

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE



FIG CODE OF CONDUCT

for Athletes, Coaches, Judges and Officials

2019

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The International Gymnastics Federation is the world-wide sport governing body for gymnastics. The FIG Code of Ethics is adopted by Congress and applies to all member federations and its' participants in the sport of gymnastics.

National Federations may also have their own rules of ethical conduct and they are responsible to create a positive environment for the practice of safe gymnastics. This Code does not replace the National Federations' own Codes of Conduct and Ethical Rules but is designed to reinforce them.

The conduct and behavior of all participants in national and international gymnastics activity must be consistent with the rules as provided by the International Olympic Committee, the FIG, and the National Federation.

The following document summarizes the FIG Code of Ethics Principles and provides the Code of Conduct to which all participants in gymnastics must comply.

These documents provide the framework to guide all participants in their actions.

PART 2: TWO KEY PRINCIPLES FROM THE FIG CODE OF ETHIC

1. RESPECT AND HUMAN DIGNITY

- a) *The respect of human rights and dignity is a fundamental requirement during all activities of the sport of gymnastics on a national and international level.*
- b) *Discrimination of any kind shall not be permitted, including race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability, physical attributes and athletic ability or other status.*
- c) *All doping at any level is absolutely prohibited. All points contained in the Anti-Doping Code of the FIG and the Olympic Movement, as well as those of the Code for preventing competition manipulation edited by the IOC are to be scrupulously observed.*
- d) *All forms of non-accidental violence which include sexual harassment, sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse and neglect will not be tolerated and will be disclosed.*

2. INTEGRITY

- a) *FIG members or their representatives are not permitted, directly or indirectly, to demand, accept or propose any kind of remuneration, commission, advantages, any obscure/unofficial favours, while involved in the organisation and conduct of official events or activities of the FIG.*
- b) *Only symbolic gifts (of little value), corresponding to the maximum value of CHF 100 approved by the Executive Committee of the FIG, may be offered to or accepted by FIG representatives (officials and judges) as gestures of appreciation or friendship. All other gifts must be passed on to the organisation of which the individual is a member. Any gift in direct or indirect relation with or during competition is strictly forbidden.*
- c) *The hospitality offered to FIG members or their representatives may not exceed the normal standard of the host country.*
- d) *During the conduct of their activities, FIG members are expected to display correct conduct and deportment, to strictly follow the FIG Code of Conduct and to declare any conflict of interest between the organisation of which he/she is a member and all other organisations with which the FIG has relationships. Any close family relative* to a competitive gymnast may not judge that gymnast or his/her unit (pair, group, etc.) at*

any FIG sanctioned event. If a conflict should or could appear, the president of the FIG is to be informed, so appropriate action can be taken.

** Definition of "close family relative as per EC decision:*

People who are or were married to, or live in a registered partnership or co-habit with a gymnast

People who are related to a gymnast by birth or marriage in direct or in collateral line, including the following persons: grandparent, parent, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, child, grandchild, nephew and cousin.

- e) *The FIG representatives are to handle their responsibilities with diligence and care. They shall abstain from any false declarations and shall behave in a dignified and respectful manner. They demonstrate fairness in all sport activities and decisions which might affect the reputation of the FIG.*
- f) *Members of the FIG authorities may not be linked to enterprises or persons whose activities are incompatible with the principles or the rules of the FIG and its Codes.*
- g) *The FIG members, officials, judges and participants of FIG events are not permitted to demonstrate undue pressure or influence the vote or the direction of decisions made in the FIG, and especially must avoid any cooperation sought by influencing the work and evaluation of the judges.*

PART 3: FIG CODE OF CONDUCT

General Principles for Athletes, Coaches and Officials

The Code of Conduct includes the standards of behavior and conduct expected of all participants and gives a set of guidelines that have, with research and experience, been proven to reliably lead to a desired result.

These rules alone cannot further ethical conduct in sport. This can only occur when participants make a personal commitment to ethical behavior and conduct.

It is important to note, that, while the FIG may set standards for behaviour, national federations and their clubs have a legal and/or moral responsibility to address behaviour that offends community standards or is against the law. Behavior, that may be illegal, should be reported to the police.

Below are key principles of conduct and acceptable behavior which apply to athletes, coaches and officials.

In part 3 of this document, the general principles are listed which apply to everyone.

Standards of behavior specific to athletes (part 4), coaches (part 5), judges and officials (part 6) follow these general principles.

A. Principles of Integrity and Respect

- To maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of others by demonstrating respect for others, at all times, regardless of race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability, physical attributes and athletic ability or other status.
- To act with integrity and objectivity, and to accept responsibility for decisions and actions taken.
- To consistently promote positive aspects of sport such as fair play and to uphold the same values of sportsmanship on and off the field of play.
- To accept success and failure, victory and defeat with dignity.
- To ensure decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- To refrain from any behaviour and language that constitutes harassment, or physical abuse, is offensive, racist, sexist, unwanted, degrading, or malicious.
- To uphold the values of clean dope-free sport and never to advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.

- To never participate in, or advocate practices that contravene the laws of the state.
- To challenge abusive, bullying or threatening language or behaviour and report it.
- To remain free from any bribes, betting, or attempt to manipulate results or be involved in any other form of corruption in any gymnastics activity.

B. Individual Responsibility

- To always uphold and follow the policies and rules of one's club, the national federation or the international federation.
- To respect the confidentiality of information between athletes and coaches, coaches and officials, coaches and parents or authorities.
- To be organized, prepared and on time for gymnastics activities.
- To work co-operatively, in a fair and impartial manner within a club or national team situation, understanding the specific roles and tasks of all members, and the rules and regulations guiding the activity.
- To comply with the rules and regulations of the club and the national federation.
- To refrain from excessive smoking and alcohol consumption while attending official activities.

Individuals in positions of trust

- To never abuse, misuse the relationship of trust, position of power and influence held by a coach or official.
- To avoid situations where individuals in a supervisory capacity are in a one-to-one or unobserved situation with a minor.
- When travelling for gymnastics activities, to always follow the protocols and rules for transportation and accommodation laid out by appropriate authorities.
- To act as a role model and ensure demonstration of consistent standards of behaviour.
- To communicate with minor gymnasts openly and publicly and not send private messages to minors.

C. Communication

- To ensure that all statements and other forms of communication about others are factual and/or not deliberately hurtful including all forms of social media.
- To ensure that athletes, coaches, officials and others are appropriately informed and have accurate information for decisions.
- To ensure that all sport e-mails, texts, messaging and posts are transparent, professional and related solely to gymnastics activities or events.
- To report promptly any concerns of abuse or neglect of a participant in gymnastics to the appropriate authorities in line with applicable Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, and to ensure action has been taken.
- To refrain from public negative criticism of volunteers, coaches, officials and others involved in a gymnastics activity. Report difficulties or concerns in the appropriate manner.
- When providing feedback to any gymnastics participant, to be honest, but positive and ensure a factual and constructive approach which allows gymnast's feedback.
- To keep emotions in check and maintaining composure and use language that is unlikely to cause offense.

PART 4: ATHLETES SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

- To understand and comply with all applicable rules and regulations set out for the sport of gymnastics.
- To follow a mutually agreed upon training plan which is compatible with education, career and family life.
- To abstain from the use of alcohol, illegal substances and performance enhancing drugs and comply with all rules and regulations for drug testing as properly conducted by the IOC, WADA, FIG, the NOC, or national federation.
- To strictly maintain appropriate, professional relationships with coaches or other officials.
- To make a conscious effort to raise concerns with parents, coaches or other officials or authorities.
- To communicate with others in a respectful and professional manner and not misuse social media in a way that is harmful to individuals or could bring the sport into disrepute.
- To report any injury or accident to the coach and appropriate staff and parents to ensure the proper treatment can be prescribed. It is important to co-operate with team managers, doctors, physiotherapists, sport scientists, and communicate necessary information to the sport governing body.
- To report any suspected misconduct by coaches or others involved in the sport, to the appropriate safeguarding authorities and take appropriate follow up actions.
- To respectfully accept the decisions of officials or judges at gymnastics events. Complaints, differences of opinion or conflicts should be dealt with through proper channels.
- To provide accurate personal information as required to the appropriate authorities.

PART 5: COACH SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

- To understand and comply with all applicable rules and regulations set out for the sport of gymnastics.
- To place the current and long-term health, safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- To reduce risk of injury to participants and maximize their holistic development.
- To ensure each gymnast is following a well-planned program of training suitable to their age and ability level which has been communicated to parents and/or guardians.
- To strictly maintain appropriate, professional relationship boundaries with parents, athletes and/or officials.
- To listen actively to concerns voiced by athletes and to follow up with appropriate action to resolve problems.
- To demonstrate professionalism and duty of care by providing quality services and expertise, and not misrepresent qualifications and coaching experiences.
- To assess that the training environment is safe.
- To fulfill the duty of care with regards to athletes with injury management and the return to training.
- To ensure that any physical contact with another athlete is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the athletes' skill development and/or safety.
- To help each athlete to reach their potential by respect the talent, developmental stage and goals.
- To treat each participant as an individual and prepare them for success.

- To obtain and maintain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices.
- To never compromise athletes by advocating measures that contravene any competition rules to gain unfair advantage.
- To support opportunities for transition into other aspects of the sport upon retirement from competitive gymnastics.

PART 6: JUDGE AND OFFICIAL SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

- To understand and comply with all applicable rules and regulations set out for the sport of gymnastics.
- To always maintain the duty of care of the athlete as foremost.
- To be prepared for the function they are assigned in appropriate attire and conduct all duties with professionalism, competence, courtesy, efficiency and punctuality.
- To demonstrate absolute fairness, impartiality and consistency in all judging situations.
- To work within the spirit of co-operation with other officials and event organizers, and adhere to any other special requests.
- To provide input and feedback in a constructive manner, when requested, at the appropriate time.
- To submit reports and evaluations as required on a timely basis.

PART 7: JUDGES', ATHLETES' AND COACHES' OATHS

The Judges' Oath

«In the name of all the judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these World Championships (or any other official FIG Event) with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship»

The Athletes' Oath

“In the name of all gymnasts I promise that we shall take part in these World Championships, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of the gymnasts.”

The Coaches' Oath

“In the name of all Coaches and other member of the athlete's entourage, I promise that we shall commit ourselves to ensuring that the spirit of sportsmanship and ethics is fully adhered to and upheld in accordance with the fundamental principles of Olympism. We shall commit ourselves to educating the gymnasts to adhere to fair play and drug free sport and to respect all FIG Rules governing the World Championships.”

The Code of Conduct has been approved by the EC in December 2018 and enters into effect 01 January 2019.

Lausanne, December 2018



Morinari Watanabe
FIG President



André Gueisbuhler
Secretary General