



**sport & recreation**

Department:  
Sport and Recreation South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

# **CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **1. Preamble**

Following the successful hosting of the Sports Indaba in November 2011 and the resultant adoption of the National Sport and Recreation Plan, SRSA moved swiftly to implement the strategic objectives as captured in the plan.

The need to revitalize and maximize access to Sport and Recreation participation with the view of promoting healthy lifestyle was also emphasized. And central to all programmes should be the realization and upholding of the Sport and Recreation South Africa's vision versed as Active and Winning Nation.

However, the need to implement measures to ensure that sport is played in an equitable, ethical and fair environment was pointed out. The recommendation was thus forwarded, which stipulates that a code of conduct to which all National Federations shall become signatories be developed and implemented.

It is therefore against this background that SRSA initiated the process of ensuring that a reputable and irreproachable code of conduct is made available as a measure to eliminate illegal actions and unwanted behaviours in our sporting space.

This code of conduct therefore shall assist the National Federations to hold all those who participate in accountable for their actions.

It is further envisaged that SASCOC with the support of SRSA play a leading role in the implementation and monitoring of this code of conduct. This code of conduct should also form part of the regulatory mechanisms of SASCOC. The articles of the constitution of SASCOC should reflect such.

## **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this code of conduct is to articulate the acceptable standard of behavior expected of a member of an association. It represents a formal statement of the values and ethical standards that guide individuals in sport. It further outlines a set of principles and norms to which sporting people can be held accountable by National Federation when representing South Africa at any sporting event. SASCOC shall remain the ultimate authority in terms of enforcing the adherence. The aim thereof, is not to simply learn more rules but rather develop certain interpretive sensitivity towards them. This can also be used as a point of reference when dealing with disciplinary procedures against members

## **3. Objectives**

- 3.1 To enhance the ethical reputation of sports persons.
- 3.2 To promote respect for human dignity, rights and social justice.
- 3.3 Provide a framework for all sport persons to conduct their sport activities according to the following ethical principles:
  - Embrace the spirit of fair play;
  - Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being;
  - Be fair, considerate, honest and show respect for the law;
  - Be trustworthy and professional, accept responsibility for their action;

- Refrain from any racial, gender, verbal, physical or emotional abuse or harassment;
  - Make a positive contribution and refrain from destructive criticism;
  - Act in the interest of South African sport;
  - Respect all religions as equal.
- 3.4 To outline incorrect and unacceptable actions/behaviors within sport and to encourage ethical behavior within sport, so that when the code is contravened the appropriate disciplinary action can with consistency be taken, thus responding to offences and preventing re-occurrence. It remains the responsibility of the National Federations to take disciplinary measures and reporting to SASCO
- 3.5 To help to resolve conflict.
- 3.6 To make ethical behavior infringement easy to identify.

#### **4. Practitioners of Sport**

We pledge to:

- 4.1 Ensure that the code of conduct is distributed, understood and agreed upon by coaches, athletes and officials.
- 4.2 Conform to our federation's code of conduct.
- 4.3 Commit to promote equity for all athletes and to ensure all athletes are given an equal opportunity to participate, regardless of gender, ability or cultural background.
- 4.4 Promote the respect of cultural beliefs.
- 4.5 Ensure that the standard of confidentiality is adhered to.
- 4.6 Ensure that the age and maturity levels of children are considered in programme development, rule enforcement and scheduling.
- 4.7 Balance the pride of participation with the will to win.

- 4.8 Encourage the spirit of Ubuntu and that fairplay is promoted by the conduct of all technical officials, coaches, sports practitioners and athletes.
- 4.9 Discourage people from promoting violence in sport.
- 4.10 Ensure that all equipment and facilities comply with the specified federation's international standard.
- 4.11 Ensure that no athlete be advantaged by any modification of mechanical equipment.
- 4.12 Take action against a member of the federation that brings the sport into disrepute.
- 4.13 Disclose personal interest by all participants at all levels.
- 4.14 Ensure that the standards set out in the Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act are adhered to.
- 4.15 Ensure that all protocol is observed at competitions/events.
- 4.16 Reject and report all attempts to corrupt, influence or manipulate the playing or outcomes of sporting events, which go against the spirit of fair play.
- 4.17 Disclose any personal or private, direct or indirect business interests, me or my family, or business associates may have which conflict with the sport's interest.

## **5. Athletes**

### ***We will:***

- 5.1 Conform to our federation's code of conduct.
- 5.2 Respect the rules and participate in the spirit of fair play.
- 5.3 Display high standards of behavior that promote a positive image for the sport.
- 5.4 At all times show respect for other athletes, sport practitioners and officials.
- 5.5 Balance pride of participation with the will to win.
- 5.6 Give my teammates positive inputs and feedback.
- 5.7 Respect the usage of facilities and equipment prescribed for an event.

- 5.8 Commit to the fight against banned substances in sport.
- 5.9 Commit to the WADA code of conduct and contribute to promote anti-doping in sport.
- 5.10 Reject and report all attempts to corrupt, influence or manipulate the playing or outcomes of sporting events, which go against the spirit of fair play.
- 5.11 Display exemplary behavior in and out of play, promoting fair play in sport.
- 5.12 Commit and cooperate with all medical and testing protocols of SASCOC.
- 5.13 Commit ourselves not to bring our sport into disrepute.

## **6. Technical Officials**

### ***We will:***

- 6.1 Conform to our federation's code of conduct.
- 6.2 Make sure that the game is played in the spirit of fair play.
- 6.3 Ensure that all equipment and facilities comply with the specified federation's International Standard.
- 6.4 Not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, athletes, spectators or ourselves.
- 6.5 Disclose personal interest by all participants/officials at all levels.
- 6.6 Handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
- 6.7 Display exemplary behavior in and out of play, promoting fair play in sport.
- 6.8 Ensure that the standard of confidentiality is adhered to.
- 6.9 Develop ourselves to meet the highest standard of officiating.
- 6.10 Make ourselves available to provide feedback and take parting the discussion of issues before and after the game when required and permitted to do so.
- 6.11 Commit to the fight against banned substances in sport.
- 6.12 Commit to the WADA code of conduct and contribute to promote anti-doping in sport

- 6.14 Reject and report all attempts to corrupt, influence or manipulate the playing or outcomes of sporting events, which go against the spirit of fair play.
- 6.15 Respect other officials, sport practitioners, coaches and athletes
- 6.16 Disclose any personal or private, direct or indirect business interests, me or my family, or business associates may have which conflict with the sport's interest.

## **7. Coaches**

### ***We will:***

- 7.1 Conform to our federation's code of conduct.
- 7.2 Encourage athletes to play the game in the spirit of fair play.
- 7.3 Ensure that confidentiality of sportsperson's affairs is respected.
- 7.4 Ensure that athletes know how to manage conflict resolution and stress and use good judgment.
- 7.5 Be generous with praise and give the team positive input and feedback.
- 7.6 Develop ourselves to meet a high standard of coaching.
- 7.7 Commit to the fight against banned substances in sport.
- 7.8 Commit to the World Anti Doping Code and contribute to promote anti-doping in sport.
- 7.9 Resist all forms of corruption, pressures and other compelling circumstances, which go against the spirit of fair play.
- 7.10 Respect other coaches, officials, sport practitioners and athletes.
- 7.11 Encourage individuals to continue their participation in sport.
- 7.12 Ensure that all equipment and facilities comply with the specified federation's international standard.
- 7.13 Commit and cooperate with all medical and testing protocols of the SASCOG.
- 7.14 At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with any minor athlete.

- 7.15 In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
- 7.16 At all times treat each and every athlete under his or her coaching supervision equally and fairly.
- 7.17 Disclose any personal or private, direct or indirect business interests, me or my family, or business associates may have which conflict with the sport's interest.

## **8. Commitment**

- 8.1 In case of any violation of the provisions of this Code of Conduct, disciplinary measures as prescribed in the respective constitutions of individual entities shall be instituted and sanctions applied appropriately. Adherence and compliance to this Code of Conduct by National Federations therefore becomes mandatory.