

Code of Conduct for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Acadian Entomological Society (AES)

The Acadian Entomological Society (AES) invites everyone to make our annual meeting and its associated events a welcoming experience. AES embraces diversity in perspectives, expertise, backgrounds, views, race, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and is always dedicated to ensuring a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for everyone involved.

To promote a safe, respectful, and productive environment, the Code of Conduct for this event sets out the minimum standards of behaviour expected of all participants — including, but not limited to attendees, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, venue staff, contractors, volunteers, guests, award recipients, service providers, members of the media (collectively “participants”) — who take part in any AES-related activities. This includes conferences, meetings, social events and other programs organized, sponsored or affiliated with AES, whether conducted in person or virtually.

Expected conduct

- Participants are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful and professional manner towards another, and to value the diversity of views, opinions, including those they may not personally share.
- Participants should be considerate, respectful, collaborative in communication and actions. Discussions should be constructive and meant to critique ideas and views rather than individuals and should be done in a non-confrontational manner with optimal regard for the viewpoints of others.
- Demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing conduct or language toward other participants will not be tolerated.
- Participants should remain aware of their surroundings and of others, and report any suspected inappropriate or potentially unsafe situations or individuals who may be in distress to designated members of the AES 2026 local organizing committee.
- Participants are expected to respect all applicable rules, policies, and property of AES, meeting venues, hotels and other accommodations, AES-contracted facilities, and if using a webcam, should maintain a professional presence.
- Participants should comply with the directions of meeting leaders/organizers.
- Organizers and participants should consider accessibility needs and actively promote inclusiveness across all meeting formats and platforms.
- Consent from all authors should be obtained before sharing information that is an intellectual property of another. Authors are encouraged to clearly indicate whether data may be shared, and session moderators are encouraged to remind the audience of intellectual property rights and the requirement for consent prior to sharing.

Unacceptable conduct

Violations of this code include, but are not limited to:

- Offensive and discriminatory conduct, comments, or behaviour related to age, race, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, sexual orientation, lifestyle, national origin, abilities, ethnicity, marital status, political affiliation, religion, or creed.
- Harassment, or inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact, or offensive verbal comments directed at any participant.
- Unwanted, unwelcome, or unsolicited sexual attention, advances, requests, gestures, or favours.
- Bullying, aggressive conduct, threats, stalking, following, or repeated unwanted communications of any kind.
- Unruly or disruptive or unprofessional behaviour, including but not limited to alcohol over-intoxication that endangers oneself or the safety of others.
- Photography, audio, or video recording of individuals, presentations, or posters without explicit permission.
- Damage, theft, defacement, misuse or improper removal of AES facilities, equipment, property or contracted venues.
- Sustained disruption of sessions, talks, or other event activities.
- Retaliation or threats of any sort against any individual for reporting or participating in the investigation of unacceptable behavior.
- False or intentional dishonest reports of violations of this code or any other event.

Actions towards any violation of the Code

AES has a zero-tolerance for the violation of this code. Participants should know that a behaviour that is acceptable to one person may be unacceptable to another, so participants are often advised to use discretion to ensure respect is always observed and communicated. Harassment in a joking manner or pun still represents unacceptable behaviour. Any participant advised or directed to cease an inappropriate behaviour should do so immediately. AES reserves the right to determine whether a conduct violated this Code and to mete out appropriate corrective action. Such actions may include, but are not limited to a verbal warning, removal from an event without refund or credit, prohibition from future AES events, suspension or termination of AES membership and association, or formal report to appropriate authorities.