

International

D O G S P O R T S

Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures

Revised: 4.28.2025

Code of Ethics

1. Purpose

This Code of Ethics establishes fundamental values and principles for all individuals involved in International Dog Sports, including but not limited to handlers, facility owners, volunteers, trainers, judges, organizers, and spectators. It promotes fairness, respect, integrity, and the humane treatment of dogs in all aspects of the sport.

2. Core Ethical Principles

All participants must:

- Act with honesty, integrity, and respect.
- Prioritize the welfare of dogs above competition or personal gain.
- Promote fairness and sportsmanship at all times.
- Support a culture of inclusivity and respect for all.

3. Ethical Treatment of Dogs

- Dogs must be trained and handled with patience, kindness, and positive reinforcement.
- Physical or psychological abuse is strictly prohibited.
- Dogs should never be forced to compete if they are injured, unwell, or unwilling.
- Proper veterinary care, nutrition, and exercise must be provided to ensure a dog's well-being.

4. Fair Competition & Sportsmanship

- Handlers and competitors must abide by the rules and spirit of the sport.
- Judges must be impartial, consistent, and free from bias.
- Cheating, manipulation of results, or unfair advantages are unethical.
- Competitors and Facility Owners should respect fellow IDS facilities, participants, judges, and event staff.
- Winning should never come at the cost of integrity or a dog's well-being.

5. Responsibility as a Role Model

- Competitors and officials are ambassadors of the sport and should lead by example.
- The promotion of ethical training and handling methods is encouraged.
- Encouraging and supporting newcomers to the sport helps foster a positive community.

6. Anti-Doping & Integrity in Competition

- The use of performance-enhancing substances is prohibited.
- Any form of bribery, corruption, or match-fixing is unacceptable.

7. Respect for the Dog Sports Community

- Harassment, bullying, or discrimination of any kind is not tolerated.
- All participants should contribute to a positive, inclusive, and welcoming environment.
- Cultural and national differences should be respected and embraced.

8. Environmental & Social Responsibility

- Events should be organized with minimal environmental impact.
- Waste should be disposed of responsibly, and sustainable practices encouraged.
- Community engagement and education about responsible dog ownership should be promoted.

9. Accountability & Enforcement

- Violations of this Code of Ethics may result in disciplinary action.
- Facilities should have clear procedures for handling complaints and misconduct.
- Ethical breaches may lead to disqualification, suspension, or bans from competitions.

10. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

- The ethical standards of dog sports should evolve with scientific and ethical advancements.
- Ongoing education in humane training methods and fair play should be encouraged.
- Feedback from the dog sports community should be valued in improving ethical guidelines.

By adhering to this Code of Ethics, all individuals involved in International Dog Sports help create a fair, humane, and respectful sporting environment where both dogs and handlers can thrive.

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct establishes ethical, humane, and fair-play standards for participants, officials, and organizers involved in international dog sports. It ensures the welfare of dogs, integrity of competitions, and respect among all involved.

2. General Principles

All participants must:

- Prioritize the well-being of dogs above all else.
- Compete with honesty and sportsmanship.
- Adhere to national and international regulations governing dog sports.
- Foster a positive and respectful environment for all involved.

3. Animal Welfare

- Dogs must be treated with care, respect, and dignity.
- Training and competition must use humane, non-coercive methods.
- Dogs must be in good health, with appropriate veterinary care.
- Any form of abuse or neglect is strictly prohibited.

4. Fair Play & Ethics

- Competitors must abide by the rules and spirit of the sport.
- Officials must be impartial and transparent in judging.
- Cheating, bribery, or manipulation of results is not tolerated.
- Any disputes must be handled through official channels respectfully.

5. Handler & Trainer Responsibilities

- Maintain control over their dog at all times.
- Train and condition dogs appropriately for the demands of competition.
- Respect other participants, officials, and event staff.
- Ensure dogs have adequate rest, hydration, and nutrition.

6. Event Organizer Responsibilities

- Provide safe and appropriate competition venues.
- Enforce rules and regulations consistently.
- Provide emergency veterinary services information.
- Make reasonable efforts to promote inclusivity and accessibility for all participants.

7. Anti-Doping & Performance Enhancement

- The use of performance-enhancing drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Violations may result in disqualification and potential bans.

8. Conduct & Disciplinary Actions

- Unsportsmanlike behavior, harassment, or mistreatment of dogs or people is unacceptable.
- Violations may result in penalties, suspensions, or bans from future competitions.
- Appeals must follow established disciplinary procedures.

9. Environmental Responsibility

- Events must minimize environmental impact.
- Waste, including dog waste, must be disposed of properly.
- Sustainability practices should be encouraged in all aspects of the sport.

10. Inclusivity & Respect

- All participants, regardless of nationality, gender, ability, or background, must be treated with respect.
- Discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated.
- Reasonable efforts should be made to make the sport accessible to diverse participants.

11. Commitment to Improvement

- This Code of Conduct will be reviewed regularly to ensure best practices.
- Participants are encouraged to provide feedback for the betterment of the sport.

By participating in International Dog Sports, all individuals agree to uphold these standards and promote a culture of fairness, integrity, and care for dogs and fellow competitors.

Disciplinary Procedures for Violations of the Codes of Conduct and Ethics

1. Introduction

To ensure fairness, safety, and respect within International Dog Sports, the following disciplinary procedures shall apply to any participant, official, or facility found to be in violation of the established Code of Conduct. These procedures ensure transparency, consistency, and the appropriate handling of violations.

2. Types of Violations

Violations of the Code of Conduct may include, but are not limited to:

- **Abuse of dogs:** Physical, emotional, or psychological harm.
- **Unsportsmanlike conduct:** Aggressive behavior, cheating, or dishonesty.
- **Health and safety violations:** Compromising the well-being of dogs, participants, or others.
- **Non-compliance with regulations:** Failure to adhere to official rules and policies.
- **Harassment or discrimination:** Any form of harassment, bullying, or discrimination.

3. Reporting Violations

Violations can be reported by:

- **Direct observation** by participants, officials, or spectators.
- **Complaints submitted** in writing to IDS using the provided “Incident report” form found on the IDS website.
- **Video or photographic evidence** of misconduct.

Reports should include:

- A detailed description of the violation.
- Date, time, and location of the incident.
- The identities of those involved.
- Any supporting documentation or evidence.

4. Investigation Process

Upon receiving a report of a violation:

1. **Preliminary Review:** IDS's oversight committee will review the report to determine whether it falls within the scope of the Code of Conduct.
2. **Investigation Initiation:** If the preliminary review indicates a potential violation, an investigation will be launched to collect further information. This may include interviews with witnesses, the accused, and others involved.
3. **Investigator Appointment:** A neutral, impartial committee will be designated to conduct the inquiry, ensuring that there are no conflicts of interest.

5. Disciplinary Actions

After the investigation, the IDS oversight committee will decide on appropriate disciplinary measures based on the severity of the violation. Potential actions include:

- **Warning:** A formal written warning outlining the violation and expectations for future conduct.
- **Probation:** A defined period during which the individual or organization must adhere strictly to the Code of Conduct, or further penalties may apply.
- **Suspension:** Temporary removal from participation in events, ranging from a specific time frame to a set number of events.
- **Disqualification:** Permanent or temporary removal from a competition or organization.
- **Revocation of Titles:** Stripping of any titles, awards, or records earned in the event or competition in which the violation occurred.
- **Banning:** A permanent ban from participation in all events governed by the organization.

6. Appeals Process

Any party subject to disciplinary action has the right to appeal the decision. The appeal process will consist of:

1. **Filing an Appeal:** The individual or organization must file a written appeal within 30 days of being notified of the disciplinary decision.
2. **Appeal Review:** An impartial appeal board will review the case, considering all evidence and circumstances.

3. **Final Decision:** The appeal board may uphold, reduce, or dismiss the disciplinary action. The decision of the appeal panel will be final.

7. Record Keeping and Confidentiality

- All proceedings, investigations, and decisions will be kept confidential to protect the rights of all involved parties.
- Disciplinary records will be maintained for a specified period in compliance with relevant privacy laws and regulations.

8. Prevention and Education

To reduce the occurrence of violations:

- Regular **education and training** programs will be provided for participants, officials, and other stakeholders to familiarize them with the Code of Conduct.
- Proactive **communication** about the expected behavior in dog sports will be conducted before events, via emails, orientations, and/or briefings.

9. International Cooperation

In cases involving international participants or events, the relevant national and international governing bodies will collaborate to enforce the Code of Conduct and uphold the disciplinary actions across borders.

10. Enforcement and Compliance

- All parties, including competitors, officials, and organizers, are expected to fully comply with the disciplinary procedures and cooperate with investigations and enforcement actions.
- Failure to comply with imposed disciplinary actions or to cooperate during investigations may result in additional sanctions.

These procedures ensure that violations are addressed fairly and transparently, maintaining the integrity of International Dog Sports and ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all participants, dogs, and spectators.

Acknowledgement of IDS's Codes of Conduct & Ethics

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have received, read, and understood the IDS Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Disciplinary Procedures outlined above. I agree to adhere to the policies, expectations, and standards outlined in the document. I understand that failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Ethics may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the event, database, and the organization.

Participant Name (Printed):

Signature:

Date:

Name of Facility (if applicable):
