



CODE OF ETHICS

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

**This IOF Code of Ethics was approved by the
XXXIII IOF Ordinary General Assembly on 8 July 2026**

THE IOF CODE OF ETHICS

1 Persons and Organizations Subject to this IOF Code of Ethics

- 1.1 This IOF Code of Ethics (hereinafter referred to as “the Code”) applies to all federations (members or provisional members), the IOF Council and all elected, appointed or contracted IOF employees, functionaries, volunteers and organizing committees for IOF events and their officials and volunteers. The Code also applies to officials and volunteers at IOF- sanctioned member events, athletes, coaches, trainers, doctors, team staff, team officials, all other persons claiming or seeking standing as present or prospective participants in any IOF activity. The Code also applies to any persons without status or title who engage in any activity in relation to the IOF that is covered by this Code.

2 Preamble

- 2.1 The IOF is governed by Swedish law and is committed to the highest standards of conduct in sport administration and competition. To meet this commitment, the IOF has developed the Code to express the core values of both the organisation and the sport of Orienteering in general. Such values and ethics underpin the IOF’s policies, procedures and rules. Observance of the code is vital to the integrity of orienteering.
- 2.2 The IOF Code of Ethics comprises four principles based on the fundamental values of Orienteering (Equality, Fair Play, Respect of others and Integrity). The Code imposes obligations in terms of respect and responsibility upon everybody involved in orienteering - competitors, spectators, officials and all other accredited persons engaging in IOF activities.
- 2.3 Persons involved in the IOF and in Orienteering must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the IOF or the sport of Orienteering generally, nor act in a manner likely to bring the sport into disrepute.
- 2.4 All persons subject to this Code are further required to adhere to the standards set out in the [Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions](#).

3 The IOF Ethics Panel

- 3.1 In accordance with Article 12 of the IOF Statutes, the IOF Ethics Panel (hereinafter referred to as “the Panel”) is an independent judicial body in the IOF consisting of up to seven members that are appointed by the IOF General Assembly.
- 3.2 A panel member is appointed for a two-year term, commencing from the end of the General Assembly at which they are appointed. No panel member may serve more than four terms (whether consecutive or non-consecutive).

- 3.3 Panel members shall serve for the duration of their appointed term and may be removed only in exceptional circumstances by a General Assembly.
- 3.4 The Panel's terms of reference are:
- To preserve the integrity and reputation of the IOF and IOF events, and protect the security of all participants in IOF events.
 - To review all IOF policies, procedures, regulations and other operations that fall within the scope of the IOF Ethics Code, and make recommendations and/or reject proposed amendments.
 - To receive reports and investigate cases of alleged breaches of the IOF Ethics Code by anyone to whom the Code applies, excluding alleged technical breaches of competition rules.
 - To adjudicate and impose sanctions for violations of the IOF Ethics Code in a fair, independent and impartial manner.
 - To review and report on its activities, including the findings of all cases, to the IOF Council or General Assembly.
- 3.5 Anyone who refuses to cooperate with a Panel investigation may be subject to proceedings before the Panel for that offence.
- 3.6 No member of the Panel or a Panel Investigator will be liable for any act done or omitted to be done by the Panel Investigator, the Panel, or any Member of the Panel in good faith in pursuance or intended pursuance of the functions, duties, powers and authorities of the Panel. The IOF will indemnify such member for any costs, expenses or damages if they are made the subject of a claim or complaint by a third party arising out of any such act.

4 Conflicts of Interests

- 4.1 All elected, appointed or contracted IOF employees and officials having an elected or appointed position, which may be permanent or long-term, in an IOF member federation or partner organization (such as, but not limited to, IOC, IWGA, FISU and CISM), who have or may have a conflict of interest, must report a conflict of interest to the IOF Office, who is responsible for keeping a register of conflict of interests. This will be available for inspection by the Panel if appropriate.
- 4.2 If a person is seeking election, appointment or employment with IOF, it is the responsibility of the IOF Office to check if there are conflict of interests that may make the election, appointment or employment in question inappropriate. If required, the Panel is consulted on this matter.

- 4.3 All elected, appointed or contracted IOF employees and officials shall avoid any contacts that might lead to or suggest a conflict of interest between personal activities and the business of the IOF. They shall pledge to behave in a dignified manner. They shall behave and act with complete credibility and integrity. They may not abuse their position as part of their function to take advantage of their function for private aims or gains, or in any other way. Direct or indirect receipt or provision of money or the equivalent such as, and not limited to, gains, gifts and other advantages shall be offered or accepted only in accordance with the standards and levels deemed appropriate to the general working of the IOF. A formal policy on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality will be agreed by the IOF Council.
- 4.4 All those acting on behalf of the IOF must make decisions in the interests of the IOF. All those whose personal interests might reasonably be perceived as being affected by a decision or policy concerning an IOF matter (including receiving material benefits) shall refrain from the decision-making process.

5 The four Ethical Principles of the IOF

5.1 Equality

Discrimination and harassment against others on grounds of, amongst others, race, disability, marital status, sex, sexuality, age, political or religious conviction are not condoned in Orienteering. All forms of harassment be they physical, mental, professional, sexual or other are strictly prohibited. Orienteering promotes the inclusion of everyone equally.

5.2 Fair Play

Fair play is the guiding principle in the sport of Orienteering. It is expected that all persons taking part in orienteering shall behave with fairness and honesty. All persons shall operate within and abide by the rules of the sport. Orienteering is committed to being a drug free sport.

5.3 Respect

Orienteering shall be characterised by mutual respect and self-responsibility. All persons involved in orienteering shall be treated with dignity and consideration. The contribution that people make to the sport shall be recognised. In pursuing the sport's goals, the governance of Orienteering shall be mindful of the physical and psychological wellbeing of its athletes. Violence and abusive behaviour are not to be tolerated. Orienteering respects the natural environment.

5.4 Integrity

All persons subject to this code shall use due care and diligence in fulfilling their roles for, and on behalf of, the IOF or Orienteering generally. Decisions by the IOF will be made in accordance with established procedures, objectively, fairly and with honesty and integrity. In using resources, personnel will strive for economy, efficiency and environmental friendliness. Conflicts of interest are to be avoided.

6 Compliance and Whistle-blowing

6.1 Each person as described in section 1.1 are encouraged to report violations of the Code by reporting misconduct to the Panel. All allegations of potential violations of the Code that are made in good faith will receive a swift, fair and comprehensive investigation conducted by the Panel.

6.2 The IOF Council has ownership of the Code and performs regular content and compliance reviews. Each person as described in section 1.1 is responsible for acting in accordance with the Code and is encouraged to voice concerns and to highlight examples of good practice.

- 6.3 All business and operations covered by the Code will be regularly reviewed by the Panel. Acts that are inconsistent with the Code must be promptly corrected and are subject to disciplinary action up to termination of election, appointment, contraction or employment.

7 Good Governance

- 7.1 The IOF is an international organization with global activities. The IOF Council is therefore responsible in maintaining a Policy involving Delegation of Authority and Rights of Signature that provides flexibility for the organization to manage contractual and financial matters in a timely manner, while maintaining good financial control in accordance with applicable laws and standards.
- 7.2 It is the responsibility of all statutory institutions of the IOF to conduct good governance in business and all operations, and have well-structured, documented and transparent decision-making processes.

8 Procedure for managing possible ethical violations

- 8.1 A report of a possible ethical violation may be filed with the IOF Office or directly with the Panel. Such a report may be filed by a member federation, the IOF Council, or an individual with an interest in the dealings of the IOF. The IOF Office shall refer any report it receives to the Panel.
- 8.2 The Ethics Panel shall consider the report and gather additional information if required. The Panel may also seek independent advice on any aspect of the case, subject to the approval of IOF Chief Executive Officer on the issue of cost only.
- 8.3 The Ethics Panel shall decide whether to proceed with a hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the Panel shall determine the procedure to be followed.

Hearings shall normally be conducted in English.

The hearing process shall respect the following principles:

- the right of each party to be represented (at the party's own expenses) or to be accompanied by a person chosen by each party;
- the right to respond to the asserted ethical violation;
- the right of each party to present evidence, including the right to call and question witnesses;
- the right to an interpreter at the hearing if required.

The Panel shall have jurisdiction to determine which party shall bear the responsibility for the cost of the interpreter.

- 8.4 The Panel shall decide the way in which the hearing is to be held, taking into account the severity of the possible ethical violation, whether the circumstances of the possible ethical violation are disputed, the wishes of each party, any time constraints, the geographical locations of each party and the expenses that would be incurred. Options include:
- A face-to-face hearing where all parties are physically gathered in one location
 - An electronic meeting using software such as Skype
 - A discussion conducted by email
- 8.5 The Panel shall appoint the members of the Hearing Panel in each case. Normally that will consist of all or some members of the Panel, excluding any of whom were involved in the case investigation or who have a conflict of interest. Exceptionally, and with the approval of IOF Council, other people who are not members of the Panel may be appointed to the Hearing Panel.
- 8.6 Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the Hearing Panel.
- 8.7 The Hearing Panel shall announce its decision in writing, with reasons, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the hearing. The written decision shall contain the composition of the Hearing Panel, the names of the parties, the date of the decision, a summary of the facts, the grounds of the decision, the provisions on which the decision was based, the terms of the decision, any sanctions to be applied and notice of the provisions for appeal. The decision shall be published on the IOF web site. The IOF Council is responsible for enforcing the decision.

9 Sanctions

- 9.1 Sanctions may be applied to an individual, a group of individuals or a member federation
- 9.2 Possible sanctions include:
- An informal caution
 - A formal caution
 - Temporary suspension from competitions and/or IOF activities
 - Exclusion for life from competitions and/or IOF activities
 - An appropriate fine
 - Removal of any previously obtained honours

10 Appeals

- 10.1 The decision of an Ethics Panel pursuant to 8.7 may be submitted exclusively by way of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute definitively in accordance with the Code of sports-related arbitration. The language of the appeal proceedings will be English and the law applicable to the merits will be the IOF Regulations and the law of Sweden.
- 10.2 The time limit for appeal shall be 21 days from receipt of the decision appealed against.

11 Review

- 11.1 The Ethics Panel may reopen a case that has been closed following a final decision, if a party discovers new information that, despite investigation, could not have been produced sooner and could result in a more favourable decision. A request for review shall be made by the party concerned within ten days of discovering the new information or it will not be admitted.
- 11.2 The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the date of the Ethics Panel decision.

