respect, integrity, accountability, justice, and inclusivity to all WCMT activities, both formal and informal.
- Affirm that this code applies to:
  - All congress sessions, workshops, meetings, social events, and online spaces.
  - In-person, digital, hybrid, and asynchronous participation.

2. Respectful Conduct and Inclusive Environment

- Participants must respect the dignity, autonomy, and cultural identities of all attendees, using inclusive language and behaviour.
- Harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or dismissive conduct is prohibited.
- Respectful dialogue is expected during presentations, panel discussions, and debates, even amid disagreement.
- Accessibility needs (mobility, sensory, communication, neurodiverse, etc.) must be accommodated by organizers and honoured by participants.
- Support the creation of a collaborative, welcoming environment that uplifts students, early-career attendees, and underrepresented groups.

3. Privacy & Confidentiality Protocols

- Participants must not share client-identifiable information or clinical material in presentations or informal discussions unless proper consent and ethics approvals have been secured. Presenters will denote which information has been given consent to be shared.
- Private conversations during the WCMT must not be disclosed without consent.
- Audio or video recording of sessions is prohibited unless explicitly approved by both presenters and WCMT organizers. Identifying information about any individuals should be redacted or censored to protect confidentiality.
- Presenters must use de-identified case material and adhere to relevant privacy laws and ethical standards for clinical information.

4. Professional Communication & Behaviour

- All participants are expected to behave professionally and ethically, recognizing their accountability to clients, colleagues, students, supervisees, institutions, and the profession as a whole.
- Interactions must be honest, respectful, and free from misleading self-promotion or misrepresentation of credentials.
- Exhibitors and sponsors must represent their products and services truthfully, avoiding exaggerated therapeutic claims.
- Participants should actively contribute to constructive dialogue, mentorship, and collegial exchange.

5. Ethical Research and Presentation Standards

- Presenters must ensure accuracy, authenticity, and proper attribution of research or clinical material.
- Research presented must comply with ethics review boards, informed consent protocols, and international research guidelines.
- Conflicts of interest or funding relationships must be openly disclosed during their presentation.
- All authors, collaborators, and contributors must be appropriately credited.
- Plagiarism, falsification, or manipulation of data or practice examples is strictly prohibited.

6. **Responsible Use of Social Media**
   - Participants must not post photos, videos, audio clips, or screenshots of presentations or individuals without explicit consent from those involved.
   - Social media posts must accurately represent the WFMT and WCMT according to their mission and values statements, as well as the music therapy profession, avoiding misinterpretation or misrepresentation.
   - Presenters who share clinical or participant-related information online must ensure anonymity or secure appropriate consent.
   - Discussions, workshops, or private exchanges must not be publicly disclosed without permission.
7. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
   - Presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, and facilitators must disclose any personal, financial, or professional conflicts of interest.
   - Marketing or product promotion must be clearly distinguished from educational or scientific content.
   - Participants should be transparent about relationships that may influence their perspectives or recommendations.
8. **Health, Safety & Minimizing Harm**
   - Presenters should consider the emotional and psychological impact of clinical material, music, or multimedia, using content warnings when appropriate.
   - WCMT activities must not place presenters or participants at physical, psychological, or ethical risk.
   - Participants must follow venue safety protocols and local regulations.
9. **Environmental Responsibility**
   - The WCMT commits to sustainable practices such as reducing waste, using and disposing digital materials, and responsible resource management.
   - Participants and exhibitors are encouraged to minimize environmental impact through conscious material use, recycling, and reduced consumption.
   - Organizations should consider environmental implications when planning displays, products, or materials.
10. **Reporting Mechanisms & Accountability**
    - Participants should promptly report unethical conduct, safety concerns, harassment, or violations of this Code to the designated Congress ombudsman or ethics officers
    - Reports will be handled confidentially, respectfully, and in accordance with Congress policies.
    - Reports can be made during the time of the WCMT using this form: https://forms.gle/5PAHjSiRjbPbvRhQA
    - Upon submitting the form, the designated Congress ombudsman(s) will follow up with you and the appropriate parties
11. **Consequences for Violations**
    - Consequences for violating the Code may include:
      - Verbal or written warnings
      - Removal from sessions or events
      - Revocation of Congress registration without refund
      - Notification to employers, professional organizations, or regulatory bodies
      - Sanctions will correspond to the severity and nature of the violation, with due consideration for fairness and justice.
      - The Congress reserves the right to take action necessary to protect participants and uphold ethical standards.

Ombudsperson Panel for 18th World Congress of Music Therapy is composed by

Dr. Indra Selvarajah, WFMT Global Crises Intervention, Malaysia
Dr. Josephine Geipel, Professor of Music Therapy, Leopold Mozart College of Music, University of Augsburg, Germany
Dr. Sue Baines, Instructor of Music Therapy, Capilano University, Canada

Coordinator: Ms. Amanda Montera, WFMT Treasurer

NEED SUPPORT OR WANT TO RAISE A CONCERN?

Scan the QR code to contact the Ombudsperson Panel