

iyengaryoga.asn.au

PO Box 1253
Noosa Heads
QLD 4567

ABN 101 826 779

Ethics and Trademarks Committee

Determination of Complaint Against a Trainee Teacher

Date of decision: May 5 2024

This concerns a complaint made by a student (S1) against a trainee teacher (T1), for breach of the Teachers' Code of Conduct (TCC):

- Section 2.1 Be truthful. (Satya, truthfulness)
- Section 2.3 Teach responsibly and with compassion having regard to their own limitations and those of their students. It is a breach of the Teachers' Code of Conduct to teach in a poor or dangerous manner. (Ahimsa, non- violence)
- Section 2.5 Abide by the IYA policy on harassment, bullying and discrimination. (Ahimsa, non- violence, Bramacharya, continence, Aparigraha, non- coveting)

The ETC dismissed the complaint without making a decision in accordance with section 15.1(a) of the Complaints Handling Procedure which states:

“Upon receiving a complaint, and after receiving any written response from the teacher the ETC may:

a) Where appropriate to do so, encourage the complainant to resolve the complaint directly with the teacher without making a decision about the complaint.”

The ETC understood that the difficulties essentially involved a clash of personalities within a class and came down to a case of one word against another with differing perspectives and perceptions.

In dismissing the complaint, the ETC acknowledged that it is not their role to tell a teacher how they should teach, direct or manage a class. Nor is it the role of the ETC to tell schools how they should manage their teachers. It is the role of the school to manage its teachers and the teacher's role to manage the class as they see best for each class.

When a student joins a yoga class, they place their trust in the teacher to teach/manage the class optimally. If a student does not have this trust in a teacher, it is the prerogative of the student to find another teacher.



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Teachers also have the right to not teach a student in certain circumstances as stated in the IYA's Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy Section 3.1:

"A teacher does, however, have the right not to teach anyone whom they feel unqualified to teach by reason of their own level of training, skills and experience."

The ETC noted that attempts had been made to resolve the issues directly including input from other teachers at the school and encouraged them to continue this process.

