

## Yoga Source Code of Ethics for Teachers

As a yoga teacher, I recognize that it is my responsibility to create a safe and supportive learning environment for my students and to honor their welfare on all levels – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. I am aware of the sensitive nature of the teacher–student relationship and the imbalance of power. In order to protect the student in this potentially vulnerable relationship, as well as to uphold the highest professional standards for teaching yoga, I agree to accept the following ethical codes:

### **Student Relationships: I will:**

- Offer my services of teaching yoga to all persons regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, body type, or national origin.
- Respect and honor the moral, social, and religious standards of students and to avoid any action that will conflict with their highest interests
- Avoid taking advantage of students financially, sexually, or otherwise for my own gain.
- Avoid all forms of sexual harassment with students even when a student invites or consents to such behavior. Sexual behavior and harassment is defined as, but not limited to, all forms of overt and covert seductive speech, gestures, and behavior as well as physical contact of a sexual nature.
- All romantic relationships between teacher and student need to be handled with the highest integrity and respect for the power differential inherent in the teacher role. As soon as the romantic attraction is acknowledged, it is incumbent upon the teacher to create appropriate boundaries, which include disallowing the student to attend his/her classes for 6 months and to request the student to study with another teacher. During the 6 months, the teacher and student may pursue a romantic relationship outside of the yoga class and outside of the teacher/student power differential. After 6 months, the teacher may invite the student back into class as long as the relationship does not negatively impact the class. During class the teacher will treat the student normally and show no public display of affection or favoritism of any kind.

### **Professional Conduct: I will:**

- Use my knowledge and professional associations for the benefit of the people I serve and not to secure unfair personal advantage.
- Provide only those services that I am qualified to provide.
- Make only realistic statements regarding the benefits of yoga
- Stay current with new developments in the field of yoga through educational activities and study.

- Not diagnose a student's physical or psychological condition or prescribe a treatment that goes against a student's health professional's advice.
- Be honest, fair, straightforward, and conscientious in all business dealings.
- Conduct my fiscal affairs with due regard to recognized business and accounting procedures.
- Never malign nor speak negatively about colleagues, other professionals, or other styles of yoga.
- Represent facts truthfully about my credentials and services rendered and to correct any misrepresentation of my professional qualifications.

**Advertising: I will:**

- Honor that the purpose of advertising, including announcements, public statements, and promotional activities, done by me or for me is for helping the public make informed judgments and choices.
- Represent my training, qualifications, abilities, and affiliations accurately and not use false, misleading, or deceptive statements.
- Make no exaggerated claims as to the benefits of yoga practice or my classes.
- Not misrepresent my professional qualifications, affiliation and functions, or falsely imply sponsorship or certification by any organization.

Any reports of my breaching this code will be investigated by the directors of this program with the support of Yoga Alliance, which could lead to revocation of my teacher certification. Lack of familiarity with, or misinterpretation of these codes does not justify unethical behavior.

Sign\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_