



**INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL SHOOTING CONFEDERATION
CODE OF ETHICS**

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1. Preamble

The International Practical Shooting Confederation (hereinafter “IPSC”) and each of its parties, members and its administration, including Regional Directorates and their administrations, Competitors, Match Officials, Trainers, Instructors, Officials, Helpers and other Volunteers, and all various IPSC parties, as well as individuals and organizations involved in IPSC Sport restate their commitment to Ethics in Sport and undertake to disseminate the culture of ethics and integrity within their respective areas of competence and to serve as role models.

2. Recipients

The recipients of this Code are all those who in some ways are involved with IPSC Sport, such as Regional Directorates and their administrations, Competitors, Match Officials, Trainers, Instructors, Officials, Helpers and other Volunteers, and all various IPSC parties, as well as individuals and organizations, health professionals, media, educators, guardians, sports bodies, business agents, supporters, partners, sponsors, patrons, spectators and fans.

Given that in essence ethical principles apply to all those involved in sports development, it is essential to think of those principles in a specific manner, from the point of view of those more directly involved in the practice of sport, to form an example and a reference to all, especially for younger people.

3. Introduction

Sport can justify its presence in society through being an educational and training tool, for personal and social development and entrepreneurship, of extraordinary power.

In and through sport we believe we are capable of building a better and safer world for ourselves and for future generations. The Code of Sports Ethics is a legacy we leave for sport and society. The Code of Sports Ethics is, above all, a promotional banner, which contains the main values for correct sporting behavior.

It contains the standards of conduct, which should guide the action of various individuals and organizations involved in IPSC Sport.

Ethics is not limited to these recommendations of conduct and behavior, nor to these agents and stakeholders involved in the practice of IPSC Sport. These are not categorical impositions nor does this manual put an end to debate.

However, what is most important is that in life as in sport we apply the suggestions here, which have been jointly agreed upon and worked on together.

4. Objectives

Key objectives of this Code involve not only the idea of setting up an essential standard of ethics in IPSC Sport, but also an array of good customs, good practices and a framework of human values in the fields of IPSC Sport.

1. The basic principle of the Code of Sports Ethics is that ethical considerations leading to fair play are integral and not optional elements, of all IPSC Sports activity, sports policy and



management, and apply to all levels of ability and commitment, including recreational as well as competitive sport.

2. The Code provides a sound ethical framework to combat the pressures in modern day society, which appear to be undermining the traditional foundations of sport - foundations built on fair play and sportsmanship, and on the voluntary movement.
3. The primary concern and focus are Fair Play for children and young people, in the recognition that children and young people of today are the adult participants and sporting stars of tomorrow. The Code is also aimed at the institutions and adults who are participate in IPSC Sport as well as have a direct or indirect influence on young people's involvement and participation in sport.
4. The Code embraces the concepts of the right of people of all ages, and especially children and young people to participate and enjoy their involvement in sport, and the responsibilities of the institutions and adults to promote fair play and to ensure that these rights are respected.
5. Sporting activity, due to its social and cultural wealth, is a privileged means to increasingly help put into practice the ethical values, which, by their nature, should constitute an example to be followed by other sectors of society.

Today, sport should increasingly be a true School for Freedom and an authentic School for Citizenship.

5. Respect for the Universal Fundamental Ethical Principles

These include:

1. Respect for the IPSC spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.
2. Respect of the principle of the universality and political neutrality of IPSC Sport.
3. Maintaining harmonious relations with state authorities, while respecting the principle of autonomy as set out in the IPSC Constitution.
4. Ensuring the participants' conditions of safety, well-being and medical care favorable to their physical and mental equilibrium.
5. Respect for international conventions on protecting human rights insofar as they apply to IPSC's activities and which ensure in particular:
 - Respect for human dignity.
 - Rejection of discrimination of any kind on whatever grounds, be it race, color, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
 - Rejection of all forms of harassment and abuse be it physical, professional or sexual, and any physical or mental injuries.

6. Defining Fair Play

Fair play is defined as much more than playing with the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving.

- **It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, competitiveness, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), the sexual harassment and abuse of**



children, young people, men and women, exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialization and corruption.

Fair play is a positive concept. Sport is a social and cultural activity which, practiced fairly, enriches society and the friendship between nations.

Sport is also recognized as an individual activity which, played fairly, offers the opportunity for self-development, self-knowledge, self-expression and fulfilment; personal achievement, skill acquisition and demonstration of ability; social interaction, enjoyment, good health and well-being.

7. Responsibility for Fair Play

Involvement and participation in IPSC Sport among children, young people and adults takes place within a wider social environment. Fair play must be the highest priority by all those who, directly or indirectly, influence and promote IPSC Sporting experiences for people of all ages.

These include:

1. **Governments:** at all levels, and including agencies working with Government. Those involved in formal education have a particular responsibility.
2. **Sports and Sports-Related Organizations:** including Sports Governing Bodies, Physical Education Associations, Coaching Agencies and Institutes, Medical and Pharmacological Professions and the Media.
3. **Commercial sector:** including firearms and sports goods manufacturers and retailers and marketing agencies, also has a responsibility to contribute to the promotion of fair play.
4. **Individuals:** including Competitors, Guardians, Parents, Teachers, Coaches, Match Officials, Officials, Sports Leaders, Administrators, Media and Journalists, Health Professionals, Helpers and other Volunteers; and those role models who have achieved levels of sporting excellence and fame; those who work on a voluntary or on a professional basis. Individuals may also have responsibilities in their capacity as spectators.

Each of these institutions and individuals has a responsibility and a role to play. This Code of Sports Ethics is addressed to all of them. It will only be effective if all involved in IPSC Sport are prepared to take on the responsibility identified in the Code.

8. Scope of Application

The IPSC parties undertake to comply and ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics in the following circumstances:

1. IPSC, each of its parties, members and its administration, including their Competitors and Officials, at all times and in all circumstances.
2. All IPSC competitions' participants, throughout each level of the IPSC matches / events for which they are accredited.
3. IPSC Regions and the Recognized Associations and/or Organizations (The International Range Officers Association - IROA, The Main International Shooting Instructors Association - MISIA) and their officials, in all their relations with IPSC.



4. The Interested Parties to the Continuous and/or Targeted Dialogue with IPSC, such as Sponsors, Partners, Patrons, Supporters, Parents, Teachers, Medical personnel, Media and all various individuals and organizations involved in IPSC Sport, during the duration of the dialogues and cooperation.
5. The IPSC parties must use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. At all times, they must act with the highest degree of integrity, and particularly when taking decisions, they must act with impartiality, objectivity, independence and professionalism. They must refrain from any act involving fraud, cheating and/or corruption. They must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of IPSC Sport.

9. Sports Practitioners (Competitors, Match Officials, Trainers, Instructors, Officials)

1. Respect the rules of the game or competition.
2. Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
3. Always give your best in competition, regardless of the opponent.
4. Consider sports opponents as partners and not as enemies, treating them politely and with respect.
5. Respect your own body, as well as those of your opponents, safeguarding them from any harm to their physical and mental integrity.
6. Reject doping in any form, thereby protecting your health and preserving sporting truth.
7. Recognize the value of your opponents and congratulate them when they win the game or competition. Do not look for excuses or hold a grudge for having lost the game but, on the contrary, know how to use defeat as a means of improvement.
8. Learn how to win: maintain, in your happiness at victory, humility and simplicity and acknowledging the effort of each one of those who has been defeated.
9. Respect other sports agents (managers, coaches, referees and judges, etc.) and spectators, in all circumstances and times, during or outside competition, treating them in a respectful and courteous manner.
10. Be respectful and correct to all entities providing support services.
11. Remember that as you get better results your obligations to safeguard sportsmanship will be greater, as these will become a public example of ethics for all, especially for younger people.
12. Get to know and comply with the Code of Sports Ethics which has been approved by associations representing the area of activity in which you take part.

10. Educational Establishments and Teachers

1. Teach and convey to students the values of Sports Ethics.
2. Give value, through your technical notations, to values of sports ethics.
3. Recognize the activities of Associations, School and University Sports as a means of promoting sports ethics within the educational community.
4. Promote, disseminate and practice the global teaching of human values where sport ethically practiced serves as a tool and a special means to achieve this.



11. Coaches, Trainers, Instructors

1. Respect, in all forms and at all times, and equally, Competitors for whom you are responsible, by preserving their health and physical and mental integrity.
2. Promote sportsmanship among Competitors, and also in their own training.
3. Respect the technical rules of the sport and contribute to their qualitative improvement.
4. Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
5. Consider activity colleagues as partners regarding the development of the sporting disciplines they train.
6. Foster a healthy relationship among all classmates.
7. Provide an ethical model for all, especially for younger people.
8. Promote the ethical values underlying sport and life for all age groups.
9. Oppose the use of any prohibited substances or methods that artificially improve the performance of Competitors, in accordance with applicable anti-doping rules, and the use of methods that do not comply with medical ethics or regular scientific data.
10. Do not use training methods, practices or rules that may endanger the health and welfare of Competitors.
11. Avoid any situation that may lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest are understood to be cases when there are, or appear to be, private or personal interests, which may call into question your integrity and independence in the performance of your duties.
12. Comply with the Code of Sports Ethics, which has been approved by the representative associations of the area of activity of which your professional category is part.

12. Match Officials (NROI and IROA) and other Implementers of the IPSC Constitution and IPSC Rules

1. Respect and enforce, to the fullest extent, the technical rules of the IPSC Sport or match / competition to contribute to their development.
2. Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
3. Respect sports agents you come into contact with, treating them all with due consideration.
4. Perform duties in a full, free, independent and impartial manner, informing the competent authorities of any situations which may call into question these same values.
5. Respect teammates, promoting a healthy and supportive relationship between all, as well as contributing to the achievement of common goals for the sporting activity they are carrying out.
6. Set up, even in your private life, a public example of ethical behavior for all, especially for younger people.
7. Apply suitable weighting in taking decisions and being impartial in your decision criteria.
8. Adopt a serene, firm, and fair position promoting equality.
9. Avoid any situation that may lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest are understood to be cases when there are, or appear to be, private or personal interests, which may call into question your integrity and independence in the performance of your duties.



10. Comply with the Code of Sports Ethics, which has been approved by the representative associations of the area of activity of which your professional category is part.

13. Parents and Guardians

1. Convey to your children or learners the meaning and purpose of sport and its values, from the view of the essence of being human and what sport represents in human, family and social relations.
2. Respect the decisions of IPSC Match Officials, timekeepers and others who are responsible for the laws of the game, coaches, Instructors, Trainers, officials, managers and other sports agents.
3. Understand and make clear to your children or learners the need to practice ethical values, inside and outside competitions.
4. Tell your children or learners about the issue of the fight against doping, particularly regarding the duties and rights of sports Competitors and inform their general practitioners that they are actual sports Competitors.
5. Instill in your children or learners the spirit that the essence of sport is not in the awarding and display of titles, but rather in the idea that the practice of sports makes an excellent contribution to improving their health and also their civic training.
6. Disseminate and, along with your children or learners, value good examples, which have taken place in sport and in life.
7. Have a correct and cooperative relationship with the parents and guardians of other Competitors.

14. IPSC Regions, Member Countries (Regional Sports Organizations)

1. Implement regulations and standards concerning ethical content in their internal legal system.
2. Promote measures which contribute to the democratization and transparency of all acts carried out within their regional organization.
3. Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
4. Carry out campaigns on ethical values in sport, promoting them as suitably as possible, within internal and external media.
5. Establish lasting institutional relationships with regional sports organizations promoting good practices in sports ethics.
6. Set down in your Statutes or Regulations, rules providing for those assuming office, when taking up their post, to take an oath to be bound by respect for the rules of the IPSC Code of Sports Ethics or any identical Code created within your sports regional Federation.
7. Plan and establish suitable competitive frameworks for the state of development of your Competitors, in particular younger individuals, and so contribute to all-round development and in this way avoid early tendencies to specialize.
8. Ensure compliance with the principles laid down for other individuals involved in sport who fall under their remit.



15. IPSC Regional Directors, Match Directors, Managers and Officials

1. Act by primarily taking into consideration the interests of and service for communities, through the principles laid down in the aims of its statutes –Service to the Community.
2. Comply with the law and the Codes of Sports Ethics, which the organizing and regulatory body of the discipline implements as part of its internal regulations – Legality.
3. Be fair and impartial to all citizens, acting according to the principles of neutrality - Impartiality.
4. Do not discriminate against any citizen on the basis of race, sex, language, religious or political ideologies or social or economic conditions - Equality.
5. Require from your members only what is necessary for their membership activity - Proportionality.
6. Act according to the principle of Good Faith in the interest of the community seeking to promote sporting activity, and promote the participation of all, at all levels, in sports associations- Cooperation.
7. Strive to disseminate information about the activity being promoted with your members - Information and Quality.
8. Always act in a loyal, supportive and cooperative manner - Loyalty.
9. Be governed by principles of honesty and integrity of character - Integrity.
10. Act responsibly and competently, being actively involved in carrying out the aims of the institution you form part of –Responsibility

Moreover:

11. Do not in any way make derogatory statements of merit or value about other associations or sports bodies, as well as managers, Competitors, coaches, Match Officials and others involved in sport.
12. Encourage and praise the good practices and ethical behavior of other directors or managers, Competitors, coaches, referees and other individuals involved in sports such as members, fans of sports associations or companies, which you direct or manage.
13. Take a proactive stance in the fight against doping, acting preventatively, promoting the rights and duties of Competitors and their support staff, as well as refusing to exert pressure on professionals (doctors or others), in order to improve sporting performance of the Competitors and their teams.
14. Respect the technical rules of the sport and contribute to their dissemination, knowledge and qualitative improvement.
15. Respect the decisions of sports referees, judges, timekeepers and others who are responsible for the laws of the game.
16. Do not take any or fail to take actions, such as making public statements, that provide or that are means to encourage or promote attacks on sportsmanship, or discrimination against any individuals involved in sports.
17. Avoid placing excessive value on, particularly at younger levels, the awarding and displaying of titles as the main or key objective of any sports game or competition.
18. Working side-by-side with coaches, do not use training methods, practices or rules that may endanger the health and welfare of Competitors, and assess and take into account the growth



stages and the stage of development, seeking to provide adequate nutrition, leisure time and recovery and integrating the system with school and social activities.

19. Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
20. Avoid any situation that may lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest are understood to be cases when there are, or appear to be, private or personal interests, which may call into question your integrity and independence in the performance of your duties.

16. Sports and Business Agents, Sponsors, Partners

1. Preserve the private life of your clients, not disseminating any facts regarding their personal professional life, which they have become aware of as a result of your duties.
2. Carry out your activity conscientiously and adopt behavior worthy of respect towards all those involved with sport with whom you maintain professional relations.
3. Act with truth, clarity and objectivity in your dealings with all those involved with sports related to your activity.
4. Protect the interests of your clients in accordance with the law and fairness, while establishing effective legal relations.
5. Respect the rights of your business partners and third parties. In particular, you should respect the contractual relations of professional colleagues and should abstain from any act, which may lead clients to withdraw from third parties.
6. Recognize the activities of clubs as a means of promoting Sports Ethics to sports practitioners.
7. Avoid any situation that may lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest are understood to be cases when there are, or appear to be, private or personal interests, which may call into question your integrity and independence in the performance of your duties.
8. Comply with the general principles governing the IPSC Code of Sports Ethics.

17. Spectators and Sports Fans

1. Have an ethically correct relationship among yourselves and with others involved in sports, whether individuals or collective bodies.
2. Do not use methods in their relationships with others involved in sports, whether individuals or collective bodies, which constitute acts which:
 - Are violent in nature, whether this be social, psychological or physical;
 - In sporting games of competitions, or outside these, be offensive or disrespect good ethical practices in their attitude to other individuals involved in sport;
 - Be offensive with regard to sexual orientation, social status, ethnicity, religion or race of those involved in sport.
3. Comply with the general principles governing the Code of Sports Ethics.

18. Helpers and other Volunteers

1. Carry out your activity in a voluntary, responsible, generous and disinterested manner, imbued with civic duty and supportive of those you are serving.
2. Always show availability, generosity, solidarity, altruism, sympathy and dedication.
3. Cooperate with all bodies and authorities involved in or part of the IPSC Sports activity, which you are supporting.



4. Respect the ethical principles that govern the activity, which you are participating in.
5. Observe, comply with and enforce the rules governing the functioning of the body promoting the activity.
6. Respect the organization and the promoting body without using this to your own advantage.
7. Become aware of, respect and defend the dignity of the individual, condemning any gesture or word, which promotes racism, xenophobia or any type of discrimination.
8. Become aware of the sociocultural reality, promoting fellowship and friendship.
9. Refrain from any risky behavior, such as smoking, taking drugs or drinking alcoholic beverages.
10. Show values and ethical principles through your attitudes and behavior.

19. Media

1. Give appropriate coverage of issues, which, in the news and op-ed pieces, presuppose objectivity and equality among those involved in sport and the groups within it.
2. Do not issue opinions or ways of thinking which do not preserve the assumption of full equality of rights and obligations of all those involved in sport.
3. Do not distort or hide relevant information on facts, which may come into conflict with sporting truth.
4. Promote and disseminate as much as possible, good practices within the field of sports ethics, with regard to both games and sporting competitions as well as all areas of life, which are, directly or indirectly, are related to sport.
5. Preserve the private life of all those involved in sport, and do not disseminate data or information, which strictly concerns them, and, in the fullest and most effective ways possible, restore the truth of facts when incorrectly disseminated.
6. Create a Commitment to Sports Ethics, to be signed by the heads of media bodies and their employees.

20. Disciplinary Measures and Sanctions

Historically, in IPSC, breaches of the Code of Ethics have been considered unacceptable in any IPSC competition or event.

Any breach of this Code by persons bound by it may result in action/sanctions being taken against individuals and/or organizations in accordance with the IPSC Constitution, Competition Rules, By-laws or any other IPSC Rules and Regulations.

The Disciplinary Committee may decide that the notification of a case be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The Participant who is alleged to have committed a violation of this Code must be informed of the alleged violations that have been committed, details of the alleged acts and/or omissions, and the range of possible sanctions.

The principle of confidentiality must be strictly respected by IPSC during all the procedure.



Code of Ethics

The sanction may be imposed by taking into account all relevant factors in the case, including the offender's assistance and cooperation, the motive, the circumstances and the degree of the offender's guilt.

The Disciplinary Committee shall decide the scope and duration of any sanction.