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Information about the irrelevance of an ethical approval statement

Which studies do not require ethical review? No application for ethical approval is needed if:

- I. It can be firmly assumed that participation in the study will not cause any conceivable physical or mental harm or discomfort for the participants that exceed their every-day experiences.

AND

- II. If at least one of the following requirements is met:
 - A. The study is based on data anonymized at the source (e.g., return of an outpatient's anonymized questionnaire or heart rate data which were collected in the course of a day within a department, anonymous online survey etc.).
 - B. The study is based on archival material, for which confidentiality is ensured, e.g. by transferring data from a patient's medical records directly onto a file for statistical evaluation while omitting name, address, date of birth and date of treatment and forgoing any use of study, participant or patient code or the like. The attribution of data to a specific person or patient file at a later point in time must be rendered impossible even when all extracted data are combined. Additionally, it must be ensured that the disclosure of the collected data will not expose participating persons to the risk of criminal prosecution or civil liability, financial loss, vocational disadvantages or defamation.

The Department 05 Ethics Committee does NOT issue written individual statements about the ethical irrelevance of a study. The principal investigator or peer-reviewers carry the full responsibility of evaluating whether the abovementioned conditions apply to their specific study.

For the Ethics Committee of the Dept. of Psychology and Sports



(A.Klein)

The recommendations listed above are based on the following sources:

1. „In welchen Fällen auf einen Ethikantrag verzichtet werden kann. [In which cases an ethic votum is dispensable]“ In: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie (DGPs) (Hrsg.): Ethisches Handeln in der psychologischen Forschung [Ethical acting in psychological research]. 1. Auflage 2018. Hogrefe Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, Göttingen.
2. Preamble 1. In: Weltärztebund (Hrsg.): Deklaration von Helsinki. 2013. Fortaleza.