

Code of Ethics

I. Preamble:

WTF bears a special responsibility to safeguard the integrity and reputation of taekwondo worldwide and to propagate the sport along with its traditional taekwondo tenets and spirit. WTF is constantly striving to protect the image of taekwondo, and especially that of WTF, from jeopardy or harm as a result of immoral or unethical methods and practices. In this connection, the following Code has been passed. Additional organizational and procedural regulations in connection with sanction procedures in accordance with the article 29, "Sanction", of the WTF Statutes as a result of any violations of the rules of conduct of this Code are given below.

II. Code of Ethics:

Article 1. Applications:

This Code applies to all who accepts and assumes the function of an official in the WTF organizational structure including any member of the WTF Council, Continental Unions and Member National Associations, Secretariat, and Committees, appointed by the President or elected by the General Assembly, as well as WTF Auditors, WTF Treasurer, and WTF Advisors. ("Officials.") The ethics and conduct with respect to taekwondo athletes, team officials including coaches and managers, and referees and other accredited individuals are bound by the same code of ethics that entails the following provisions. ("Athletes and Other Individuals.") WTF Officials and WTF Athletes and Other Individuals are together referred to as "Participants in the Taekwondo Movement."

Article 2. Officials:

Officials shall represent WTF honestly, worthily, respectably and with integrity. Officials are expected to be aware of the importance of their function and concomitant obligations and responsibilities. Officials are to use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. Their conduct shall reflect the fact that they support and further the principles and objectives of the WTF in every way and refrain from anything that could be harmful or tarnish to these aims and objectives.

Article 3. Resources:

WTF Resources may be used only for WTF Purposes. Officials must maintain accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An independent auditor will check these accounts.

Article 4. Conduct towards Government and Private Organizations:

In dealing with government institutions, national and international organizations, associations and groupings, officials shall, in addition to observing the basic rules of Article 2, remain politically neutral, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the WTF, and generally act in a manner compatible with their function and integrity.

Article 5. Ban on Discrimination:

WTF officials and individual athletes, team officials, and other concerned individuals shall not act in a discriminatory manner, especially with regard to ethnicity, race, culture, political opinion, marital status, religion, gender, language, or other grounds. Decisions and actions are to be taken in the best interest of athletes with an emphasis on applying equal opportunity for participation.

Article 6. Ban on Harassment

Athletes have a right to respect and to enjoy a safe and supportive sport environment. All forms of harassment, be it physical, professional or sexual are prohibited.

Article 7. Integrity of Sport:

WTF officials and individual athletes, team officials, and other concerned individuals have an obligation to safeguard the integrity of sport and the principle of fair play by refraining from any attempts to influence the elements of a competition in a manner contrary to sports ethics.

Article 8. Eligibility and Dismissal:

Only those people who demonstrate a high degree of ethics and integrity and pledge to observe the provisions of this Code without reservations are eligible to serve as officials. Anyone with a criminal record in his/her country of residence or subjected to a disciplinary measure by the WTF Sanction Committee is not eligible if the offence is found to be incompatible with their ability to fulfill their task. Anyone or official(s) who do not comply with these conditions are either no longer eligible to seek candidature for the WTF officials as stated in Article 6.8 of the WTF Statutes or shall be dismissed.

Article 9. Conflicts of Interest:

Before being elected or appointed, officials shall automatically disclose any personal interests that could be linked with their prospective function. While fulfilling their task, officials shall avoid any situation that could lead to conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if officials have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that detract from their ability to carry out their obligations as officials with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for himself/herself, his/her family, relatives, friends and acquaintances.

Article 10. Protection of Personal Rights:

During the course of their Participants in the Taekwondo Movement shall ensure that the personal human rights of those persons whom they contact and with whom they deal are protected, respected and safeguarded.

Article 11. Loyalty and Confidentiality:

While performing their duties, officials shall remain absolutely loyal, especially to WTF. Depending on their function, any information divulged to officials during the course of their duties shall be treated as confidential or secret as an expression of loyalty. Any information or opinions shall be passed on in accordance with the principles and objectives of WTF.

Article 12. Gifts, Bribery and other Advantages:

Officials are not permitted to accept gifts and other benefits that exceed the average relative of local cultural customs from any third parties. If in doubt, gifts shall be declined. Accepting gifts of cash in any amount or form is prohibited.

While performing their duties, officials may give gifts and other benefits in accordance with the average relative value of local cultural customs to third parties, provided they do not incur dishonest advantages and conflict of interest.

Officials shall not accept bribes or other advantages that are offered, promised or sent to them to incite breach of duty or dishonest conduct for the benefit of a third party.

Officials may not be accompanied to official events by family members at the expense of WTF, the continental unions, associations and members or other organizations, unless expressly permitted to do so.

Article 13. Commission:

Officials are forbidden from accepting commission or promises for negotiation deals of any kind while performing their duties, unless the presiding body has expressly permitted them to do so. In the absence of such a presiding body, the body to which the official belongs shall decide.

Article 14. Elections

Election Guidelines shall be produced prior to each election. Unless otherwise specified in the Election Guidelines, candidates should strictly abide by the “Directions Concerning the Election of the IOC President” that appears in IOC Code of Ethics.

Article 15. Duty of Disclosure and Reporting:

Officials shall report immediately to the WTF President, or in case of a conflict of interest to a WTF Vice President, any sign of violations of conduct as prescribed in this Code, and if deemed necessary, the President may call a Ethics Committee meeting.

The persons reported shall, upon request, make themselves available to the body responsible and, in particular, declare details of their income and provide the evidence requested for inspection.

III. Procedural Regulations:

Article 16. Violations:

Violations of the rules of conduct of this Code shall be sanctioned by the Sanction Committee in accordance with the Article 29 of WTF Statutes on the basis of the investigation report of the Ethics Committee.

Article 17. Ethics Committee Proceedings

If the result of the investigation report concludes that there exist enough merits of serious breach/es of the present Code, the Ethics Committee at any time shall recommend the adoption of appropriate measures to the WTF Sanctions Committee foreseen in the Article 29 of the WTF Statutes.

Article 18. Sanctions:

Following the investigation report of the Ethics Committee, the Sanction Committee shall deliberate the referred case(s) in accordance with the procedures for taking disciplinary actions as specified in WTF Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Action Bylaws (WTF Disciplinary Bylaws).

Article 19. Other Actions:

The Sanction Committee without detriment of the sanction(s) imposed in application of the WTF Disciplinary Bylaws could in presumption of criminal offense suit all the judiciary actions which consider necessary.