

INTERNATIONAL POLE SPORTS FEDERATION  
CODE OF CONDUCT  
For  
SPORTING OFFICIALS



[www.polesports.org](http://www.polesports.org)

November 2015

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## **Code of conduct for judges, head judges and contesting judges**

1. Judges must be free of obligation to any interest other than being impartial and fair.
2. Judges must undertake the responsibility for ensuring public confidence in pole sports by impartial and fair judging in pole sports competitions.
3. Judges must continuously uphold the dignity and honour of being an IPSF Judge in all interactions with athletes, coaches, competition organisers, IPSF and national committee members and the public.
4. Judges must always endeavour to exhibit excellent communication skills, both non-verbal and verbal at all times.
5. Judges must uphold and maintain the basic requirements of being an IPSF sporting official: discretion, integrity, neutrality, professionalism, respect and commitment.
6. Judges must understand and master the full rules of IPSF polesports to enable accurate and precise scoring.
7. Judges must recognise that anything which may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favours, privileges or personal relationships with athletes and coaches can compromise the perceived impartiality of judging and must be avoided.
8. Judges must at all times be prepared for a judging and officiating assignment both mentally and physically. Correct dress attire, punctuality and conducting themselves the high standards expected of the profession within the IPSF and pole sports environment is expected for all contractual obligations.
9. Judges must work with each other, the IPSF and their governing bodies constructively and co-operatively.
10. Judges must not be party to any actions which involve discrimination based on age, colour, creed, economic factors, sex, physical or mental handicap, country or national origin.
11. Judges must not make any false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, experience, training or competence and must resist temptation and outside pressure to use their position to benefit themselves.
12. Judges must never participate in any form of illegal gambling connected to any sport.
13. Judges must accept all responsibility for all actions taken by themselves and for any negative impact brought upon IPSF pole sports.

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## **Code of conduct for federation members, club officials and volunteers**

**The essence of good ethical conduct and practice is summarised below.**

**All federation members, club officials and volunteers must:**

1. Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
2. Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
3. Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
4. Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play).
5. Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance.
6. Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body, EUSU and the Club.
7. Hold appropriate valid qualifications or be working towards such qualifications and insurance cover.
8. Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
9. Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
10. Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
11. Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
12. Never actively promote anti-social behaviour, lude acts or excessive drinking, or force any EUSU member into taking part in such activities.
13. Shall not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the ground of gender, race, disability, age, religious or political belief, sexual orientation, social background, ethnic origin, language, marital or civil partnership status or pregnancy

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## **Code of Conduct for coaches**

1. Arrive in plenty of time to set up your activities and ensure safety
2. Keep yourself informed about sound coaching practices
3. Be reasonable in your demands on participants' time, energy and enthusiasm
4. The successful coach invests in the well-being and interests of their players, not their win/loss record
5. Teach your team that honest effort is more important than victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment
6. Never ridicule or shout at a participant for making a mistake or losing
7. Teach players to be fair and to follow the rules
8. Divide your time equally between all standards of players
9. Check you have adequate insurance cover for the coaching you are undertaking.
10. Ensure you and your players have respect for their opponents, the officials and opposing coaches and supporters
11. Follow advice from a professional when determining if an injured player is ready to play or train
12. Take responsibility for the young people in your care until they have safely left the activity.
13. Shall not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the ground of gender, race, disability, age, religious or political belief, sexual orientation, social background, ethnic origin, language, marital or civil partnership status or pregnancy

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## **Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking**

Coaches and officials must:

- Not at any time present for training or competition evidencing consumption of alcohol or affected by illicit drugs of addiction
- Not engage in excessive use of alcohol and/or other drugs that leads to behaviour that is deemed unlawful, creates a public nuisance, and/or public disturbance, and/or disturbance to a fellow Athlete, coach, team manager or other sporting official
- Not consume alcohol on board any vehicle whilst travelling, training or competing with or for IPSF
- If attending a function associated with pole sports or IPSF where alcohol is served a responsible approach to alcohol consumption must be taken. Any consumption must not adversely affect the athlete's behaviour, performance or safety or the performance or safety of others
- Refrain from engaging in group drinking games which involve bullying or peer pressure to consume excessive amounts of alcohol

## **Standards and expectations of all IPSF sporting officials**

### **Rights**

Every IPSF sporting official must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in sport.

### **Professional Standards**

All IPSF sporting officials have the responsibility to maximise benefits and minimise risks to athletes. They must attain and monitor high levels of competitiveness through qualifications and a commitment to continued professional development to ensure safe, fun and efficient practice.

### **Personal standards**

Every IPSF sporting official has the responsibility to demonstrate high standards of personal behaviour at all times.

### **Relationships**

IPSF sporting officials must develop relationships based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.

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## **IPSF Reputation and Public Comment**

Coaches and officials must not make any public or media comment which is detrimental to the interests of IPSF. This includes but is not limited to commenting negatively about:

- IPSF and associated entities;
- An event the coach or official is participating in;
- IPSF Sponsors;
- Officials;
- Competitors; or
- Fellow coaches, team managers and/or team officials.

***When using social media, which includes, but is not limited to:***

- Social networking sites e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, MySpace, Friendster;
- Video and photo sharing websites e.g. Flickr, YouTube, Vine;
- All photographs, video and audio ‘material’ posted onto social media or the internet;
- Micro-blogging sites e.g. Twitter;
- Weblogs, including corporate blogs, personal blogs or blogs hosted by traditional media publications such as smh.com.au;
- Forums and discussion boards such as Whirlpool, Yahoo! Groups or Google Groups; and
- Online encyclopedias such as Wikipedia and any other websites that allow individual users or companies to use simple publishing tools;

***all coaches and officials must:***

- Ensure communication at all times conforms to the values set out in the Code, is dignified and in good taste, and not contain vulgar or obscene words or images;
- Not imply that any personal comments are endorsed in any way by IPSF or an IPSF club or falsely represent any other person;
- Not participate in social media networks in such a way that harasses, defames, discriminates or treats unfairly or inappropriately any stakeholder of IPSF;
- Not communicate frustration at a referee, Athlete, team-mate, coach, competitor or sporting body via social network channels.
- Not speak for or post images on behalf of or related to IPSF business operations, marketing campaigns, facilities, membership, Athletes, coaches or officials or media coverage without the express prior approval of IPSF;
- Not use the IPSF logo or trademark;
- Not give out personal details, locations, confidential information or other content including images the Athlete, coach or official does not have permission to publish;
- Only represent their own views and not impersonate others;
- Be responsible for obtaining, where applicable, the consent of any other persons appearing in any still or moving images posted;
- Always use social network forums to add value and promote the Athlete’s, coaches or official’s sport in a positive way.

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## **Breach**

Athletes, coaches, volunteers and officials will be held responsible for all breaches of this Code. The IPSF after investigation will determine the severity of the breach and disciplinary action including but not limited to the following may be taken:

- An oral or written reprimand;
- Issuing of a first and final written warning;
- A direction to undergo counseling for a specified period;
- Disqualification from selection to represent IPSF or train with IPSF for a specific period of which can include a permanent ban;
- An Athlete be made ineligible to receive the direct or indirect (including financial and non financial) assistance from IPSF for a specified period, which may be permanent;
- The coach, official or volunteer be held responsible for financial loss or damage caused by their conduct or breach of this Code;
- Except for counseling purposes, the coach, official or volunteer be permanently banned from using the facilities and services of IPSF;
- The coach, official or volunteer have their IPSF awards withdrawn permanently;
- Termination or suspension of IPSF annual membership;
- Termination of a relevant employment or scholarship agreement with IPSF; and/or
- The application any other appropriate sanction as determined by IPSF.

Commencement: November 2015

Approved by: IPSF Executive Committee

Review due by: November 2018

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