



## **International Sumo Federation**

### **Code of Ethics**

#### **Preamble**

International Sumo Federation (hereinafter call "IFS") was created in 1992 and is a non-profit organization composed by volunteer members with the duty to represent it in all countries. Headquarter is located in Tokyo, Japan.

IFS and the eighty-four affiliated national federations work nationally and internationally towards the promotion of sumo sport, with the goal of developing human friendship through sport, a peace and education factor for the youth.

It is the aim of IFS, its member federations, officers and the sumo community to promote the highest possible ethical values within Sumo sport.

IFS is committed to the Olympic Charter and its fundamental principles.

In furtherance of this aim the IFS board of directors have adopted this Code of Ethics based on the principles and rules of the IOC Code of Ethics.

At all times IFS, and in the framework of events organized and/or sanctioned by IFS, the participants undertake to respect and ensure respect of the present Code.

This Code of Ethics applies to IFS officers (holding any position in the IFS Executive Committee, Board of Directors or Commissions), IFS staff (including consultants, agents and any person acting on behalf of IFS) and to all participants in IFS sanctioned events in capacity whatsoever, in particular athletes and the athletes entourage.

All IFS parties should commit to respect the IFS Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

#### **A. EQUALITY and DIGNITY**

1. Safeguarding the dignity of the individual is a fundamental requirement of Olympism.

2. There shall be no discrimination between the participants on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion, marital status, sexual orientation or other grounds.
3. All doping practices at all levels are strictly prohibited. Zero tolerance in the fight against doping in all sumo competition at all levels. IFS Anti-Doping Code, World Anti-Doping Code shall be implemented in all IFS members. Fairness and fair play are central elements of the competition. Fair play is the spirit of sumo. The value of sumo and friendship shall be promoted.
4. All forms of harassment of participants, be it physical, professional or sexual, and any physical or mental injuries to participants, are prohibited.
5. IFS and the IFS parties shall guarantee the athletes' conditions of safety, well-being and medical care favorable to their physical and mental equilibrium.

## **B. INTEGRITY and SOLIDARITY**

1. The International Sumo parties must use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. They must always strive to maintain and improve compliance and governance and act with the highest degree of integrity, and particularly when taking decisions, they must act with impartiality, objectivity, independence and professionalism.

They must refrain any act involving fraud or corruption. They must not act in manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the IFS, the IFS community and the Olympic Movement.

2. IFS officers and staff or their representatives shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any form of remuneration or commission, nor any concealed benefit or service of any nature, connected with the organization of IFS sanctioned events. An exception may be granted if such remuneration, commission, benefit or service is pre-approved by the IFS board upon recommendation of the Ethics Commission according to the IFS conflict of Interest Policy.
3. Only gifts of nominal value, in accordance with prevailing local customs, may be given or accepted by IFS officers and staff or their representatives, as a mark of respect or friendship. Any other gift must be passed on to the organization of which the beneficiary is a member. Such tokens may not lead to the impartiality and integrity of the IFS parties being called into question.
4. The hospitality shown to IFS officers and staff and the persons accompanying them shall not exceed the standards prevailing in the host country.
5. IFS officers and staff shall respect the Rule Concerning Conflicts of Interests.
6. IFS officers and staff, their agents or their representatives must not be involved with firms or persons whose activity or reputations is inconsistent with the principles set out in the Olympic Charter and the present Code.
7. International sumo parties must refrain from any discrimination.

## **C. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCES**

1. In cases where the IOC gives financial support to IFS:
  - a. the use of these resources for sports purposes within IFS must be clearly demonstrated in the accounts;
  - b. the accounts of IFS may be subjected to auditing by an expert designated by the IFS executive board.
2. The basic universal principles of good governance of the Olympic and sports movement, in particular transparency, responsibility and accountability, must be respected.
3. The income and expenditure of IFS shall be recorded in its accounts, which must be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An independent auditor will check these accounts.
4. IFS recognizes the significant contribution that broadcasters, sponsors, partners and other supporters of sports events make to the development and prestige of IFS sanctioned event throughout the world. However, such support must be in a form consistent with the rules of sport and the principles defined in the Olympic Charter and the present Code. They must not interfere in the running of sport institutions. The organization and staging of sports competitions are the exclusive responsibility of the independent sports organizations recognized by the IOC.
5. Democratic and transparency – IFS officers and members have right to express opinion in the issues on the agenda through appropriate communication channel, however should appropriate balance between transparency and protection privacy, right to host sumo events equitably.
6. Athlete committee shall have seat at board of director, has right to vote and speak.

#### **D. RELATIONS WITH STATES**

1. Countries hosting IFS events should commit to scrupulously respect this Code.
2. IFS shall work to maintain harmonious relations with state authorities, with respecting the principle of autonomy as set out in the Olympic Charter, in accordance with the principle of universality and political neutrality of the Olympic Movement.
3. IFS is free to play a role in the public life of the states to which they belong. They may not, however, engage in any activity or follow any ideology inconsistent with the principles and rules defined in the Olympic Charter and set out in the present Code.
4. IFS shall endeavor to protect the environment on the occasion of any events they organize and undertake to uphold generally accepted standards for environmental protection.

#### **E. CONFIDENTIALITY**

1. IFS member associations, officers and staff shall not disclose information entrusted to them in confidence.

2. Disclosure of other information shall not be for personal gain or benefit, nor be undertaken maliciously to damage the reputation of any person or organization.

## **F. IMPLEMENTATION / ETHIC COMMISSION**

1. IFS shall see to it that the principles and rules of the Olympic Charter and the present Code are applied.
2. The member associations, officers and staff shall inform the IFS President of any of breach of the present Code, with a view to an investigation and possible disciplinary action by the Federation.
3. The IFS Ethics Commission will be chaired by the IFS President or designated representative approved by the Board of Directors and composed of the chair and up to five additional independent members.
4. Nominations to the Ethics Commission can be made by each IFS member and or Olympic Movement Party.
5. The Ethics Commission will be comprised of such members as determined by the IFS board of Directors and will be selected under procedure determined by such Board.
6. Any disciplinary procedures recommended by the Ethics Commission to the Board shall follow the procedures as outlined in IFS Code of ethic and/or IOC charter.

## **G. Others, Breaches of the Code and Disciplinary actions**

### **1. Initial Review and Investigation**

The Chief Ethics and executive board members may be informed by any means of any possible breaches of these Rules.

Upon receiving this information, the Board of Executive Directors (including the Chief Ethics) makes an initial review of the situation, including, if needed, a preliminary inquiry by using the investigation means mentioned in IFS Code of Ethics. Such inquiry may be conducted in conjunction with relevant competent national and international authorities (including criminal, administrative, professional and/or judicial authorities) and all participants must cooperate fully with such inquiry.

In case there is a level of evidence after the initial review, the Chief Ethics convenes the Ethics Commission to investigate the case.

Any participant who the Ethics Commission believes may have committed a breach of these Rules shall co-operate fully with any inquiry undertaken by it.

Upon request by the Ethics Commission, a participant must provide any information which may be considered as relevant to investigate the potential breach, including records relating to the alleged breach (such as betting account numbers and information, itemized telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices), and/or a statement setting out the relevant facts and circumstances around the potential breach.

## 2. Recommendation

If the Ethics Commission finds that there is a suspicion and thinks that disciplinary action should be taken, it shall recommend it to the Board of Directors by indicating the plan of the type and degree of disciplinary action (including sanctions; the same shall apply hereinafter).

## 3. Data Protection

Participant shall be deemed to have agreed to the purposes of applicable data protection laws and other laws and for all purposes, to have consented to the collection, processing, disclosure or any use of information relating to his/her activity to the extent permitted under these Rules.

## 4. Notification to the participants and right to be heard

The IFS President, or a person designated by him, shall, in confidence, promptly notify the participant and the federation concerned of the fact that the Ethics Commission is investigating a potential breach of these Rules.

In all procedures linked to potential breaches of these Rules, the right to be heard includes the right to be acquainted to appear personally or to submit a defense in writing during the initial review or before the Ethics Commission.

If there is proof of a breach of these directions, the Board of Directors and Ethics Commission may make the candidate in question to observation or issue warning or suspension and/or make public in IFS website.

## 5. Disciplinary decision

When the Board of Directors receives a disciplinary recommendation from the Ethics Commission, it deliberates and decides whether or not to discipline the case and, if so, the type and degree of disciplinary action.

If a disciplinary action is taken, the IFS President will notify the participants and the relevant federations concerned of the fact.

## 6. The type of Disciplinary actions

Examples of disciplinary actions to be resolved by the Board of Directors are as follows.

Against all;

- Strict attention

With regard to;

IFS national member federation, executive board, judges, board of director member and others;

- Suspension all rights: withdrawal accreditation to take part in sumo event, withdrawal voting right at board of director meeting, Suspension for a specific period, pronounced by IFS executive board. The suspension may be extended to all or part of the rights, prerogatives and functions deriving from the membership of person concerned.

- Withdrawal from IFS membership

#### Sumo Athletes;

- Suspension all rights to take part in Sumo competition with regards to individual competitors and teams: temporary or permanent ineligibility or exclusion from Sumo event, disqualification or withdrawal of accreditation; in the case of disqualification or exclusion the medals, prizes and diplomas obtained in relation to the relevant infringement of IFS regulations shall be return to IFS.
- A Competitor or a team may lose the benefit of any ranking obtained in relation to other events at the sumo competition at which he or she was disqualified or excluded; in such case the medals, prize and diplomas won by him or her or it shall be returned to the IFS.

#### Supplementary Provisions

These rules shall take effect as of July 19, 2016

#### Revised Supplementary Provisions July 19, 2016

These rules shall take effect as of November 10, 2020

#### Revised Supplementary Provision

These rules shall take effect as of September 6, 2024.