



**National University of Science and Technology
POLITEHNICA Bucharest**

Doctoral School of SPORT SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

REGULATIONS

**on the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies within the
Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education**

Bucharest, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I. General Provisions

Chapter II. The Doctoral School and the Doctoral School Council

Chapter III. The Doctoral Student, the Doctoral Supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee

Chapter IV. Admission of Doctoral Students

Chapter V. Structure and Duration of Doctoral University Studies

Chapter VI. The Doctoral Thesis and the Completion of Doctoral University Studies

Chapter VII. Ethics and Academic Deontology

Chapter VIII. Quality Assurance within the Doctoral School in the Field of Sport Science and Physical Education

Chapter IX. Measures for the Prevention of Scientific Misconduct, Including Plagiarism

Chapter X. Other Provisions

Chapter I – General Provisions

This Regulation has been developed in accordance with the following legal provisions:

- 1) Articles 61–71 of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- 2) Order of the Ministry of Education no. 3020/2024 approving the Framework Regulation on doctoral university studies;
- 3) The Regulation on doctoral university studies within the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, approved by Senate decision on 22.07.2024;
- 4) The procedures of the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education;
- 5) Other legal provisions in force at the time of revision.

Chapter II – The Doctoral School and the Doctoral School Council

Art.1.

(1) Within IOSUD POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Pitești University Center, the Doctoral School in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education operates, managing a doctoral university study program.

(2) The Doctoral School is an organizational and administrative structure within IOSUD, providing the necessary support for the conduct of doctoral studies in this field.

(3) The Doctoral School ensures the advanced training of doctoral students through teaching, seminars, evaluation, scientific research, technological development, and design activities, tailored to the specific characteristics of the doctoral field.

(4) Within the Doctoral School, both scientific doctoral programs and professional doctoral programs may be organized, in full-time study mode, either state-funded or tuition-based.

(5) Doctoral studies may also be organized under joint supervision (cotutelle), whereby the doctoral student carries out their activity under the joint guidance of a doctoral supervisor from Romania and one from another country, or under two supervisors from different IOSUD institutions in Romania, based on a written agreement between the involved institutions.

(6) When the cotutelle agreement is concluded between POLITEHNICA Bucharest and a foreign doctoral institution, the study program, doctoral thesis, and public defense conditions must comply with the legal provisions of both countries; otherwise, the administrative procedure is invalidated, and the doctoral title will not be awarded.

(7) Cotutelle may also be organized between supervisors within the same IOSUD.

(8) In cotutelle doctoral studies, the main supervisor is the one under whose vacant position the admission competition was organized; the doctoral student is fully assigned to this supervisor.

(9) Doctoral study programs ensure the development of professional competencies (content-related, cognitive, and research) specific to the field of Sport Science and Physical Education, as well as transversal competencies.

(10) The competencies acquired correspond to Level 8 qualifications within the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework.

(11) The Doctoral School provides a training program based on advanced university studies, including courses, seminars, laboratories, and similar activities, according to the curriculum.

(12) The program includes a mandatory course on ethics and academic integrity, including research ethics.

(13) Previous doctoral studies or research stages may be recognized under legal conditions.

(14) The Doctoral School collaborates with the Human Performance Research Center (CCPU), which operates within the Department of Physical Education and Sport.

Art. 2.

(1) The Doctoral School has the status of a department and is managed by the Director of the Doctoral School and the Doctoral School Council (CSD).

(2) To ensure transparency, the Doctoral School publishes on its website at least the following information:

- the doctoral school regulation;
- procedures;
- admission information;
- list of doctoral supervisors;
- research areas;
- program schedule;
- doctoral study contract template;
- doctoral thesis writing guidelines.

(3) The Director and members of the Doctoral School Council are elected by universal, direct, and secret vote.

(4) The Director ensures operational management, including curriculum development, staffing, research management, and quality assurance.

(5) Administrative and auxiliary staff are established by the university Senate, depending on budget and needs.

(6) Research personnel may also be employed within the Doctoral School.

(7) The mandate of Council members is 5 years.

(8) The Council meets at least three times per year.

Art. 3. The main responsibilities of the Doctoral School Council are as follows:

- a) drafting and updating the Doctoral School Regulation whenever necessary;
- b) making decisions regarding the granting or withdrawal of membership status within the Doctoral School;
- c) approving the nominal composition of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees, as well as any justified modifications to their composition;
- d) where applicable, endorsing, upon the proposal of doctoral supervisors, the expulsion of doctoral students;
- e) endorsing the staffing structure (teaching and research positions) of the Doctoral School;
- f) endorsing, upon the proposal of the Quality Assurance Committee, the content of the doctoral study program, the defined competencies, and the disciplines included in the advanced study program; establishing the number of hours allocated to lectures, seminars, and practical activities for each discipline, the number of transferable credits assigned to each discipline, and the list of teaching staff involved in the program, as well as the proportion of individual study activities, group-based activities, and research activities carried out under the supervision of doctoral supervisors;
- g) endorsing the procedures of the Doctoral School;
- h) implementing procedures for recording and monitoring doctoral research outcomes for the purpose of evaluating doctoral theses and endorsing them for public defense;
- i) ensuring the implementation and strict compliance with the structure of doctoral study programs;
- j) ensuring the internal evaluation of doctoral study programs, based on which the Doctoral School revises, modifies, and adapts their structure;
- k) assisting external evaluators in the evaluation process for the reaccreditation of doctoral study programs;
- l) fulfilling additional responsibilities, depending on the objectives of the Doctoral School;
- m) mediating conflicts between doctoral students and doctoral supervisors; if the conflict cannot be resolved at this level, it shall be mediated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD). Conflicts between doctoral students and the Doctoral School are also mediated by CSUD.

Chapter III – The Doctoral Student, the Doctoral Supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee

Art.4 – The Doctoral Student

(1) A person admitted to a doctoral university study program acquires the status of a doctoral student for the entire duration of their participation in that program, from enrollment until completion or expulsion, excluding periods of interruption of studies, but including any extensions granted in accordance with the provisions of the study contract.

(2) The status of doctoral student is maintained throughout periods of internal and international mobility. In the case of international academic mobility of doctoral students who come to study on a self-funded (foreign currency) basis, the recognition of transferable credits is carried out by the Doctoral School and IOSUD, based on the principle of university autonomy.

(3) Doctoral students may be employed by IOSUD as research assistants or teaching assistants, as applicable, for a fixed period, following a competitive selection process.

(4) A doctoral student employed as a research assistant may carry out paid teaching activities on an hourly basis, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

(5) The doctoral student is responsible for the originality of the doctoral thesis.

(6) During the doctoral study program, the doctoral student has the following rights:

a) to be informed about the doctoral study program in which they have been enrolled;
b) to benefit from the support, guidance, and supervision of the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee;

c) to participate in seminars or working meetings of research and development staff within the Doctoral School, when topics relevant to doctoral studies are discussed;

d) to elect and to be elected, and to be represented in the decision-making bodies of the Doctoral School and IOSUD;

e) to access and use the research infrastructure of IOSUD, including logistics, documentation centers, libraries (including international databases), and the equipment of the Doctoral School, in accordance with the Doctoral School procedure regarding the use of CCPU research logistics by doctoral students (code PO.CSD-03), as well as IOSUD procedures, for the purpose of developing research projects and the doctoral thesis;

f) to enroll in courses and seminars organized by other doctoral schools;

g) to work with research teams within IOSUD, the Doctoral School, the Human Performance Research Center (CCPU), or other research and development units within the Pitești University Center or outside it, which have concluded institutional agreements or partnerships with IOSUD or the Doctoral School, with interdisciplinary initiatives being encouraged and supported;

h) to be integrated into research project teams within IOSUD, the Doctoral School, or the CCPU, including participation in drafting and submitting funding applications;

i) to benefit from national and international mobility opportunities;

j) to conduct, where applicable, doctoral training under joint supervision (cotutelle), based on an agreement concluded and signed by the involved parties;

k) to benefit from institutional support for participation in scientific conferences or congresses, workshops, summer or winter schools, and national and international seminars in the field of the doctoral thesis, in accordance with the Doctoral School procedure regarding the stimulation of doctoral students' participation in scientific events and publication of scientific articles;

l) to participate in scientific communication sessions organized by the Doctoral School and/or IOSUD;

m) to benefit from student support services available at the level of higher education institutions, including accommodation and dining services;

n) to request, on well-justified grounds, the change of their doctoral supervisor, by addressing the Doctoral School Council.

(7) During the doctoral study program, the doctoral student has the following obligations:

- a) to comply with the schedule established together with the doctoral supervisor and to fulfill the requirements regarding the presentation of papers and research results;
- b) to present, upon request, at least once every 12 months, a report on the progress of their scientific research program before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and the doctoral supervisor;
- c) to comply with the deadlines set out in the Individual Research Program;
- d) to meet the minimum requirements regarding participation in international scientific events in the field and the publication of scientific articles, in accordance with the study contract, benefiting from the provisions of the Doctoral School procedure regarding the stimulation of doctoral students' participation in scientific events and the publication of scientific papers;
- e) to maintain permanent communication with the doctoral supervisor;
- f) to comply with institutional discipline, without restriction of academic freedom;
- g) to observe the policies on ethics and academic deontology and to conduct studies and research in compliance with the norms of academic integrity;
- h) to carry out teaching activities (seminars, laboratories, projects), in accordance with the doctoral study contract;
- i) to comply with the regulations of IOSUD and of the Doctoral School in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education and to demonstrate conduct appropriate to the status of a doctoral student;
- j) to fulfill any other legal obligations.

Art 5. – Doctoral Supervisors

(1) Doctoral supervisors are individuals who obtained the right to supervise doctoral studies prior to the entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as individuals who have obtained the habilitation certificate and become members of a doctoral school within an IOSUD, based on an individual employment contract.

(2) Doctoral supervisors within the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education are full-time staff of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, retired academic staff of the same institution, and affiliated members who hold the status of doctoral supervisor.

(3) Starting with the academic year 2026–2027, a doctoral supervisor may supervise simultaneously up to 8 doctoral students, excluding doctoral students supervised in cotutelle with a secondary role. By exception, up to a maximum of 12 doctoral students may be supervised per doctoral supervisor, only with the approval of the university Senate, and for no more than 20% of the doctoral supervisors within a doctoral school.

(4) Until the date specified in paragraph (3), the university Senate determines the maximum number of doctoral students that may be supervised simultaneously by a doctoral supervisor.

(5) The doctoral supervisor has the following rights:

- a) the right to supervise and evaluate the activity of the doctoral student within the doctoral study program, in accordance with professional and university autonomy, while respecting the requirements of the program and the professional interests of the doctoral student;
- b) the right to propose the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and the doctoral committee;
- c) the right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific evaluation methodology;
- d) the right to be informed of the evaluation methodology used in both internal and external evaluations;
- e) the right to be informed of the results of internal and external evaluations of their own activity;
- f) the right to refuse supervision of a doctoral student in situations involving a conflict of interest;
- g) the right to request, with justification, the Doctoral School Council to terminate the supervisory relationship with a doctoral student;
- h) the right to request the Doctoral School to organize an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position under their supervision;
- i) the right to determine the study components within the advanced study training program in which

the doctoral student must participate, in compliance with the provisions of this Regulation.

(6) The doctoral supervisor has the following obligations:

- a) to establish annually the topics for the admission examination, based on their expertise and competencies;
- b) to propose research topics to doctoral students;
- c) to provide doctoral students under their supervision with appropriate scientific, professional, and ethical guidance throughout the doctoral program;
- d) to continuously monitor the progress of the doctoral student's activities;
- e) to take all necessary measures to ensure that doctoral students benefit from the conditions, knowledge, and information required to maximize their chances of successfully completing the doctoral studies;
- f) to carry out an objective and rigorous evaluation of the activity and results of each doctoral student under their supervision;
- g) to ensure appropriate conditions and to stimulate the progress of doctoral students in their research;
- h) to support the mobility of doctoral students;
- i) to avoid conflicts of interest in the supervision and guidance of doctoral students;
- j) to take all necessary steps to verify the compliance of doctoral theses with the requirements of originality;
- k) to fulfill any other obligations arising from the applicable legal provisions.

Art 6. – Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee

(1) The doctoral supervisor is supported in their activity with the doctoral student by a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, composed of three members, proposed by the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the Doctoral School Council.

(2) Members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee may be part of the doctoral supervisor's research team, may be affiliated with the doctoral school, or may be teaching and research staff not affiliated with it. At least one member of the committee must be from outside POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(3) The responsibilities of the members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee are specified in the Doctoral School procedure regarding the activity of this committee.

(4) Members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee may not be appointed as members of the doctoral thesis public defense committee.

Chapter IV – Admission of Doctoral Students

Art. 7. (1) Admission of students to the doctoral university study program managed by the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education shall be carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Admission Methodology established annually by the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(2) Admission to the doctoral study program in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education is conducted through a competitive admission process.

(3) The research topics corresponding to each thematic area of the doctoral supervisors must be accepted by them prior to the registration of candidates for the admission competition. These topics are proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Doctoral School Council.

(4) The selection of candidates for a vacant doctoral student position shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Methodology for admission to university studies, approved by order of the Minister of Education, the Methodology for admission to doctoral university studies approved by the University Senate upon the proposal of the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), and the Doctoral School procedure regarding admission to the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education.

(5) Specific aspects, requirements for participation in the admission colloquium, and the method of calculating the admission grade are provided in the Doctoral School procedure regarding admission to the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education.

(6) Information regarding the organization of the admission competition for doctoral university studies shall be displayed at the headquarters of the Doctoral School and published on the website of POLITEHNICA Bucharest and on the Doctoral School website at least 30 days prior to the competition.

(7) After enrollment, all admitted doctoral students are registered in the Unique Matriculation Register (RMU).

(8) Following enrollment, the Doctoral Study Contract is concluded, governing the conduct of activities specific to the doctoral university study program and regulating the relationships between IOSUD – the Doctoral School, the doctoral supervisor, and the doctoral student, specifying the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the applicable legislation, the provisions of the University Charter, and the decisions of the University Senate.

(9) The Doctoral Study Contract is concluded individually with each doctoral student and is signed by the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor, and the legal representative of IOSUD.

(10) The model framework for the doctoral study contract is developed by CSUD at the beginning of each academic year. Its content elements are stipulated in the Regulation on doctoral university studies within the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(11) The study contract shall not be modified during the academic year. The tuition fee remains unchanged throughout the standard duration of the study cycle, and may be indexed by a maximum of the inflation rate for the same cohort of students.

Chapter V – The Doctoral University Study Program

Art. 8. (1) The doctoral university study program is conducted under the supervision of a doctoral supervisor and includes:

a) a training program based on advanced university studies (PPA), carried out within the Doctoral School, with a duration of 5 months, to be completed no later than the end of February of the calendar year following the year of enrollment;

b) an individual scientific research program (PCS) or, where applicable, an applied research program (PCA), for fields in which professional doctoral studies are organized.

(2) The number of transferable study credits (ECTS) corresponding to the doctoral university study cycle is 240 credits (30 credits from the PPA + 210 credits from the PCS).

(3) The standard duration of the doctoral university study program is 4 years. In exceptional cases, the duration of the doctoral program may be extended by 1–2 years, with the approval of the University Senate, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor and within the limits of available funding, or may be reduced by one year, at the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and the University Senate.

(4) A second extension (the 6th year of doctoral studies) may be granted only on a tuition-fee basis, with payment corresponding to the annual tuition fee approved by the University Senate.

(5) Doctoral university studies may be interrupted for the following reasons: relocation of the workplace (supported by official documents from the employer), serious illness (supported by medical documentation), or parental leave (up to 2 years, supported by the child's birth certificate). The duration of the doctoral studies shall be extended by the cumulative periods of the approved interruptions.

(6) The extensions referred to in paragraph (4), as well as the interruption and extension provided for in paragraph (5), shall be established through addenda to the doctoral study contract.

Art. 9. (1) The structure of the doctoral study program in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education is as follows:

a) the training program based on advanced university studies (PPA), Year I, in accordance with the curriculum of the Doctoral School, published on its website;

b) the scientific research program (PCS), carried out on the basis of an individual scientific research plan developed by the doctoral student under the supervision of the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Doctoral School Council (CSD).

(2) Completion of the PPA with the result PASSED ensures the award of 30 ECTS credits.

(3) Credits obtained within a research master's program, or through previous doctoral studies and/or

scientific research stages conducted in the country or abroad, in universities or prestigious research and development units, may be recognized as equivalent to those obtained in a training program based on advanced university studies. The equivalence is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Doctoral School Council.

(4) The PPA is completed within the first 5 months after enrollment, with an overall result of PASSED/FAILED, each discipline in the curriculum being graded as PASSED/FAILED. If at least one discipline is graded as FAILED, the overall PPA result is FAILED; the doctoral student may retake the respective discipline(s) before the completion of the doctoral program.

(5) Completion of the PPA with an overall result of FAILED does not prevent the doctoral student from continuing within the scientific research program (PCS).

(6) The research activity of the doctoral student within the PCS is evaluated through the submission of seven research reports, presented before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, scheduled as follows:

a) one report during the first year (R1), six months after the completion of the PPA, in the form of a research proposal including: the title of the doctoral thesis, the main directions of the future thesis, the state of knowledge in the field, research objectives, proposed methodology, and the schedule of planned activities;

b) five reports presented as follows:

- Report 2 – December, Year II;
- Report 3 – June, Year II;
- Report 4 – December, Year III;
- Report 5 – June, Year III;
- Report 6 – December, Year IV;

c) the doctoral thesis submitted for evaluation to the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, in order to obtain approval for public defense – considered Report 7 (final report).

(7) The presentation of reports may be public.

(8) Each doctoral supervisor establishes minimum and mandatory scientific activity standards for the approval of the doctoral student's request prior to the presentation of each report.

(9) The deadlines for presenting the first three reports may be extended by a maximum of 6 months, upon the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and the Director of the Doctoral School. If the reports are not presented within the prescribed timeframe, the doctoral student shall be proposed for expulsion.

(10) The reports are evaluated using the following grades: "Very Good", "Good", "Satisfactory", or "Unsatisfactory". A report of the evaluation is drawn up and included in the doctoral student's file.

(11) In the event that a report is rejected (graded "Unsatisfactory"), the doctoral student may revise and resubmit it within 30 days from the date of rejection, following the same procedure. If the report is rejected a second time, the doctoral student shall be proposed for expulsion.

(12) Prior to the defense of the doctoral thesis before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, the PPA must be completed with the overall result PASSED, and the PCS must not include any research report graded "Unsatisfactory."

(13) Completion of the PCS, under the provisions of this Regulation, ensures the award of 210 ECTS credits (30 credits for each research report).

Chapter VI – Completion of Doctoral University Studies – The Doctoral Thesis

Art. 10 (1) The completion of doctoral university studies is achieved through the preparation and public defense of the doctoral thesis before the doctoral thesis public defense committee.

(2) The title of the thesis may be modified, with the approval of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, at the time of the thesis defense (Report 7 for doctoral students enrolled starting with 2023 and Report 6 for those enrolled prior to 2023), upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor.

(3) The thesis shall be written in the "standard" format, which includes the following main chapters:

- (a) Critical review of the literature;
- (b) Original contributions;
- (c) General conclusions;
- (d) References.

(4) The requirements regarding structure and formatting are stipulated in the Doctoral School procedure on the preparation and formatting of the doctoral thesis within the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education.

(5) In order to initiate the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis, all preliminary documents are prepared by the doctoral supervisor, the doctoral student, and the administrative office, and the following steps are followed:

a) the doctoral student submits the doctoral thesis in electronic format to the Doctoral School secretariat, together with the thesis abstract and a declaration of originality;

b) the Doctoral School performs a similarity analysis using software recognized by CNATDCU;

c) the analysis and interpretation of the similarity report are carried out both by the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and by a person designated by the Doctoral School. The similarity report must be verified by the committee prior to the pre-defense and by the designated person before the official submission of the doctoral thesis;

d) if the similarity report indicates the need for revisions, the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor are officially notified by the Doctoral School. After addressing the identified issues, the steps under points (a) and (b) are repeated;

e) the doctoral thesis is presented before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee established at the level of the Doctoral School;

f) following this pre-defense, which is public, the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the recommendations of the committee and the results of the similarity analysis, decides on the official submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defense;

g) the supervisor's acceptance report and the agreement of the committee members are included in the "doctoral file";

h) the doctoral thesis is officially submitted to the Doctoral School secretariat, in both printed and electronic formats, accompanied by the similarity report issued by the designated person, together with the thesis abstract, the doctoral student's CV, and the proposed date for the public defense;

i) the Doctoral School secretariat certifies that the doctoral student has fulfilled all obligations within the doctoral study program;

j) the doctoral thesis and its annexes shall be made publicly available for consultation for a period of 90 calendar days prior to the public defense, on the national platform managed by the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), in accordance with the applicable legal provisions regarding copyright;

k) during the period in which the thesis is publicly available on the national platform, any natural or legal person may submit observations regarding potential deviations from ethical and deontological standards, including possible plagiarism. Observations may be submitted online to an email address provided by the Doctoral School or to the IOSUD registry office. These observations are recorded in a report prepared by the Doctoral School, which is submitted to CSUD for analysis and decision regarding the validation of the initiation of the public defense procedure and becomes part of the doctoral file;

l) if the CSUD decision is to validate, the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis is initiated by appointing the doctoral committee;

m) if CSUD invalidates the initiation of the public defense procedure, the Doctoral School receives recommendations regarding the revision of the doctoral thesis and the elimination of elements that do not comply with ethical and deontological standards. The doctoral student is required to revise the thesis within 3 months from the communication of the decision, after which the procedure for public disclosure is resumed.

(6) The composition of the doctoral committee is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, endorsed by the Doctoral School, and approved by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD). The doctoral committee consists of at least five members: a chairperson, as representative of IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor, and at least three reviewers from the country or abroad, specialists in the field in which the

doctoral thesis was developed, of whom at least two must be affiliated with institutions outside the respective IOSUD. Members of the doctoral committee must hold a doctoral degree and have at least the academic rank of associate professor or the research rank of Scientific Researcher Grade II, or must hold the status of doctoral supervisor, either in the country or abroad.

(7) The request for scheduling the public defense of the doctoral thesis is submitted by the doctoral student, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and the chairperson of the defense committee. The request is registered with the Doctoral School secretariat at least 25 calendar days prior to the proposed defense date. The proposed date for the defense may not be earlier than the previously estimated date for the public defense.

(8) The Doctoral School prepares and publishes the announcement for the public defense at least 20 calendar days prior to the proposed defense date. The announcement shall mandatorily include the venue, date and time of the defense, the doctoral supervisor(s), as well as the location where the full text of the thesis may be consulted in printed format. The announcement of the public defense, the abstract of the thesis in electronic format, the list of publications with supporting documents, the doctoral student's CV, and the CVs of the members of the doctoral committee (or links thereto) are published on the IOSUD website.

(9) The doctoral thesis is defended in a public session before the doctoral committee, after evaluation by all reviewers and submission of their reports at least 15 days prior to the defense. The defense may take place in the presence of at least four members of the doctoral committee, with the mandatory physical presence of the chairperson and the doctoral supervisor, while the other members may participate via online videoconference. The public defense shall obligatorily include a session of questions from both the doctoral committee members and the audience.

(10) Based on the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the reviewers' reports, the declaration of originality, and the similarity analysis, the doctoral committee evaluates and deliberates on the awarding of the doctoral degree, in compliance with the minimum standards established by CNATDCU.

(11) If the minimum standards required for awarding the doctoral degree are not met, the doctoral committee shall specify the elements that must be revised or completed in the doctoral thesis and shall request a new public defense. The second public defense shall take place before the same doctoral committee as the first defense. If the minimum standards are still not met at the second defense, the doctoral degree shall not be awarded, and the doctoral student shall be expelled. If the doctoral student has fulfilled all requirements of the scientific research program and the minimum standards specific to the field, the doctoral committee proposes the awarding of the doctoral degree, and this proposal, together with the doctoral file, is forwarded to CNATDCU within a maximum of 30 calendar days.

(12) The structure of the doctoral file and access to it shall be regulated by a procedure developed by CNATDCU and approved by order of the Minister of Education, in compliance with the applicable legislation. Within 90 calendar days from receiving the doctoral file, CNATDCU issues a compliance opinion regarding the observance of the administrative procedure carried out at IOSUD level and the fulfillment of the minimum criteria for awarding the doctoral degree. The administrative procedure includes, as a distinct step, the verification of the declaration of originality and the analysis of similarity reports.

(13) Within 30 calendar days from receiving the compliance opinion, IOSUD issues the decision granting the doctoral degree, signed by the Rector, and prepares and issues the doctoral diploma.

(14) If CNATDCU determines that the administrative procedure carried out at IOSUD level did not comply with the provisions of this Regulation, the doctoral file shall be returned to IOSUD for reanalysis and completion. It may be resubmitted to CNATDCU for a new evaluation only after repeating the procedures set out in paragraphs (5)–(11).

Art. 11. (1) The doctoral thesis is a public document. The full name of the thesis author, the doctoral supervisor, and the members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, as well as the identification data of IOSUD, are also public information.

(2) The content of the doctoral thesis is determined by the doctoral student in consultation with the doctoral supervisor and shall comply with the framework structure and limitations established by the IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest Regulation and by this Regulation.

(3) The doctoral thesis shall also be prepared in digital format. After the doctoral diploma has been issued, the thesis, in both digital and printed formats, shall be archived in the POLITEHNICA Bucharest Library for permanent retention.

(4) The doctoral student may choose to publish or not to publish the doctoral thesis prior to its public defense; this option shall be included in the doctoral student's file.

a) If the doctoral student opts for the separate publication of the doctoral thesis or of certain chapters thereof, they shall be granted a grace period of up to 24 months for this purpose, during which the digital version of the thesis becomes inaccessible to the public. After the expiration of the grace period, if no notification regarding the separate publication of the thesis has been uploaded to the platform managed by UEFISCDI, the digital document shall automatically become freely accessible, with a copyright protection license assigned. Following the publication of the thesis or of parts thereof, the author is required to notify IOSUD and to provide the bibliographic reference and a link to the publication, which will subsequently be made public on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI.

b) If the doctoral student does not opt for the separate publication of the thesis or of parts thereof, the digital version of the thesis shall remain publicly accessible and may be freely consulted on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI, including after the issuance of the decision granting the doctoral degree. The thesis shall be assigned a copyright protection license.

(5) Within a maximum of 180 days after the issuance of the decision granting the doctoral degree, IOSUD is required to submit to the National Library of Romania one printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes, in accordance with Law no. 111/1995 on the Legal Deposit of Documents, republished, intended for the intangible collection, as well as one digital copy on electronic media, intended for on-request consultation at the premises of the National Library of Romania by any interested person, in compliance with the applicable legal provisions.

Chapter VII – Ethics and Academic Deontology

Art.12. (1) In teaching and university research activities, compliance with the rules of ethics and academic deontology is mandatory, as regulated by the Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology of POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(2) Within the Doctoral School, an Ethics and Academic Deontology Committee operates, ensuring compliance with the rules of ethics and academic deontology, as established by the Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology of POLITEHNICA Bucharest. The committee prepares an annual activity report.

(3) Any complaints regarding non-compliance with the rules of ethics and academic deontology shall be registered and resolved in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology of POLITEHNICA Bucharest, developed based on the national framework code of ethics and academic deontology, approved by Government decision.

(4) Failure to comply with the rules of ethics and academic deontology, including confirmed cases of plagiarism, may entail the public accountability of IOSUD.

Chapter VIII – Quality Assurance within the Doctoral School

Art.13 (1) The doctoral university study program in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education is subject periodically to two types of evaluation: internal evaluation and external evaluation.

(2) The internal evaluation of the doctoral program is conducted at the intervals established by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, based on a procedure established at IOSUD level.

(3) The procedure for the internal evaluation of the quality of the doctoral university study program in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education is based on multiple sources of information, including:

a) evaluation by doctoral students, conducted through anonymous questionnaires, with results subject to confidentiality;

b) peer evaluation of doctoral supervisors' activity, based on anonymous questionnaires, with results subject to confidentiality.

(4) The internal quality evaluation procedure for the doctoral study program shall include at least the following aspects:

- a) the mission and objectives of the doctoral program in Sport Science and Physical Education;
- b) the content and curriculum of the doctoral study program;
- c) the research results achieved by doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, including participation in scientific events, publication of articles, preparation and defense of doctoral theses, patents, etc.;
- d) the establishment of collaborative relationships with other structures with similar or complementary activities to those of the Doctoral School;
- e) the availability of documentation, learning and research resources, as well as the logistics accessible to doctoral students;
- f) specific requirements regarding teaching methods and forms of delivery;
- g) methods for evaluating knowledge and assessing skills in the development of doctoral students' competencies, as well as monitoring progress throughout the doctoral program;
- h) the degree of involvement of doctoral students in ensuring the quality of the doctoral study program;
- i) the existence of a code of ethics with clear provisions regarding the definition and sanctioning of academic and professional misconduct, including plagiarism.

Art. 14. (1) The doctoral university study program in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education is subject to external evaluation every five years, in accordance with the law.

(2) External evaluation is conducted by ARACIS or by another authorized quality assurance agency, either national or international.

(3) The external evaluation of the doctoral study field for periodic accreditation is conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title IV – Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Law no. 199/2023 on higher education, as subsequently amended and supplemented. The external evaluation is based on a system of criteria and a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education..

Art. 15. (1) The evaluation of doctoral students' activity explicitly targets the competencies they must develop during doctoral studies, in accordance with Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). This includes achievements within the advanced study program (PPA), progress reports from the scientific research program (PCS), participation in conferences, publications, patents, citations, awards, and similar outputs.

(2) The evaluation of doctoral students' activity is carried out annually by the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and the doctoral supervisor, based on a procedure adopted by the Doctoral School Council.

(3) The procedure and criteria for evaluating doctoral students are adopted by the Doctoral School Council and must ensure:

- a) accurate measurement of doctoral students' performance;
- b) analysis of doctoral students' progress;
- c) transparency and clear information regarding evaluation criteria;
- d) informing doctoral students about the evaluation strategy, expected performance, and assigned grades.

(4) Compliance with research ethics, as well as professional and academic integrity, constitutes an evaluation criterion throughout the entire doctoral study program..

Art. 16. (1) The evaluation of full-time doctoral supervisors is conducted periodically, every five years, based on a procedure developed by CSUD–IOSUD, grounded in both self-evaluation and peer evaluation.

(2) The internal evaluation of doctoral supervisors shall consider:

- a) the scientific research results of the doctoral supervisor (publications, patents, etc.);
- b) the scientific research results of the doctoral students supervised by the doctoral supervisor;
- c) other indicators of scientific activity, such as participation in research projects and conferences, both for the doctoral supervisor and for the doctoral students under their supervision.

(3) Doctoral supervisors are also subject to external evaluation every five years. This evaluation

is conducted based on a procedure established by order of the Minister of Education. The results are public.

(4) Following internal or external evaluations, the Doctoral School may propose to CSUD/IOSUD the extension or withdrawal of a doctoral supervisor's right to supervise doctoral studies within the program.

Chapter IX – Measures for the Prevention of Scientific Misconduct, Including Plagiarism

Art. 17. (1) The measures for preventing scientific misconduct within the Doctoral School in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education include the following:

a) recognizing the obligation of doctoral supervisors to be informed about good practices in scientific research and to transmit this information to doctoral students as a primary professional responsibility;

b) integrating information regarding research ethics and deontology, as well as legal provisions concerning scientific misconduct, into the courses delivered by teaching staff within the advanced study program (PPA), during the first semester, thereby ensuring the proper information of doctoral students;

c) identifying forms of plagiarism and the underlying causes that lead to plagiarism at the level of each doctoral supervisor and within the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees;

d) analyzing and discussing various cases of plagiarism for educational and preventive purposes.

(2) Compliance with good scientific conduct is verified through the use of similarity detection software (TURNITIN) for research reports and doctoral theses. The results are made publicly available..

Chapter X – Other Provisions

Art. 18. (1) The admission of new doctoral supervisors as members of the Doctoral School in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education shall be carried out as follows:

a) by obtaining the habilitation within the Doctoral School, in compliance with the methodology developed and approved at the level of the Doctoral School;

b) by the co-option/affiliation of academic staff holding the right to supervise doctoral studies in the field, from university structures or research institutions, upon their request, with the approval and proposal of the Doctoral School submitted to IOSUD. IOSUD decides on their affiliation to the Doctoral School.

Chapter XI – Final Provisions

Art. 19. (1) Doctoral university studies within the Doctoral School in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education are organized in accordance with this Regulation.

(2) Legal provisions of higher rank shall prevail over the provisions of this Regulation.

Art. 20. (1) Doctoral activity is recorded and managed by the Secretariat of the Doctoral School in the field of Sport Science and Physical Education, under the coordination of the Director of the Doctoral School.

(2) The records of doctoral students are maintained by the Secretariat of the Doctoral School, with the mandatory involvement of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

Art 21. The following documents form an integral part of this Regulation:

a) standard forms related to the activities mentioned above;

b) the doctoral university study contract;

c) regulations, methodologies, and procedures developed based on this Regulation.

Art 22. This Regulation was discussed and approved during the meeting of the Council of the Doctoral School of Sport Science and Physical Education on 06.02.2026 and enters into force after its approval by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD).

Director Școală doctorală,
Prof univ dr. hab. ION MIHĂILĂ