

Ethics commission report to the Presidium

Ethics commission composition

- Stefan Allacker President
- Michael Brand (Vice-President)
- Giancarlo Guarino

We had our first meeting in the summer 2025.

Since October we schedule a monthly meeting. These are all online via google meet or other.

Goal of the commission

Review and revise the current CIPS Code of Ethics and align it with the IOC standards.

Develop a new Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct as the two principal documents.

In a next phase we need to assign some specific functions within the Ethics Commission and develop procedures to implement the general principals of both main documents.

Process

Step 1

The commission analysed the existing CIPS Code of Ethics and compared it with IOC documents. We used artificial intelligence to do this. It quickly became clear that the actual code is a Code of Conduct, albeit that some main Ethics topics are addressed.

The major shortfalls were identified.

Step 2

Based on the outcome we first established a draft of the new Code of Ethics for review by the CIPS Presidium.

Step 3

We then established the draft of the new Code of Conduct also for review by the CIPS Presidium, especially to the Athletes commission.

Questionnaire to members

We established a questionnaire to find out if current members have similar documents in their organisation. The questionnaire is in an online form.

Some questions related to candidates to help with further development of necessary documents.

The questionnaire was sent to all CIPS-FIPS

Members have time till 15 February to respond.

Status

Draft version of Code of Ethics Code of Conduct available.

To date we have received about 15 replies to the google questionnaire. Michael is keeping track of the replies. It is still too early to make any kind of analysis.

Liste of annexes

Annex A : Code of ethics

Annex B : Code of Conduct

Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS) Code of Ethics

Preamble:

CIPS is committed to the highest ethical standards in all activities of sport fishing worldwide. This Code of Ethics establishes fundamental ethical principles, governance standards, and compliance requirements that govern all members of the CIPS family, including athletes, officials, leaders, staff, volunteers, and representatives.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to:

- Promote integrity, transparency, independence, and accountability in all CIPS activities;
- Safeguard the dignity and respect of individuals engaged in sport fishing;
- Protect the autonomy of sport fishing governance;
- Provide a clear framework for ethical decision-making; and
- Reinforce trust in CIPS and its affiliated bodies.

Subject to this Code, specific behavioral expectations and detailed operational conduct requirements shall be addressed in the CIPS Code of Conduct, which CIPS will promulgate concurrently.

Article 1 — Fundamental Ethical Principles

1.1 Respect for Persons and Human Dignity

All people involved in our sport shall be treated with dignity and respect. Discrimination, harassment, abuse, exploitation, and any action that undermines human dignity are prohibited.

1.2 Non-Discrimination

Discrimination of any kind—including but not limited to age, gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, political opinion, or socio-economic status—is strictly forbidden.

1.3 Integrity

CIPS members must act with honesty, objectivity, and fairness, avoiding deception, fraud, or bias in decision-making.

1.4 Respect for the Environment

Given the nature of our sport, CIPS and its members shall promote environmental stewardship and respect for aquatic ecosystems.

Article 2 — Governance & Compliance Framework

2.1 Applicability

This Code of Ethics applies to all CIPS bodies, officials, committee members, athletes, staff, volunteers, and representatives at all levels.

2.2 Autonomy and Independence

CIPS and its affiliated bodies shall maintain autonomy from political, commercial or other external influences inconsistent with the values of sport and our international federation responsibilities.

2.3 Transparency and Accountability

Decisions and actions by CIPS bodies must be transparent, documented, and subject to appropriate accountability mechanisms.

Article 3 — Conflict of Interest

3.1 Definitions

A “Conflict of Interest” exists when a personal, professional, business, or financial interest may improperly influence the performance of a member’s duties.

3.2 Disclosure

All covered persons must disclose actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in writing to the Ethics Commission (as defined in Article 6) annually and whenever a relevant change arises.

3.3 Management

The Ethics Commission shall determine the appropriate management of reported conflicts, which may include recusal from decision-making or other safeguards.

Article 4 — Confidentiality & Use of Information

4.1 Confidentiality

Members must preserve confidentiality of proprietary or sensitive information acquired through CIPS roles, unless disclosure is required by applicable law or authorized by CIPS.

4.2 Improper Use

No individual shall use confidential or privileged information for personal gain or to benefit another organization or person.

Article 5 — Gifts, Hospitality, and Benefits

5.1 Modest Gifts Permitted

Modest and symbolic gifts of nominal value may be accepted if they do not influence, or appear to influence, an individual's duties or decisions.

5.2 Prohibited Benefits

Gifts, favors, hospitality, or benefits that may create an obligation, bias, or sense of indebtedness are prohibited.

Article 6 — Ethics Commission and Enforcement

6.1 Establishment

CIPS shall establish an independent Ethics Commission responsible for administering this Code of Ethics.

6.2 Authority

The Commission shall:

- Receive and investigate reports of alleged violations;
- Evaluate compliance with this Code;
- Recommend corrective actions or sanctions to the CIPS Board of Directors;
- Report annually on compliance and trends.

6.3 Procedures

The Commission shall adopt procedures to ensure fairness, timeliness, and due process, including:

- Confidential reporting mechanisms;
- Opportunity for response by those accused;
- Right to appeal in accordance with CIPS appellate procedures.

Article 7 — Reporting & Whistleblower Protections

7.1 Reporting Obligations

All persons subject to this Code must report known or suspected violations promptly to the Ethics Commission.

7.2 Protection Against Retaliation

Retaliation against any person for reporting a violation in good faith or cooperating with an investigation is strictly prohibited.

Article 8 — Relationship to CIPS Code of Conduct

8.1 Separate Documents

This Code of Ethics sets forth the ethical framework and principles governing CIPS.

Behavioral expectations, competition procedures, and specific conduct requirements will be governed by a separately issued CIPS Code of Conduct.

8.2 Reference and Implementation

The CIPS Code of Conduct shall reference this Code of Ethics and implement detailed expectations consistent with it.

Article 9 — Amendments

This Code of Ethics may be amended by the CIPS Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the Ethics Commission, following consultation with stakeholders.

Article 10 — Acceptance and Application

By accepting a position in CIPS or participating in CIPS-sanctioned events, all covered individuals agree to abide by this Code of Ethics, the forthcoming CIPS Code of Conduct, and related policies.

The remainder of this page intentionally left blank.

Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS) Code of Conduct

Preamble:

CIPS is committed to fostering a competitive environment built on fairness, respect, integrity, and Olympic-aligned values. This Code of Conduct is adopted to define the specific behavioral expectations of all participants in CIPS activities, competitions, and events. It is intended to be read and applied in conjunction with the CIPS Code of Ethics, which establishes the broader ethical principles that guide all CIPS governance, and with other applicable regulations, including anti-doping policies.

This Code of Conduct applies to all individuals participating in or associated with CIPS-sanctioned events, including athletes, coaches, officials, team personnel, volunteers, delegates, and CIPS leadership.

Article 1 — General Obligations and Scope

1.1 All CIPS participants must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values of sport integrity, respect for people, and environmental stewardship as articulated in the CIPS Code of Ethics.

1.2 Participants must adhere to all applicable CIPS rules and regulations, including technical, competition, safety, and anti-doping provisions.

1.3 Participants must respect the rights, dignity, and well-being of others, avoiding behavior that demeans, harasses, or discriminates against any individual or group.

1.4 Ignorance of this Code does not excuse misconduct or exempt any individual from responsibility for violations.

Article 2 — Respect and Fair Play

2.1 All individuals shall conduct themselves with fairness and integrity, in accordance with the principles of fair play.

2.2 Participants must not engage in conduct that could undermine the honesty, impartiality, or credibility of competition outcomes.

2.3 Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct — including intimidation, verbal abuse, or physical aggression — are prohibited.

Article 3 — Competition Integrity

3.1 Cheating and manipulation: Any attempt to manipulate scores, results, or competition systems — including collusion, manipulation of equipment, or any act that confers an unfair advantage — is prohibited.

3.2 Compliance with technical rules: Participants are responsible for complying with all technical and competition rules established by CIPS and its affiliated federations.

3.3 Respect for officials: Participants must respect competition officials and comply promptly and respectfully with lawful decisions and instructions.

Article 4 — Anti-Doping and Clean Sport

4.1 CIPS participants are subject to and must comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and corresponding CIPS anti-doping policies.

4.2 Use of prohibited substances or methods is strictly prohibited at all times, whether in or out of competition.

4.3 Participants must cooperate with anti-doping controls, testing procedures, and investigations as required under applicable rules.

Article 5 — Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination

5.1 Harassment and abuse in any form — physical, verbal, psychological, or sexual — are strictly prohibited.

5.2 Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, or other protected status is prohibited.

5.3 Participants must refrain from engaging in or supporting conduct that creates a hostile environment for any individual or group.

Article 6 — Respect for Environment and Animal Welfare

6.1 Participants must demonstrate care and respect for the environment, water bodies, ecosystem health, and local communities where CIPS events are held.

6.2 Intentional harm or mistreatment of fish or aquatic life — beyond what is necessary for competition in accordance with discipline-specific rules — is prohibited.

Article 7 — Respect for Ceremonies and Representation

7.1 Participants must comply with ceremonial protocols, including opening and closing ceremonies, award presentations, and official functions.

7.2 Political demonstrations, discriminatory gestures, or behavior inconsistent with the values of mutual respect and neutrality are prohibited during ceremonies or competition.

Article 8 — Gifts, Benefits, and Conflict of Interest

8.1 Participants must not solicit, accept, or offer benefits, gifts, or hospitality that could improperly influence their duties or create a perception of bias.

8.2 Conflicts of interest must be disclosed in accordance with the CIPS Code of Ethics.

Article 9 — Reporting, Investigation, and Discipline

9.1 Alleged violations of this Code may be reported to the appropriate authority — including CIPS event organizers, competition officials, or the Ethics Commission as applicable.

9.2 Investigations will be conducted in accordance with CIPS disciplinary procedures and procedural fairness principles.

9.3 Disciplinary measures may include warnings, disqualification, suspension, or other sanctions as specified under CIPS regulations.

Article 10 — Relationship to CIPS Code of Ethics

10.1 This Code of Conduct implements the ethical principles set out in the CIPS Code of Ethics, applying those principles to specific behaviors and competition settings.

10.2 Where conduct matters overlap with ethical obligations, both the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics shall apply.

Article 11 — Amendments

11.1 This Code may be amended or updated by the CIPS Board upon consultation with stakeholders, including athletes, coaches, officials, and member federations.

11.2 Any amendments shall be communicated to all stakeholders in a timely manner.