

## **Intercollegiate Examination Suspected Misconduct investigation and sanction procedure**

### **February 2023**

Candidates (including applicants and previous candidates), for all MRCS and MRCS (ENT) examinations are expected to behave in a professional manner throughout their dealings with the four Surgical Royal Colleges of the United Kingdom and in Ireland (hereafter 'the Colleges'), and to conduct themselves as is appropriate for a Member of the Colleges. This includes behaviour during the examination, and in all their contact with examiners, invigilators, and staff of the Colleges before, during and after the examination. Expected behaviour for candidates is detailed in the Intercollegiate Candidate Code of Conduct.

Candidates should note that by virtue of applying to sit an MRCS or MRCS (ENT) examination they are deemed to have understood and agreed to respect and abide by all relevant regulations and the Candidate Code of Conduct.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1. This document:

- describes the procedures to be followed in cases where there is reason to suspect that the regulations have been broken, and
- prescribes the sanctions to be applied to different types of misconduct.

1.2. The Colleges reserve the right to withhold the issuing of results while investigations are ongoing. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, results may be released or permanently withheld.

1.3. There may be occasions when it is necessary to deviate from the timeframes outlined in this procedure. Candidates will be notified if and when this happens.

### **2. Definitions**

#### **2.1. Regulations**

The regulations referred to in this document are those applicable to the MRCS or MRCS (ENT) examination diet being held.

#### **2.2. Misconduct**

Misconduct is deemed to be:

- those actions and practices which threaten the integrity of the examination,
- those actions which compromise or may compromise public confidence in the qualification and/or the process of examination,
- those actions which compromise or may compromise the integrity of any qualification and the validity of a result of certificate; and/or
- damage the authority of those responsible for administering examinations and/or grading candidate performance.

2.3. Scope of misconduct by examination format or delivery method

The scope of candidate misconduct described in the non-exhaustive list of examples in the appendix to the **Intercollegiate Candidate Code of Conduct** is not limited to any particular format of examination or the method by which it is delivered. This policy is applicable to written and practical exams whether they are being assessed in a face-to-face or remote setting.

2.4. Candidate misconduct

The appendix in the **Intercollegiate Candidate Code of Conduct** gives examples of misconduct by candidates. The list is not exhaustive and other instances of misconduct may be considered by the Colleges at their discretion.

**3. Allegations of misconduct**

3.1. Allegations of misconduct may be reported to Colleges by assessors, examiners, invigilators, remote proctoring services, candidates, examinations staff, patients or simulated patients, or examination venue staff. When dealing with alleged misconduct, Colleges will deal with all relevant parties.

3.2. Colleges will seek to establish the full facts and circumstances of any alleged misconduct by any candidate on the civil standard of proof by seeking full accounts from and, where appropriate, interviewing, all parties involved. The Colleges will seek to investigate all allegations of misconduct, but reserve the right to reject allegations which lack substance or appear, upon examination, to be malicious.

3.3. If misconduct is discovered during or immediately after the examination by someone at the centre, a full report must be submitted immediately after the event to the relevant College by the invigilator or supervising examiner. **In most circumstances, the candidate will be permitted to complete the examination** but will be warned about the alleged misconduct and informed that a report will be made to the College. Exceptions to this principle would include cases where the candidate's behaviour was dangerous, offensive or disturbing other candidates or was jeopardising the security or conduct of the examination.

3.4. For examinations where remote proctoring has been used, the College reserves the right to review the recorded examination event to determine whether misconduct has occurred.

3.5. If misconduct is alleged after the examination or is discovered by a College, full details of the alleged misconduct will be reported to the invigilator or supervising examiner from the centre where the examination was conducted.

3.6. In all cases, a candidate accused of misconduct must be sent a **full report within 5 working days** of the College receiving a misconduct report, including all evidence of the alleged misconduct and details of the possible consequences should misconduct be proven. The candidate will then be asked to comment in writing on the report within **15 working days** from the date of the full report before further action is taken. Colleges should remind a candidate accused of misconduct of the possible consequences should misconduct be proven in every communication to the candidate.

3.7 *Anonymous reports*

Anonymous reports of misconduct will be acted upon only if there is supporting evidence, or if the nature of the report warrants it. In these cases the invigilator or supervising examiner will be informed and asked to comment.

3.8 *Access to evidence – confidentiality of evidence*

It is at the discretion of the College as to the means by which evidence is presented to the individuals involved. However, Colleges will ensure that individuals subject to a misconduct investigation have access to all evidence against them and are provided with all necessary facilities including advice in order to allow full responses to be submitted within the requisite time.

3.9. *Investigation at a centre into alleged misconduct by candidates*

A candidate suspected of misconduct should be allowed to complete the examination (provided that no disturbance is being caused to other candidates, in which case he/she should be removed and his/her examination terminated). The candidate should then be informed of the nature of the alleged misconduct in front of a witness. A full report should be submitted by the centre to the College, including an account of the candidate's response to the invigilator or supervising examiner at the centre on the examination day within 10 working days. The candidate should be advised that the matter will be subject to an investigation and that a full report of the alleged misconduct, along with details of possible consequences should misconduct be proven, will be sent to them from the College. Any written statement that the candidate wishes to make should be received by the Examinations Section/Unit of the relevant College within **15 working days** from the date of the full report of the alleged misconduct from the College. Any material or equipment introduced improperly into the examination room should be temporarily confiscated (including electronic equipment) and a receipt given. If the candidate refuses to permit the material or equipment to be confiscated, this fact will be recorded.

3.10 It is the responsibility of the invigilator or supervising examiner, acting on behalf of the College, to carry out an investigation, to submit a full written report of the case and to provide supporting evidence, including the actual material or equipment confiscated where appropriate.

Reports should include (as applicable):

- a statement of the facts: a detailed account of the circumstances and details of any investigations carried out by the centre;
- written statement(s) from the invigilators or other staff concerned;
- written statement(s) from the candidate(s) concerned;
- written statement(s) from the examiner(s) or assessor(s) concerned;
- written statement(s) from the simulated or clinical patient(s) concerned;
- any mitigating factors;
- seating plans or details of station layouts and location of the incident;
- details of unauthorised material found in the examination room (if applicable);
- details of the incident of inappropriate conduct or behaviour;
- any work of the candidate and any associated material or equipment which is relevant to the investigation.
- any other relevant information or documents.

- 3.11 Reports should be provided to the College as soon as possible and within 10 working days of the alleged misconduct.

#### **4. Consideration of the allegation**

- 4.1 In following up the receipt of a formal report of allegation of misconduct, the Head of Examinations of the relevant College (or their nominee) should write to the candidate with full details of the allegation and evidence against them and inform them of the possible consequences should misconduct be proven and of the avenues for appealing should a finding be made against them. The candidate should also be reminded that they have **15 working days** from the date of the full report in which to submit a written statement. For the avoidance of doubt, the Head of Examinations should stipulate the exact date by which the candidate should respond.
- 4.2 Once the candidate's response to the allegation contained in the report has been received, or 15 working days from the date of the full report, whichever is first, the Head of Examinations, or equivalent, will consider the case and decide upon a course of action. The course of action followed will be determined by the seriousness of misconduct as defined in the **annex** of this document, and may range from:
- If the misconduct is a **Penalty 1** or **Penalty 2** level offence, the Head of Examinations should contact the candidate to inform them of the decision, and contact the ICBSE office so this can be recorded;
  - If the misconduct is a **Penalty 3** to **Penalty 5** level offence, the ICBSE office should be contacted so that the other Heads of Examinations can be consulted, before the Head of Examinations of the College wherein the misconduct occurred contacts the candidate to inform them of the decision. The ICBSE office should be informed so this can be recorded;

In addition:

- The Head of Examinations can contact the ICBSE office to convene a panel to consider the case if they feel it merits further consideration using 'paper' procedures;
- The Head of Examinations can contact the ICBSE office to convene a panel to consider the case if they feel it merits further consideration using 'hearing' procedures.

The Head of Examinations, or equivalent, should inform the candidate of the decision within **15 working days** of the date the candidate responded or when the 15 days for the candidate to respond expired (whichever is earlier).

- 4.3. Full details of the panel procedure should be sent to candidates whose case is to be put before a panel.
- 4.4 Most cases will be considered on the basis of documentary evidence alone and candidates will have the opportunity to respond to the allegations against them in writing. However, in the instance of a convened panel, candidates have the right to appear in order to put their case in person. In such cases the candidate has the right to be accompanied, but not legally represented at a Panel meeting by a companion, who normally may not be a legally-qualified representative. The companion may advise and counsel the candidate, but may not cross-examine any other person present at the Panel meeting. If the candidate wishes to be accompanied by a companion, they must provide the ICBSE Manager with the name,

address and role of the nominated person **not less than five working days** before the Panel meeting.

## **5. The panel**

### **5.1. The panel - general**

5.1.1 A panel may be called for allegations that are felt to require further scrutiny or clarification.

5.1.2 For allegations for which the appointment of a panel is required, as set out above, the panel will comprise three experienced examiners, one from each of the Colleges other than the one through which the candidate sat and, if required, an educational adviser and a legal adviser. The panel chair will be a senior examiner from among the examiners appointed to the panel. The panel meeting will be minuted by the ICBSE Manager.

5.1.3 The panel will aim to deal fairly and reasonably with candidates and with those making allegations against them. Criminal rules and procedures relating to the evidence will not apply.

5.1.4 Members of the panel will not have had any prior involvement with the candidate's examination performance or any close working relationship with the candidate and must disclose this if it is the case. Members of the panel should not have had any involvement in the investigation of the candidate's alleged misconduct.

5.1.5 The documentation will be dealt with as follows:

- the panel and the candidate against whom an allegation has been made must have access to the same documentation;
- the documentation will consist of the allegation, the College's report, the candidate's response and any witness statements or other evidence to be relied upon by both sides.

5.1.6 The panel will function as follows:

- the panel will establish whether correct procedures have been followed in the investigation of the case, and that the candidate accused of misconduct has been given the opportunity to respond properly to the allegations and, if requested, to make a personal statement;
- the panel will consider the allegations and the report upon them, including any evidence offered in response by the candidate;
- the panel will reach a decision on the balance of probabilities
- the panel may refer allegations of potentially illegal activity or constitute regulatory breaches to an appropriate body/authority
- the panel will set out its decision in writing with reasons, including the evidence taken into account, how the evidence was weighed and why it arrived at its decision. This will be passed to the relevant Head of Examinations (or equivalent), who will then take action to inform the candidate of the outcome. The ICBSE will keep a record of the decision;

- the panel will not be responsible for deciding the sanction to be imposed on the candidate. The panel's sole remit is to decide on whether or not the candidate is guilty of misconduct;
- the panel should conduct its business as a matter of priority in order that the candidate is informed of the outcome in a timely manner.

## **5.2 The Panel – Paper Proceedings**

5.2.1 In addition to the general proceedings above, the following will apply to a panel considering its actions by paper/email:

- The ICBSE Manager will be responsible for the circulation of all material to the panel members;
- The Panel Chair will be responsible for any decision to upgrade the paper panel to a hearing should the evidence determine that a hearing was appropriate.

## **5.3 The Panel – Hearing Proceedings**

5.3.1 The candidate will be given at least eight weeks' notice of the holding of a panel hearing. Copies of any additional documents the candidate wishes to be considered should be provided to the ICBSE office at least four weeks before the date of the hearing. The documentation to be considered by the panel will be finalised and sent to the Panel not less than five working days before the date fixed for any hearing. Only in exceptional circumstances will the panel consider the introduction of any additional evidence at the hearing itself. Any decision to consider additional evidence is at the sole discretion of the panel. The ICBSE Manager will be responsible for the circulation of all material to the panel members and the candidate.

5.3.2 If required, the panel will hear evidence from the candidate or his/her representative, The panel can call the relevant Head of Examinations as a witness to the hearing to describe the events in question and the investigation process, but the Head of Examinations will play no part in the decision-making process of the panel. The panel may call for other witnesses in order to illuminate the case. The panel will have the right to question the candidate or his/her representative or any witnesses but will not be under any obligation to do so.

5.3.3 All those present are expected to show courtesy, restraint and good manners. If they fail to do so and after due warning, the hearing may be adjourned or terminated at the discretion of the panel. Any person who is dissatisfied with any aspect of the way the hearing is conducted must say so before the proceedings go any further and his / her comment will be minuted.

5.3.4 The panel Chair may, at his/her discretion, otherwise adjourn the hearing if he/she considers it appropriate to do so. This may include an adjournment for welfare reasons, to enable additional information to be obtained and/or considered or for the parties to take legal advice on a specific issue arising.

5.3.5 When the Chair of the panel is satisfied that sufficient consideration has been given to the documentation provided and any representations made by the parties, he/she will conclude the hearing.

- 5.3.6 A hearing before the panel is a private proceeding. No notes or other records or oral statements relating to the suspected misconduct or any matter discussed in or arising from the proceeding shall be published or otherwise made available directly or indirectly to the press or other media.
- 5.3.7 Expenses incurred by the candidate while participating in a misconduct panel will not be covered by ICBSE.

## **6. Sanctions and penalties applied against candidates**

- 6.1 Colleges may, at their discretion, impose the following sanctions and penalties against candidates found guilty of misconduct:
- 6.1.1 The candidate is issued with a formal warning about his/her conduct and the likely penalties if that conduct is repeated. (Penalty 1);
- 6.1.2 The candidate's result for the examination part or component in which the misconduct took place is withheld but the attempt is counted. (Penalty 2);
- 6.1.3 The candidate's result for the examination part or component in which the misconduct took place is withheld but the attempt is counted, and any pass result in any other parts or components of the examination achieved to date are annulled.<sup>1</sup> (Penalty 3);
- 6.1.4 The candidate is barred from entering part of the examination for a set period of five years. (This penalty can be combined with any of the above.) (Penalty 4);
- 6.1.5 The candidate is barred from entering any part of the examination again (would be combined with Penalty 3, above). (Penalty 5); the candidate will be able to appeal for this ban to be lifted after five years. The candidate must wait five years after the imposition of this sanction before making any appeal for the ban to be lifted.
- 6.1.6 The four Royal Surgical Colleges will inform each other of the imposition of *any* penalty against a candidate. In any case where Penalty 4 or 5 is applied, the College will inform any other Medical Royal Colleges as necessary, the General Medical Council and Irish Medical Council (or equivalent international body), and the candidate's employer/trainer (or equivalent). In certain circumstances it may be appropriate to inform the police.
- 6.1.7 If a College feels that Penalty 4 or 5 penalty may be warranted, this will be passed to ICBSE for them to decide whether it is appropriate. This decision will be made by email involving the ICBSE Chair, IQA Chair and relevant sub group Chair. This decision will then be relayed to the relevant Head of Examinations, who will then take action to inform the candidate of the sanction to be imposed on them.

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<sup>1</sup> In this instance, the candidate will not have the number of attempts re-set and instead have the number of attempts they had remaining at each part or component of the exam in which to complete each part or component. For example, if a candidate had passed the MRCS Part A on their third attempt and was found to have committed misconduct on their second attempt at the MRCS Part B and penalty 3 is applied, they will then have three attempts to complete the MRCS Part A and two attempts to pass the MRCS Part B. In the event that the candidate passed the MRCS Part A on their sixth attempt, the candidate would have a single further attempt in which to pass the MRCS Part A.

6.1.8 In all cases in which sanctions are to be imposed on a candidate, it is the responsibility of the College to whom the candidate applied to inform the candidate of the sanction to be imposed on them.

## **7. Principles for applying sanctions and penalties**

- 7.1. The Colleges have agreed that sanctions and penalties are not to be applied to infractions according to a fixed scale, but are to be chosen from a defined range, in order to reflect the particular circumstances of each case and any mitigating factors. The agreed level of sanction or penalty for a particular infraction is set out in the **Table of Infractions and Range of Penalties** at the end of this document.
- 7.2. The Colleges reserve the right to apply penalties flexibly, outside of the defined ranges, if particular mitigating or aggravating circumstances are found to exist.
- 7.3. As no assumptions can be made about intended actions, penalties will be based only on the evidence presented.
- 7.4. All penalties must be justifiable and reasonable in their scale and consistent in their application.
- 7.5. Penalties may apply either to all parts or components of the examination in which the infraction has been committed or may apply additionally to possible future examinations, depending upon the severity of the infraction. If evidence comes to light some considerable time after the infraction, a penalty may still be applied to the examination in which the infraction was committed and to later examinations.
- 7.6. For reasons of consistency of approach in the application of penalties, the Colleges will not (subject to any mitigating factors or extenuating circumstances) take into account the consequential effects of any particular penalty that might arise from the circumstances of the individual.
- 7.7. Penalties applied will remain on record until the candidate is either time-expired from the MRCS or MRCS (ENT) examination or passes the MRCS or MRCS (ENT) examination.

## **8. Communicating decisions**

- 8.1 The candidate will be informed of any decision in writing as soon as possible after decisions are made and in all cases within **10 working days** of the panel hearing. It is the responsibility of the Head of Examinations (or equivalent) to communicate the decision to the individuals concerned, and to give warnings in cases where this is indicated.

## **9. Appeals**

- 9.1. If a candidate wishes to appeal against a misconduct ruling against them, they should contact the ICBSE Manager **within 10 working days** of the date of the notification of the sanction against them. The candidate may provide additional evidence at this stage. The ICBSE Manager will pass on the details of the appeal to the Chair of ICBSE, who will determine whether sufficient evidence exists for consideration by an ICBSE Misconduct Appeal Panel.



9.2. If the Chair of ICBSE refers the appeal to an ICBSE Misconduct Appeal Panel, the appeal will be considered by a panel appointed by the Chair of ICBSE that may be composed as set out below. The panel members will be experienced in examinations but will be external to the College concerned and will not include anyone who has previously been involved with the case.

- Chair – chair of ICBSE or the chair of IQA if the ICBSE Chair has previously been involved in the case;
- Two examiners from a surgical Royal College not the subject of the appeal;
- Educational adviser;
- Legal adviser;
- Appeals Panel Secretary (normally ICBSE Manager), to minute the meeting but not to participate in the decision.

If the Chair of ICBSE refers the appeal to an ICBSE Misconduct Appeal, the decision made by the misconduct appeal is final and the appeal procedure is at an end.

9.3. If the Chair of ICBSE considers that sufficient evidence does not exist for consideration by an ICBSE Misconduct Appeal Panel, the ICBSE Manager will notify the candidate of this with reasons and confirm that the appeal procedure is at an end. The decision made by the Chair of ICBSE will be final.

## **10. Costs**

10.1. Neither ICBSE nor any of the Colleges will meet any costs incurred by the candidate in preparing for or attending either a panel meeting or an appeal meeting.

**ANNEX A - TABLE OF INFRACTIONS GRADED ACCORDING TO LEVELS OF SERIOUSNESS AND SHOWING APPROPRIATE RANGES OF PENALTIES APPLIED TO CANDIDATES**

TYPE OF INFRACTION	WARNING (Penalty 1)	ANNULLED RESULT - COMPONENT (Penalty 2)	ANNULMENT OF ALL RESULTS ACHIEVED (Penalty 3)	BARRED FROM ENTRY (Penalties 4-5*) (May be used in addition to Penalty 3)
<b>Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination environment, for example:</b>				
<i>notes, textbooks or study guides and personal organisers.</i>	notes of an academic nature but irrelevant to subject.	notes relevant to subject, but no proof of attempt to use.	notes relevant and used, or prepared to be used.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>calculators, dictionaries.</i>	not used.	used or attempted to use.		
<i>personal music/MP3 player.</i>	not used, or used but does not contain material relevant to subject.		used, contains material relevant to subject.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>mobile phone, or other similar electronic devices.</i>	in the examination room but not in the candidate's possession, and rings or beeps; in the candidate's possession, but no evidence of being used or being active.	in the candidate's possession and is active (rings, beeps, used as calculator)	evidence that device is used to obtain or pass on information	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>wearing of headphones/earphones/earbuds (even if only noise-cancelling).</i>		used or attempted to use.	used, contains material relevant to subject.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b>Standard Penalties</b>				
1 warning. 2 result for a discrete part or component annulled/withheld 3 all results for exam to date annulled/withheld.			4 barred from entry for set period. 5 barred from entry ever again. * Penalty 5 would also imply the imposition of penalty 3.	

TYPE OF INFRACTION	WARNING (Penalty 1)	ANNULLED RESULT - COMPONENT (Penalty 2)	ANNULMENT OF ALL RESULTS ACHIEVED (Penalty 3)	DEBARRED FROM ENTRY (Penalties 4-5*) (May be used in addition to Penalty 3)
<b>Obtaining, receiving, exchanging or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to):</b>				
<b><i>talking/use of telephone.</i></b>	isolated incidents of talking before start of exam or while papers are being collected but candidates have not been dismissed.	talking <b>during</b> exam about matters not related to exam; receiving non exam-related information.	talking during the exam with intention to give or obtain answers.	. for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b><i>written communication.</i></b>	passing written communications (notes) which clearly have no bearing on the examination.	receiving exam-related information via notes (no proof of use).	passing exam related notes to other candidates; deliberately helping one another; swapping answer sheets. Receiving and using information contained in notes.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b><i>copying from another candidate.</i></b>			permitting examination answers to be copied; showing other candidates the answers. copying from another candidate's answers.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b><i>soliciting information about exam from earlier candidates.</i></b>	overheard discussing scenarios, patients or viva questions with candidates who have not yet been examined.			for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b>Standard Penalties</b>				
1 warning. 2 result for a discrete part or component annulled/withheld 3 all results for exam to date annulled/withheld.			4 barred from entry for set period. 5 barred from entry ever again. * Penalty 5 would also imply the imposition of penalty 3	

TYPE OF INFRACTION	WARNING (Penalty 1)	ANNULLED RESULT - COMPONENT (Penalty 2)	ANNULMENT OF ALL RESULTS ACHIEVED (Penalty 3)	BARRED FROM ENTRY (Penalties 4-5*) (May be used in addition to Penalty 3)
<i>collusion.</i>	work of candidates reflects similarities that go beyond statistical probability but it is not known whether this was copying or collusion.		collusion was observed to take place.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>disruptive behaviour in the examination room (including the use of offensive language).</i>	minor disruption lasting short time.	repeated or prolonged disruption; unacceptably rude remarks; behaviour necessitating being removed from the room; warning from invigilator/supervisor ignored.	provocative or aggravated bad behaviour; repeated or loud offensive comments; physical assault on staff or property.	. for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations.</i>	removing answers from the examination room, but with proof that the answers have not been impaired; breaching supervision instructions (candidate unaware of instructions).	leaving MCQ examination early; deliberately breaking supervision instructions; removing answers from examination room but with no proof that the answers are safe.	removing answers from the examination room and with proof that the answers have been tampered with; removing question booklet from room.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b>Standard Penalties</b>				
1 warning. 2 result for a discrete part or component annulled/withheld 3 all results for exam to date annulled/withheld.			4 barred from entry for set period. 5 barred from entry ever again. * Penalty 5 would also imply the imposition of penalty 3.	

TYPE OF INFRACTION	WARNING (Penalty 1)	ANNULLED RESULT - COMPONENT (Penalty 2)	ANNULMENT OF ALL RESULTS ACHIEVED (Penalty 3)	BARRED FROM ENTRY (Penalties 4-5*) (May be used in addition to Penalty 3)
<i>failing to abide by the instructions or advice of an Invigilator, Supervisor, or the Colleges in relation to the examination rules and regulations.</i>	minor non-compliance, e.g. sitting in a non-designated seat; continuing to write after being told to stop once.	major non-compliance, e.g. refusing to move to designated seat; continuing to write after being told to stop more than once.	repeated and aggravated non-compliance, e.g. with abusive or threatening behaviour	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>impersonation.</i>			deliberate use of wrong name or number; impersonating another individual; arranging to be impersonated.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>identification,</i>		obstructing or disabling the webcam, moving out of view of the camera for prolonged period, positioning camera in such a way that face is not visible		
<i>the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in answers.</i>	isolated words or drawings, mildly offensive.	frequent obscenities in answers; isolated mild obscenities or mildly offensive comments aimed at examiner(s) or member(s) of staff.	extremely offensive comments, obscenities or drawings aimed at a member of staff, examiner or religious or racial group.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b>Standard Penalties</b>				
1 warning. 2 result for a discrete part or component annulled/withheld 3 all results for exam to date annulled/withheld.			4 barred from entry for set period. 5 barred from entry ever again. * Penalty 5 would also imply the imposition of penalty 3.	

TYPE OF INFRACTION	WARNING (Penalty 1)	ANNULLED RESULT - COMPONENT (Penalty 2)	ANNULMENT OF ALL RESULTS ACHIEVED (Penalty 3)	BARRED FROM ENTRY (Penalties 4-5*) (May be used in addition to Penalty 3)
<i>misuse of examination material.</i>		copying examination questions during examination with intention to remove them.	misuse of examination material or information, including: gaining prior knowledge of examination information; improper disclosure or receipt of examination information, including dissemination of original or reproduced material, either through removal of written material, screengrabs or upload of memorised question content.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>the alteration of any results document, including certificates.</i>			falsification / forgery.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>bribery</i>			bribing, or attempting to bribe, an examination official, clinical or simulated patient	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<i>behaving in such a way as to undermine the integrity of the examination.</i>			attempting to obtain certificates fraudulently; attempted bribery.	for extreme or repeated examples of activity under penalty 3.
<b>Standard Penalties</b>				
1 warning. 2 result for a discrete part or component annulled/withheld 3 all results for exam to date annulled/withheld.			4 barred from entry for set period. 5 barred from entry ever again. * Penalty 5 would also imply the imposition of penalty 3.	