IEEE Code of Ethics with Scenarios and Ethical Dilemmas

1. Protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

Scenario: A software engineer discovers a bug in a hospital machine that may give wrong readings. Reporting it may delay release but protects patients.

Ethical Dilemma: Report and delay project or stay silent to meet deadlines?

2. Avoid conflicts of interest.

Scenario: An IT consultant recommends a software that their own company sells, instead of a better alternative.

Ethical Dilemma: Promote personal/company gain or act in client's best interest?

3. Be honest and realistic in stating claims or data.

Scenario: A developer is asked to show higher AI accuracy in a proposal to win funding.

Ethical Dilemma: Present true results or fake performance for success?

4. Reject bribery and unethical practices.

Scenario: A vendor offers a gift to an IT employee to approve their faulty product.

Ethical Dilemma: Accept the gift and approve or act ethically?

5. Honor confidentiality and privacy.

Scenario: A health app developer is asked to share patient data for marketing.

Ethical Dilemma: Protect user privacy or help business profit?

6. Follow laws and organizational rules.

Scenario: A manager orders installation of pirated software to save cost.

Ethical Dilemma: Follow orders or obey copyright laws?

7. Avoid deceptive acts.

Scenario: A startup hides cybersecurity flaws from investors.

Ethical Dilemma: Reveal the truth or hide it to gain investment?

8. Treat all people fairly and avoid discrimination.

Scenario: An AI hiring tool rejects more women due to biased data.

Ethical Dilemma: Launch early with bias or delay to fix fairness issues?

9. Do not cause harm to others.

Scenario: A social media company uses addictive design to increase screen time.

Ethical Dilemma: Increase profits or protect mental health?

10. Support others in ethical behavior and report violations.

Scenario: An employee discovers illegal data deletion in the company.

Ethical Dilemma: Report wrongdoing or stay silent to avoid job loss?