



**THE INTERNATIONAL GO FEDERATION**

## Code of Ethics

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The International Go Federation

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## I. PREAMBLE

In accordance with the ancient traditions and ethos of Go which teaches respect for others, and the highest sporting ideals and precepts of the Olympic Charter, the IGF expects its Member Organizations, Officials and players to conform to the principles of ethics and good conduct, and so binds them to this Code of Ethics.

## II. SCOPE OF APPLICABILITY

This Code shall apply to all IGF Member Organizations, IGF staff, Officials, participants in IGF organized tournaments, and persons elected or appointed to any position within the organization of the IGF

## III. DEFINITIONS

- a) IGF Members Organizations herein refers to National and Regional Go Federations which are registered members of the IGF, and affiliated bodies listed in the Statues of the International Go Federation.
- b) Officials herein refers to members of the Board of the IGF and all persons appointed by the Board or by a Special Meeting or General Annual Meeting of the IGF to act on behalf of the IGF in the conduct of tournaments and any other IGF business.

## IV. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- a) **Equality:**  
No discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, or political opinion shall be tolerated.
- b) **Dignity:**  
All forms of harassment, be they physical, psychological, professional or sexual, are prohibited.



c) **Fair play:**

- i. Players shall abide by the Players' Code of Conduct (Appendix A).
- ii. Officials, players and members of affiliated organizations shall not act in such a way as to bring the IGF or the sport of Go into disrepute, including gambling on or improperly influencing the outcome of IGF events, or engaging in corrupt or criminal acts.

d) **Integrity:**

- i. Officials shall not participate in the determination of any matter in which they have an undisclosed conflict of interest. Potential conflicts of interest shall be declared to the Board of the IGF.
- ii. Officials shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any concealed remuneration, commission, benefit or service of any nature connected with their participation in the sport of Go or with their function as an official other than compensation for expenses properly incurred on behalf of the IGF except that gifts, hospitality or other benefits associated with their official functions may be accepted if such gifts, hospitality or other benefits are within the bounds of a normal expression of courtesy.

e) **Neutrality:**

The IGF Board shall remain politically neutral in its public declarations and actions, and act only in the furtherance of the sport of Go and the aims of the IGF as set out in the Statutes.

f) **Resources:**

Any contribution made by sponsors, partners and other supporters of Go events must be consistent with the principles set out in this Code of Ethics.

g) **Confidentiality:**

Officials shall not disclose improperly information entrusted to them in confidence by the IGF. The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this Code.



## V. REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- a) Any person may report potential breaches of this Code to a Director of the Board of the IGF, who shall immediately inform the Ethics Commission for investigation.
- b) The Ethics Commission shall establish and publish procedures for the investigation and judgment of breaches of ethics ensuring timely, thorough and fair-minded deliberations affording natural justice to all concerned parties.
- c) For any violations of this Code of Ethics, the Ethics Commission may impose any one or more of the following sanctions:
  - i. in the case of breach of the Player's Code of Conduct during a tournament, a sanction as listed in the Code of Conduct;
  - ii. a warning or reprimand;
  - iii. revocation of any IGF award;
  - iv. a ban for a fixed period of up to a lifetime from taking part in any IGF related activity;
  - v. suspension from holding office or other position held by an Official for a fixed period of up to 4 years or until a specified set of conditions have been met to the Ethics Commission's satisfaction;
  - vi. referral of the breach to the offender's member organization for possible further action;
  - vii. recommendation to the IGF Board that the matter be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- d) The IGF may take no action with respect to violations of this Code unless such action is taken within 10 years of the event to which it relates. Sexual misconduct, criminal acts, bribery and corruption are not subject to such a limitation period. The limitation period, when applicable, shall be prolonged if proceedings are opened and/or suspended



- e) Sanctions shall be in force immediately upon the decision being made unless the deciding body rules otherwise.
- f) Decisions taken by the Ethics Panel are subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The decisions of the CAS are final.

## VI. ETHICS COMMISSION COMPOSITION

- a) The Ethics Commission shall consist of 5 Commissioners selected by the Board of the IGF annually from among IGF Directors and officials of member organizations, provided that no two Commissioners come from the same country, region, or IGF member organization.
- b) In the event of a reported breach of the Code by a member of the Ethics Commission, that Commissioner shall stand down and the Board shall select a temporary Commissioner, who is nominated by member organizations and who is not a Director nor from the same region, country or member organization as the replaced Commissioner.
- c) In the event of a reported breach by either the Board or the Ethics Commission as a whole, the IGF member organizations shall select an investigating Ethics Commission at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting, which may be conducted by the Secretary General by electronic communication.

## VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Code comes into force on .....



## APPENDIX A: PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

### ***Tournaments***

While playing games, players shall be expected to observe not only the formal rules of the tournament but also the spirit of fair play and co-operation with the organisers. Examples of behaviour which is not condoned include: being tardy or unnecessarily delaying the start of games; obstructing the opponent's view of the board; engaging in annoying or distracting behaviour; talking with other players engaged in play; seeking external advice in any form while the game is in progress; deliberately losing a game in order to advantage another player; gambling on the outcome of games or improperly seeking to influence the outcome of a game.

If a dispute arises, players should accept the referee's decision without challenge or rancour. Any appeal against the referee's decision should be made to the Chief Referee or Tournament Disputes Committee after the game.

### ***General behaviour***

Throughout the tournament, participants shall behave with courtesy and respect to other players and officials, and conform to the usual standards of decent behaviour and the social customs and conventions of the host nation.

### ***Complaints***

Complaints about the behaviour of a participant may be made to any Director of the IGF for transmission to the IGF Ethics Commission. If the complaint is found to be justified and the Ethics Commission is of the opinion that an apology is insufficient, the Commission may apply a sanction.

### ***Sanctions***

Infringements of the Code of Conduct may result in the Ethics Commission issuing a warning, verbal or written, to the player, with a letter sent to the player's National Association. Repeated infringements at one or more events, or a single infringement of a serious nature, or failure to pass an authorised drug test, or a breach of the laws of the host nation, may at the discretion of the Commission result in the disqualification of the player from the current tournament, or from IGF events for a set period or for life.

### ***Appeals***

Any appeal against a penalty imposed by the Ethics Commission must be made by the player's National Association in writing to the President of the IGF.

### ***Promulgation***

This Code shall be attached to the Entry Form for IGF events, and entrants must signify their acceptance of the Code.