

Charm City Wine School Conflict of Interest Policy –

As an APP the **Charm City Wine School** is required to identify GTRAWSET and assist in managing or monitoring actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest ('Conflicts of Interest') involving both APP staff and students. This policy complements WSET's conflicts of interest policy and works to safeguard the integrity of WSET qualifications and promote confidence in **WSET and Charm City Wine School** processes and procedures.

This policy applies to all **Charm City Wine School** staff and students and to any individual acting on behalf of **Charm City Wine School**.

A **Conflict of Interest** exists where an individual has interests or loyalties that could adversely influence their judgment, objectivity, or loyalty to WSET or **Charm City Wine School** when conducting activities associated with WSET qualifications.

Conflicts of Interest include

- The assessment of candidates by an individual who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment for any or all individuals concerned;
- The moderation of the assessment of candidates by an individual who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment for any or all individuals concerned;
- The undertaking of a WSET qualification by any individual employed by an APP;
- The invigilation of a WSET assessment by any individual involved in the delivery of training leading to the assessment;
- The coaching of candidates by any individual involved in the assessment of candidate scripts;
- The employment by an APP of individuals engaged in the delivery of taught programs or in the role of Internal Assessor in another APP;
- The investigation of a non-compliance incident by someone who is unable to act impartially.

Some of these Conflicts of Interest are manageable and therefore acceptable. For example, if a family member of one of **Charm City Wine School's** educators or APP staff take a qualification and exam through **Charm City Wine School**, or when an employee of **Charm City Wine School**, or of the WSET, takes a WSET qualification through **Charm City Wine School**, we can notify WSET in advance and work with them to put in place measures to maintain the integrity of the exam.

Some Conflicts of Interest are not manageable and are not acceptable. For example, no mitigation efforts overcome the conflict created when an individual when a single individual serves as the educator and exam officer of an exam for a family member where an external invigilator is not available.

Any staff member or student of **Charm City Wine School** who becomes aware of a Conflict of Interest must inform **Tim O'Hare @ 443-392-6067 / tim@charmcitywineschool.com or refer them to your Complaints policy** as soon as possible. **Tim O'Hare** will inform the WSET of the possible conflict of interest and will work with WSET to put any protective or mitigating measures in place to manage the conflict on a case-by-case basis. If WSET and **Charm City Wine School** determine the conflict is not manageable, **Tim O'Hare** will inform any impacted APP staff or students.

Please note that the failure to declare a conflict of interest may have consequences for the student or **Charm City Wine School** because we are required to report conflicts to WSET.

Reasonable Adjustments Policy

Both WSET and **Charm City Wine School** want to make WSET assessments accessible for all students, so none are at an advantage or disadvantage based on a disability or differing ability. This policy and the reasonable adjustment process allows us **Charm City Wine School** to work with you, our student, *before an assessment* to gather the information we need to submit a request to WSET and work with them to make arrangements that give students access to WSET qualifications.

A **reasonable adjustment** is any accommodation or arrangement that helps to reduce the effect of a known disability or difficulty that substantially disadvantages a student's assessment. Using a reasonable adjustment does not impact how WSET grades your exam, or your result, but WSET cannot agree to reasonable adjustments where your particular difficulty directly

affects performance necessary to complete the assessment outcomes (e.g. inability to smell or taste for a Level 3 Exam). The goal of a reasonable adjustment is to give you equal access to a WSET qualification, not to give unfair advantages over other students who take an assessment without the same adjustment, or to affect the overall reliability of the assessment outcomes that are explained in the course Specification.

Examples of reasonable adjustments may be:

- Changing standard assessment arrangements, for example allowing candidates extra time to complete the assessment activity;
- Adapting assessment materials, such as providing materials in large text format;
- Providing access facilitators during the assessment, such as a sign language interpreter or reader;
- Re-organizing the assessment room, such as removal of visual stimuli for an autistic candidate.

Charm City Wine School will gather the information we need from you to submit a Reasonable Adjustment Application form to WSET. WSET must approve and arrange reasonable adjustments before the assessment activity takes place. Before completing enrolment with **Charm City Wine School**, we will give all students access to this policy and the chance to identify any special needs that could require a reasonable adjustment. If a student identifies a special need, **Charm City Wine School** will give the student the Reasonable Adjustment Application form as soon as possible and work with the student to gather the necessary information.

For any student seeking a reasonable adjustment, please contact **Tim O'Hare**:

- James T. O'Hare
- Cell: 443-392-6067
- description of the special need, disability, or differing ability that requires an adjustment; and
- supporting documentation.

You must submit this information at least **25 working days** before the exam date for Level 1- The information you submit will be shared with WSET and will be handled under WSET's Privacy and Data Protection Policy.

Charm City Wine School will keep records of all reasonable adjustment applications.

Special Consideration

Special Consideration Policy

Special consideration is any adjustment given to a student who has temporarily experienced an illness or injury, or another event outside of their control at the time of the exam that significantly affects their ability to take the exam or their ability to show their knowledge and understanding in the assessment. Special consideration is only for things that happen *immediately before or during* an exam that has a material impact on your, the student's, ability to take the exam or on your performance. To be eligible for special consideration, you must have completed the whole course and would have been fully prepared if not for the temporary illness, injury, or other uncontrollable event. A special consideration may be for an individual (e.g. a student becomes ill on the day of the exam) or a group of students (e.g. an exam is interrupted by a natural disaster).

You may be eligible for special consideration if:

- Your performance on the exam is adversely affected by an event outside of your control. This may include temporary illness, temporary injury, bereavement or exam room conditions;
- Reasonable adjustments which were agreed in advance of the exam proved inappropriate or inadequate;
- The application of special consideration would not make a passing result and certificate misleading about the student's ability to satisfy the qualification's assessment criteria.

Applying for special consideration

If you have taken an exam, or your exam is immediately approaching, and you feel that you have a temporary injury or illness, or other uncontrollable events that has interfered with your ability to complete your exam, please contact **Tim O'Hare @ 443-392-6067** as soon as possible. **Charm City Wine School** will provide you with a Special Consideration Application Form, which must be completed and returned with supporting documentation within **5 working days** after the effected exam. The information you submit will be shared with WSET and will be handled under WSET's Privacy and Data Protection Policy.

If there has been serious disruption during an exam affecting a group of students, **Charm City Wine School** will submit a detailed report of the circumstances and candidates affected to WSET to request a special consideration.

Charm City Wine School will keep records of all applications for special consideration.

Malpractice And Maladministration

Malpractice and Maladministration Policy

Both **Charm City Wine School** and WSET have policies and procedures in place to protect WSET students and safeguard the integrity of WSET qualifications. **Charm City Wine School** ensures compliance with **Charm City Wine School and WSET's** policies through this Malpractice and Maladministration Policy, which gives a framework for both us and you to identify, report and manage potential malpractice or maladministration.

Non-compliance with **Charm City Wine School** or WSET Policies and Procedures can fall into two distinct, but related, categories:

1. **Maladministration**, where the non-compliance is generally unintentional, or the result of mistakes, carelessness, inexperience or poor processes; and
2. **Malpractice** where the non-compliance is intentional or the result of a negligent or reckless action without consideration of the consequences of the action.

Context is important and the line between maladministration and malpractice is not always clear: for example, maladministration incidents may become malpractice (e.g. if you fail to implement corrective measures, repeat the same or similar incident, or attempt to misrepresent or hide information during an investigation); or there may be mitigating factors that turn potential malpractice into maladministration. Though malpractice and maladministration are distinct concepts, they can shade into one another. Malpractice and maladministration are always case, context, and fact specific. Both APPs and students can commit malpractice and maladministration.

There are many ways that malpractice or maladministration could occur, including new ways we have not seen yet. But some examples of malpractice or maladministration include:

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For APPs:

- Failure to adhere to WSET Policies and Procedures;
- Failure to follow WSET requirements for course delivery or exam regulations;
- Failure to follow WSET's candidate registration and certification procedures;
- Late student registrations;
- Fraudulent claim for certificates/fraudulent use of certificates/reproduction or forgery of certificates;
- Withholding critical information from WSET quality assurance;
- Insecure storage of exam materials;
- Revealing or sharing confidential exam materials with candidates ahead of an exam;
- Intentional attempts to manipulate exam results so that they do not reflect the candidate's actual exam performance;
- Issue of incorrect exam results/failure to issue results to students in a timely manner;
- Failure to timely respond to WSET;

- Unauthorised reading/amendment/copying/distribution of exam papers;
- Failure to report changes in APP ownership/personnel/location/facilities;
- Denying WSET access to information, documentation, workforce, and facilities;
- Failure to return exam papers within the specified timeframe or to follow delivery and tracking regulations;
- Infringements of WSET copyright, trademarks, intellectual property rights, and brand identity;
- Use of unqualified and/or unregistered educators or internal assessors;
- Breach of confidentiality
- Misleading advertising/publicity;
- Any action is likely to lead to an adverse effect.
- Failure to disclose a Conflict of Interest;

For students:

- Cheating, or facilitating cheating, including the use of unauthorized devices or materials;
- Disruptive behavior in an exam;
- Plagiarism of any nature by students;
- Impersonation (including forgery of signatures);
- Unauthorized reading/amendment/copying/distribution of exam papers;
- Any action likely to lead to an adverse effect; ➤ Breach of confidentiality.

In general, we also expect that both **Charm City Wine School** staff and our students should treat others and be treated professionally and respectfully at all times. We will treat inappropriate behavior including verbal or physical abuse, persistent or unrealistic demands, or threats that cause stress to staff as misconduct and may report student misconduct to WSET as necessary.

Reporting and Investigation of Malpractice or Maladministration

As an APP, we aim to ensure compliance with WSET Policies and **Charm City Wine School** policies and will keep records of potential or actual malpractice or maladministration by you, our students, or our staff.

We are required to notify WSET immediately of any non-compliance issues that could be malpractice or maladministration so that WSET can investigate the non-compliance under their own Malpractice and Maladministration Policy.

We ask that you also raise any concerns or non-compliance issues that may be malpractice or maladministration with **Charm City Wine School** as soon as possible by following the process outlined in our Complaints policy

During WSET's investigation, they may reach out to **Charm City Wine School** or to you directly to request further information or conduct an interview. Please respond to any requests promptly and honestly.

Managing Non-Compliance

If WSET identifies malpractice or maladministration, it will consider its impact and may apply sanctions. WSET will take all reasonable steps to ensure the sanctions do not disadvantage uninvolved students affected by malpractice or maladministration. However, in some cases, they may need to disallow or withhold results and/or certificates.

Data Protection

The Charm City Wine School is committed to protecting the privacy of its students and instructors. That said, the candidate's information will be kept safe with the Charm City Wine School. Please note that due to the make-up of the WSET programs, the Charm City Wine School may be asked to obtain and store a student's data. Information such as a candidate's name, age, date of birth, and billing address may be required to be stored. Also, results from examinations taken by students are subject to be stored at the Charm City Wine School. A student's data may be shared with the WSET Awards for assessment and exam processing and result documentation. Any data shared with WSET will be handled following the WSET Data Protection Policy. Please note that all data with third parties such as payment providers to *provide the student with a service. Any data attained by the Charm City Wine School/APP including any data captured to handle payment procession will be kept safe and secure as well!*

Application Process:

Students who enroll in the WSET Level 1 or Level 2 Wine or Spirit course must be 21 years of age. A photo ID will be required before sitting for the exam. The candidate's registration form must be filled out completely and submitted 10 working days before the first class. Payment is due 10 working days before the first session. Materials such as the Study Kit will be available upon payment either by mail or the candidate can pick up their materials at the Charm City Wine School. Course information with regards to schedules can be found on the Charm City Wine School website and a hard copy will be supplied on the first day of class. Please contact Tim O'Hare at #443-392-6067 or email him @ tim@charmcitywineschool.com

Commented [RS1]: These updates look good, but I would move these two paragraphs to a different part of the Policies document so they are not in the middle of the Malpractice policy

Sanctions Applicable to APPs	
Sanction	Description
Written Warning	A letter informing the Main Contact of the non-compliance incident and stating that further action will be taken in case of recurrence/other non-compliance incidents.
Training	Training/re-training for APP staff, to be completed within a specified timeframe
Action Plan	A statement of specific actions to be implemented by the APP by a set date.
Use of Independent Verifiers/Observers/Assessors/Invigilators	The appointment for a specified period of time, at the APP's expense, of independent verifiers/observers/assessors/Invigilators to ensure that delivery of courses and assessments is compliant with WSET Policies and Procedures
Invalidation of Results/Suspension of Certification	WSET may declare an assessment null and void. WSET may, for a period of time or until a specific matter has been rectified, refuse to issue certificates to candidates from an APP
Suspension/Withdrawal of Approval to Run Specific WSET Qualification(s)	WSET may suspend or withdraw an APP's approval to offer one or more of its qualifications. Suspension may be for a period of time or until a specific matter has been resolved.

Suspension/withdrawal of APP status	WSET may suspend or withdraw an APP's approval to offer WSET qualifications. Provisions for Withdrawal of Approval will come into effect. At the time of withdrawal, the APP will be informed of the earliest date at which it can reapply and any special measures it will need to take prior to this application.
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WSET will consider all relevant information on a case-by-case basis, balancing the facts with potential or actual effects, and against the seriousness of the sanctions against those effects. WSET records all malpractice and maladministration incidents for both APPs and students. If WSET determines that a student has committed malpractice or maladministration, they may apply one or any of the following sanctions:

Sanctions Applicable to Students/Candidates	
Sanction	Description
Written Warning	The student is issued with a written warning that if the offence is repeated within a set period of time then further specified sanctions will be applied.
Exam Result Declared Null and Void	A student's exam result is disallowed. This may include invalidation and recall of a certificate already issued.
Disqualification from a Qualification	The student is disqualified from participating in the concerned qualification with immediate effect and further excluded from participating in any further WSET qualifications for a period of 12 months. This includes access to WSET materials.
Student Disqualification	The learner is disqualified from participating in any courses or assessments leading to WSET qualifications. This includes access to WSET materials.
Disqualification from use of WSET certified logos and postnominals	Actions bringing WSET into disrepute may result in the student or graduate being barred from use of WSET postnominals and WSET certified logos.

Appeals

If you wish to appeal penalties or sanctions WSET has imposed due to Malpractice or Maladministration, please follow the procedures laid out in WSET's Complaints Policy.