

NSWFA Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour, and the conditions relating to breaches of those standards, for all members of the NSWFA when engaged in the sport of Fencing, be that as an administrator, official, coach, competitor or spectator.

Noting that, at the competition level, Fencing is governed by the FIE Rules of Competition, this Code of Conduct is not a substitute for these Rules. Rather the Code covers those areas which the FIE Rules do not address; specifically the conduct of members at competitions and other NSWFA functions & activities where such conduct occurs outside the field of play.

In this Code the following definitions will apply:

- Administrator** All servants of the NSWFA, whether paid or voluntary, whose role it is to manage and administer the NSWFA.
- Official** All servants of the NSWFA, whether paid or voluntary, who have been delegated by the NSWFA Executive or Technical Directorate to run competitions or training & coaching programs on behalf of the NSWFA. This will include referees, hand-judges, timekeepers, scorers, first aid personnel, weapons & venue control personnel, and their assistants whether appointed on a full time or casual basis. This will include officials from other Associations from time-to-time.
- Coach** All members of the NSWFA who are registered as coaches.
- Competitor** All members of the NSWFA who are enrolled for entry in a competition or training program.
- Spectator** All others who may be present at a NSWFA competition or training program.

Standards of Behaviour

As a guiding principle, all members are required to abide by the FIE Rules of Competition (where applicable), by acceptable standards of sportsmanship, and to behave with courtesy & respect towards each other.

1. In all levels of competition conducted by the NSWFA, the FIE Rules of Competition will apply without exception. Officials will apply these Rules fairly and equitably, and appeals, as covered in the Rules, will be handled by the Technical Director or his/her immediate delegate.
2. In all other respects, competitors are to maintain appropriate standards of sportsmanship towards each other and officials. To this end competitors will recognise that differences between competitors in age, skill, gender, language, racial & ethnic origin, and physical & intellectual ability are factors which must be treated with sensitivity, respect and without discrimination at all times.

3. Specifically members will not, by word, gesture or other action, harass, threaten, abuse, belittle, scorn, or otherwise cause distress to a fellow member or official.
4. Members will not engage in excessive questioning of decisions, appeals to officials, time wasting and sledging in such a way as to unsettle a fellow competitor or official.
5. Members will, at all times, keep their emotions in check, and will refrain from the use of bad or offensive language towards any other person or as an act of general frustration or anger.
6. Members will not publicly accuse, either explicitly or implicitly, any other member of cheating unless they are able to provide evidence to that effect.
7. All conditions of this Code are to apply equally to spectators. In particular spectators are required to conduct themselves in a way which respects the role of all competitors, officials and coaches of the NSWFA, and to refrain from any undue interference to the operations of the competition or training program.
8. Members are reminded that their actions as competitors, administrators, officials or coaches with respect to under-age members are governed by the NSWFA policy on Member Protection and relevant state and federal legislation.
9. All non-members of the NSWFA, be they competitors, coaches or spectators, and who are, by their presence at a NSWFA competition or other function, participants in the activities of NSWFA sponsored events, are also required to abide by the conditions of this Code. The NSWFA reserves the right to eject from an event any non-member who is in breach of these conditions or who refuses to accept the jurisdiction of the NSWFA in this regard.

Breaches of this Code

As a guiding principle, it is not necessary to link the technical circumstances of any issue under the FIE Rules of Competition to inappropriate behaviour under this Code. If a member displays inappropriate standards of behaviour because of an actual or perceived breach of the Rules, this in no way is to be considered as condoning the behaviour.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct will be dealt with as follows:

1. If the behaviour is one which is covered in the FIE Rules of Competition, the provisions of those Rules are to apply solely. Any such penalties applied will be final where that behaviour remains within the field of play, but will not necessarily restrict the application of separate penalties for related behaviour which might occur outside the field of play and where the FIE Rules do not apply.
2. Should an administrator or official observe behaviour which they believe to be a breach of this Code, they are to advise the perpetrator as such, and warn them that any repetition of this or other behaviour which is a breach of this Code, will be reported to the Technical Directorate or higher administrator. If the behaviour ceases the matter is to be taken no further.

3. Should any member observe such behaviour, they should bring it to the attention of an administrator or official who will observe and act on the situation as per 2 above.
4. Should the behaviour be a possible breach of the Member Protection policy, subsequent action will be as defined in that policy (see NSWFA Member Protection Policy).
5. Should the behaviour be reported to, and be considered a breach of this Code by, the Technical Director or higher official, they will approach the offender and, in a private and confidential manner, remind the offender of their obligations under this Code.
6. Should the offender persist in the behaviour or reject the advice and jurisdiction of the Technical Director or higher official, they will be asked to leave the premises and a written report of the incident will be provided to the NSWFA Executive.
7. The NSWFA Executive will consider written reports of breaches of this Code and, in its absolute discretion, decide whether to seek further information. Should the Executive, after due consideration and at its absolute discretion, consider that a breach has occurred, they may apply penalties ranging from barring the offender from NSWFA events through to permanent removal of the offender from the record of registered members, depending on the severity of the incident and the record of the offender in this regard.
8. Should the NSWFA consider any breaches of this Code to be possible breaches of State or Federal Legislation, they are to refer such incidents to the appropriate authorities.

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