



World Sailing Code of Ethics

INTRODUCTION TO THE CODE OF ETHICS

World Sailing Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission has been established and appointed by the Board in accordance with Regulation 8 of the World Sailing Regulations. Council has appointed members of the Ethics Commission on the nomination of the Board. Regulations 8.14 to 8.14.8 provide for the constituting and terms of reference of the Ethics Commission.

Regulation 36 provides for the establishing of a body of rules concerning ethical behaviour and standards called the World Sailing Code of Ethics.

The Ethics Commission is charged with promoting ethical behaviour within World Sailing and the sport of sailing. It is required to keep an World Sailing Code of Ethics under review, propose any amendments to it and advise World Sailing and its members on the application of the Code of Ethics. In addition under Regulation 36, the Commission will investigate complaints raised in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Ethics and where appropriate propose sanctions to the Board.

The Code of Ethics has been adopted by Council pursuant to Regulation 36.3 of the World Sailing Regulations following preparation and approval by the Ethics Commission and the Board.

Any modification of the Code of Ethics, and any other regulation and implementing provisions emanating from the World Sailing Ethics Commission is to be submitted for the approval and adoption of Council pursuant to Regulation 36.3.

Measures and Sanctions

The Ethics Commission shall carry out investigations into complaints about unethical behaviour and breaches of the Code of Ethics and then report to the Board (or Council if a report concerns a member of the Board) with any recommendations.

In the case of any breach of the Code of Ethics, or any related regulation (as the case may be), following a report from the Board under Regulation 35.7(d), if the Board determines to refer the report to the Judicial Board under Regulation 36.9, measures or sanctions may be by the Judicial Board.

The measures or sanctions may be either as contained in the Code of Ethics or as contained in Regulations 35.13, 35.14 and 35.15.

Investigations

Any investigation relating to facts that may lead to any measure or sanction is conducted under the authority of the Ethics Commission. Under Regulation 36.7, the Ethics Commission may delegate an investigation to a panel of not less than three members of the Ethics Commission.

Any individual, team, or any other legal or other entity that is the object of an investigation by the Ethics Commission has the right to be heard before the Ethics Commission makes its final decision.

At the conclusion of any case under Regulation 36.10 the report of the Ethics Commission and the decision of the Board is to be published and brought to the attention of Council.

1. WORLD SAILING CODE OF ETHICS

1.1 General

- (a) World Sailing and each of its members, any candidate for election to a World Sailing office or MNA office, members of its Council and its Committees, Commissions and working parties, World Sailing Race Officials, or any person, official or body subject to the World Sailing Constitution or World Sailing Regulations, all other World Sailing Representatives, Organising Committees of any World Sailing events and World Sailing Classes (hereinafter "World Sailing Parties") shall be bound by, respect and comply with the World Sailing Code of Ethics.
- (b) In addition, the Code of Ethics applies to World Sailing Parties with regard to participation in any event or competition conducted under the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- (c) Any other regulations or provisions regarding ethics and conduct in respect of World Sailing Parties continue in force unchanged provided they do not conflict with the following provisions.

1.2 Dignity

- (a) Safeguarding the dignity of the individual is a fundamental requirement of World Sailing.
- (b) There shall be no discrimination between participants on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin, physical ability, age, religion, sexual orientation, philosophical or political opinion, marital status or other grounds.
- (c) All doping practices are strictly prohibited. The provisions against doping in the World Sailing Anti-Doping Code shall be scrupulously observed.
- (d) All forms of harassment of participants and any physical or mental injuries to participants are prohibited.
- (e) All forms of betting related to World Sailing events are prohibited unless previously licensed by World Sailing. The provisions of the Betting and Anti-Corruption Code provided for in the World Sailing Regulations shall be scrupulously observed.
- (f) In the context of betting, World Sailing Race Officials and participants in any World Sailing sailing event must not, by any manner whatsoever, infringe the principle of fair play, show non-sporting conduct, or attempt to influence the result of a competition in a manner contrary to best sporting ethics.

1.3 Integrity

- (a) World Sailing Parties 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 organisation of any World Sailing Event unless duly authorised by World Sailing.
- (b) World Sailing Parties are not permitted to accept intended gifts and other benefits that exceed the average relative value of local cultural customs from any third parties. If in doubt, gifts shall be declined. Accepting gifts of cash in any amount or equivalent form is prohibited.

- (c) Hospitality shown to World Sailing Parties (including any members or staff), and the persons accompanying them, shall not exceed the standards prevailing in the host country.
- (d) World Sailing Parties shall respect any applicable rules concerning conflicts of interests affecting the behaviour of World Sailing Parties.
- (e) World Sailing Parties shall use due care and diligence in performing any function for World Sailing. They must not act in a manner that will or is likely to tarnish the reputation of World Sailing.
- (f) World Sailing Parties, their agents or their representatives shall not be involved with firms or persons whose activity or reputation is inconsistent with the principles set out in the Code of Ethics.
- (g) World Sailing Parties shall not accept any gifts or other advantages that are offered, promised or sent to them to incentivise or cause a breach of duty or dishonest conduct. Any such offered gifts or advantages shall be refused.
- (h) World Sailing Parties shall not bribe third parties or urge or incite others to do so in order to gain an advantage for themselves or third parties.

1.4 Resources

- (a) In carrying out their functions, all income and expenditures of World Sailing Parties shall be properly recorded in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An independent auditor may check these accounts.
- (b) In cases where World Sailing gives financial support:
 - i) the use of such support must be clearly demonstrated in both parties' accounts;
 - ii) any accounts of the World Sailing Parties may be subject to auditing by an expert designated by World Sailing.
- (c) World Sailing Parties recognise the significant contribution that broadcasters, sponsors, partners and other supporters of sports events make to the development and prestige of the sport of sailing throughout the world. However, such support must be in a form consistent with the rules of the sport of sailing and the principles defined in the Code of Ethics. They must not interfere in the running of the sport. The organisation and staging of sailing competitions are the exclusive responsibility of any independent sailing organisations recognised by World Sailing.

1.5 Event Organisers

World Sailing Parties shall respect the various manuals, directions or guidelines issued by World Sailing linked to the selection of host cities of World Sailing events.

1.6 Relations with States

- (a) World Sailing Parties shall work to maintain harmonious relations with State authorities, in accordance with the principle of universality and political neutrality.
- (b) World Sailing Parties are 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 as defined in World Sailing's Articles and Regulations, and as set out in the Code of Ethics.

- (c) World Sailing Parties shall endeavour to protect the environment on the occasion of any events they organise and to uphold generally accepted standards for environmental protection.

1.7 Confidentiality

The principle of confidentiality shall be strictly respected by the Ethics Commission in all its activities. World Sailing Parties shall not disclose information entrusted to them in confidence other than in accordance with applicable laws or rules. Further, where disclosure of such information becomes necessary in accordance with applicable rules (or where required by law), such disclosure shall not be for personal gain or benefit and shall not be undertaken maliciously to damage the reputation of any person or organisation.

1.8 Implementation

- (a) World Sailing Parties shall ensure that the principles and rules of the Code of Ethics are always applied.
- (b) World Sailing Parties shall inform the Chief Executive Officer of any breach of the Code of Ethics, with a view to possible referral to the Ethics Commission.
- (c) The World Sailing Ethics Commission may issue and amend from time to time rules of procedure.

1.9 Conflict of Interests

- (a) World Sailing Parties before being elected or appointed to any World Sailing office shall disclose any personal interests (as defined by section 1.9(b) below) to the Chief Executive Officer who may publish the same if they may be linked or be relevant to such election or appointment.
- (b) World Sailing Parties shall avoid any situation that could lead to a conflict of interests. Conflicts of interests arise if World Sailing Parties have private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their function with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private and personal interests include gaining any actual or possible advantage for a person, their family, relatives, friends or acquaintances, or business associates or partners. The conflict of interest provisions of Regulation 34 that apply to World Sailing Race Officials shall continue to apply in parallel with the Code of Ethics.
- (c) World Sailing Parties shall not perform their functions where there is an existing or potential conflict of interest unless it has been disclosed and those with the appropriate authority within World Sailing have confirmed in writing they may perform such function.
- (d) If there is doubt or there is no appropriate authority to consider an existing or potential conflict of interest it shall be referred to the Ethics Commission for determination.

1.10 Adoption

This Code of Ethics was approved by the Ethics Commission and the Board and adopted by Council pursuant to Regulation 36.3 on 8 November 2014.