



Sustainable Sourcing Code

International Orienteering Federation

Approved by IOF Council November 2025

Introduction

The International Orienteering Federation (IOF) is committed to fostering a sustainable future through its activities, events, and partnerships. As the global governing body for orienteering, we recognize our responsibility to minimize environmental impact, promote social equity, and encourage economic sustainability. The IOF's Sustainable Sourcing Code serves as a framework to guide our procurement practices, ensuring that goods and services sourced are in line with our sustainability values.

This Sustainable Sourcing Code outlines our commitment to addressing critical sustainability issues such as data protection, health and safety, biodiversity, climate change, waste management, packaging, transportation, community rights, and workers' welfare. It defines specific sustainability targets for each priority area, including accommodation, travel, catering, event services, gifts, IT, logistics, marketing and signage, office accessories, sports equipment, and waste management.

Our approach is built on the methodology outlined in the IOF Sustainable Sourcing Policy and through this on three main classes of targets:

- **Quantitative Targets:** These are measurable metrics designed to track sustainability performance, such as reducing carbon emissions or increasing recycling rates.
- **Solutions:** We encourage the use of innovative, sustainable materials and processes that enhance environmental and social benefits.
- **Third-Party Standards:** We emphasize the importance of compliance with internationally recognized certifications, such as FSC, PEFC, ISO standards, and Fair-Trade certifications.

This Sustainable Sourcing Code reflects the IOF's vision to become a global and sustainable sport. It underscores our commitment to responsible procurement, ethical practices, and sustainable development. By integrating sustainability into every aspect of our sourcing, we aim to inspire positive change within the orienteering community and beyond.

Scope

The **IOF organisation** is the scope of this sustainable sourcing code, hence it is sourcing to the IOF which falls under this code.

Furthermore, the implementation of this code aims to inspire positive change beyond the IOF itself – for example, among IOF Event organizers, Member Federations, and other stakeholders.

Application Threshold

There is a need to focus on the significant components of procurement. Therefore, a threshold is established based on the monetary value of each prospective transaction, excluding those below the threshold from the application of this code.

The threshold is set at **80% of the total monetary value of sourcing transactions** conducted by the IOF, based on the previous year's accounting figures. Transactions falling below this 80%

threshold may still be considered if there is reason to believe that they involve critical sustainability issues.

The 80% value itself may be raised, if deemed necessary, in future updates of the code, in order to include a larger share of the transactions.

Identification of critical issues and priority areas

Based on the methodology outlined in the IOF Sustainable Sourcing Policy, the following areas have been identified as critical issues and priority areas for the IOF

Critical Issues

- Data Protection and Privacy
- Health and Safety
- Biodiversity
- Climate and Energy
- Disposal and End of Life
- Packaging
- Transportation and Logistics
- Employees and volunteers

Priority areas

- Accommodation
- Traveling
- Catering
- IOF Event Services
- IT
- Logistics of goods
- Marketing, Signage, Sports Equipment & Gifts
- Office accessories
- Waste

The next chapters present objectives, targets and verification for the eight different critical issues of this Sustainable Sourcing Code..

1. Data Protection and Privacy

Objective: Ensure the security and confidentiality of personal and sensitive data.

Accommodation & Travels:

- **Target:** Compliance with GDPR and local data protection regulations.

IT & Office Equipment:

- **Target:** Use of secure, encrypted communication systems and data storage solutions.
 - **Solution:** Deployment of [ISO 27001](#) certified IT systems.
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2. Health and Safety

Objective: Safeguard the well-being of employees and volunteers.

Event Services & Logistics:

- **Target:** Zero incidents of work-related injuries among employees and volunteers
- **Solution:** Use of certified equipment.

Sports Equipment:

- **Target:** Products must comply with international safety standards (e.g., CE marking).
 - **Verification:** Supplier certification and product testing reports.
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3. Biodiversity

Objective: Protect ecosystems, minimize chemical usage, and promote sustainable resource management.

Catering:

- **Quantitative Target:** Minimum 50% of catered food sourced locally and when possible organically.

Packaging:

- **Solution:** Use of reusable or biodegradable and compostable packaging materials.
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4. Climate and Energy

Objective: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption in line with IOF's commitment through the Sports 4 Climate Action initiative, with a 50 percent reduction by 2030 compared to the base year 2019.

Travels & Logistics:

- **Quantitative Target:** CO2 emissions below 150 g/km per person for official travel.
- **Target:** Follow the "criteria for mobility decisions" in annex 3 of this code.
- **Solution:** Increase use of electric or hybrid vehicles for event logistics.

Accommodation:

- **Target:** Follow the "criteria for accommodation decisions" in annex 2 of this code.
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5. Disposal and End of Life

Objective: Promote circular economy practices through responsible disposal and recycling.

Waste & Event Services:

- **Quantitative Target:** Achieve a [waste diversion rate](#) of at least 80%.
- **Solution:** Use of reusable materials and digital and reusable signage to minimize waste.

Sports Equipment:

- **Target:** End-of-life products should be recyclable or biodegradable.

6. Packaging

Objective: Minimize environmental impact through sustainable packaging practices.

Packaging material:

- **Quantitative Target:** 80% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging materials.
- **Reference:** Certification with [FSC](#) or [PEFC](#) for fibre based packaging.

Catering:

- **Target:** Zero use of single-use disposable tableware.
- **Solution:** Use of reusable or compostable cutlery, plates etc. .

7. Transportation and Logistics

Objective: Optimize transportation methods to minimize carbon footprint.

Logistics & Travels:

- **Target:** Follow the “criteria for mobility decisions” in annex 3 of this code.
- **Target:** Maximize the use of public transport and shared mobility solutions.
- **Target:** Have IOF meetings where public transport can be utilized easily.

Sports Equipment:

- **Target:** Sourcing from local or regional suppliers to minimize transportation emissions.
- **Reference:** [ISO 14001](#) Environmental Management for supply chain logistics.

9. Employees and volunteers

Objective: Ensure fair labour practices, safe working conditions, and respect for workers' rights.

Event Services & Sports Equipment:

- **Target:** Zero tolerance for forced labour and child labour.
- **Reference:** Compliance with [ILO standards](#) and [SA8000 certification](#).

Gifts & Office Equipment:

- **Target:** Suppliers must provide fair wages and safe working environments.
 - **Verification:** Supplier certifications.
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Implementation and Monitoring

To ensure effective implementation, the IOF will:

- Collaborate with suppliers to meet the targets outlined in this sustainable sourcing code.
- Monitor compliance through certifications and regular reporting.
- Continuously review and update targets to align with evolving sustainability standards.

Annex 1:

Clause to be included in sourcing contracts/agreements

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As a supplier to the IOF (International Orienteering Federations) we understand that the IOF wants to engage and collaborate with organisations that share their sustainability ambition beyond managing risk and complying with the law to contribute actively to global sustainability in line with its “main goal” (to become a global and sustainable sport) and core values (sustainable, inclusive, ethical).

As a minimum, we commit to complying with the requirements outlined in the IOF Sustainable Sourcing Code, and to implement them in our business and supply chains. We acknowledge that these requirements constitute minimum and not maximum standards.

*We agree to be monitored and evaluated on our sustainability performance within the areas described in this **IOF Sustainable Sourcing Code**. We also acknowledge that we may be asked to meet additional sustainability requirements which are specific to certain categories of products and services.*

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Annex 2: Criteria for accommodation decisions

Accommodation is mainly connected with events involving variable numbers of persons: from a very few, when IOF representatives attend meetings of other organisations (e.g. IOC, ARISF, CISM, FISU, ...) or orienteering championships, to large meetings; the typical example of the latter being a joint meeting of Council, Commissions and Office staff usually held in January.

The Sustainable Sourcing Code will be applied in a structured way to the latter, establishing a threshold of 50 nights-persons (e.g. 10 persons over 5 nights). For the other cases, the SSC defines a non-binding set of recommendations for the choice of venues that shall be a guidelines also for Chars and Members of Commissions when their booking is carried out without the direct involvement of the Office.

The main aspects to be considered are the following; other aspects may be considered if relevant to specific situations.

- a) **Location:** In case of events whose location is not bound by other constraints (e.g. the annual Joint Council & Commissions meeting), the choice of location should make the selection of train a possible alternative to airplane. The hotel itself should be easily reached by public transport from airports or main railways stations.
- b) **Certification:** There are many independent certification systems in place recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) or other organisations. Being awarded a certificate for sustainability is an assurance that a independently verified assessment of sustainability criteria has been carried out. Some of the certification schemes are the following:
 - Green Globe
 - TripAdvisor Green Leaders
 - Green Growth 2050
 - Rainforest Alliance
 - Green Seal
 - Travelife Sustainability System
 - Green Key
 - Green Key Global
 - Green Tourism Active EU Ecolabel or Eco Flower
 - European Ecotourism Labelling Standard (EETLS)
- c) **Ownership and management:** the cost of certification is not always accessible to family-owned hotels, despite a possible satisfaction of all the criteria considered in the process; this fact would likely privilege the big hotel chains that can better afford the investment. An open mind should be kept when considering alternative options, considering that family-owned hotels usually provide higher benefits to the local communities by employing local labour and local sources of goods and services.
- d) **"No-frills":** high-end hotels usually offer services such as gym halls, swimming pools, play-rooms that are of little interest for the majority of people attending meetings on behalf of the IOF; their main interest being clean and comfortable rooms, healthy food and good access to the Internet. At the same time, unnecessary services inevitably contribute to increase carbon emissions. It is then recommended that the focus be restricted to the essentials.

Annex 3: Criteria for mobility decisions

Flying

Technical solutions to reduce the carbon emissions from flights are a long way off, so we must instead look at other ways to reduce air travel.

Recommended actions:

- Go virtual and fly less.
- Take the train.
- Optimise journey plans: Seek to combine multiple meetings/events into a single trip rather than separate out-and-back trips.
- Fly direct: Direct flights generally use less fuel than flights with connections and are often more convenient for travellers.
- Travel light.
- Fly economy.

Ground transportation

Electric vehicles (EVs) are a vital pathway to meeting global climate change goals, and the technology is improving rapidly. However, while no greenhouse gas emissions directly come from EVs, they run on electricity produced from fossil fuels in many parts of the world. Therefore, it is essential to look at ways of reducing the number of vehicle trips wherever possible.

Recommended actions:

- Choose the “greenest” travel option when travelling to or from airports.
- Increase the use of public transport and cycling rather than personal vehicle use.
- Increase vehicle sharing (car-pooling)
- Use fuel-efficient vehicles fitted with particle filters or low/zero-emission vehicles



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