



CODE OF ETHICS FOR SPORTS

This National Code of Ethics for Sports in Botswana is necessary for engendering the spirit of sportsmanship and promoting a set of fundamental ethical principles to help those in the sporting fraternity make sound decisions about what is right and wrong.



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PART 1 – COMPLYING WITH THE CODE, FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

1.0 Introduction

- 1.0.1 The King IV Code of Corporate Governance requires a governing body to lead ethically, and do it in a manner that supports the establishment of an ethical culture.
- 1.0.2 The Botswana National Sports Commission has adopted the Code of Ethics for Sport to provide a solid ethical framework as required by King IV which it has adopted as the official Code of Governance for the Sporting sector.
- 1.0.3 Sport is an enriching sociocultural activity for society and friendship between nations, promoting social interaction, and allowing individuals to know themselves better, to express themselves, to act and develop into their fullness.
- 1.0.4 However, those requirements would only be perfectly fulfilled if developed with strict respect for ethical principles.
- 1.0.5 It is a priority of the Commission, to reaffirm the importance of ethics in sport, bearing in mind that sport nowadays experiences a challenge of an ongoing dialogue with ethics, in various scenarios and stages involving millions of spectators. Many of those stages are very demanding, under the interference of social, market and competition forces, in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 Sporting activity, due to its social and cultural wealth, is a privileged means to increasingly help put into practice the ethical values which, by their nature, should constitute an example to be followed by other sectors of society.

- 1.1.2 Today, sport should increasingly be a true School for Freedom and an authentic School for Citizenship and Botho.
- 1.1.3 Given that sport in Botswana is already a large industry contributing to national wealth, it is essential to establish a Code which promotes and regulates good sports practices and protects sports and the socio-educational values which surround it.
- 1.1.4 The Code of Ethics for Sports is, above all, a promotional banner which contains the main values for appropriate sporting behaviour.

1.2 The objectives of the Sports Code of Ethics

- 1.2.1 Key objectives of this Code involve not only the idea of setting up an essential standard of ethics in sport, but also an array of good customs, good practices and a framework of human values in the field of sport.
- 1.2.2 Under the terms of the BNSC Act, 2014 and the King IV Code of Corporate Governance, sports activity is carried out in compliance with the principles of ethics, in defense of sportspersonship, sporting truth and the full training of all participants.
- 1.2.3 This Code will focus on values meant to guide practitioners, all those involved in sport and its associated movements, so that sport can be a true educational force, offering integration and social inclusion.
- 1.2.4 The recipients of this Code are all those who in some way are involved with sport, such as National Sports Associations (NSAs) athletes, coaches, referees, judges, health professionals, managers, journalists, educators, guardians, sports bodies, business agents, spectators and fans.
- 1.2.5 Sportspersonship means respecting codes, regulations, honouring your word and the commitments assumed, refusing the use of any means or methods, even if legal, to win or take advantage, as well as renouncing behaviour or attitudes which prevaricate or influence others in that way.

1.3 The Values of Sports Ethics

- 1.3.1 Sport, by its nature, enables and promotes the exercise and development of personal and social values. Values which, when applied in and through sport, are easily transposed to the daily life of the practitioners.
- 1.3.2 These are values which, by their nature, are inherent in the practice of sport, particularly the following: respect for the rules and the opponent, referee or judge; fair play; tolerance; friendship; truth; acceptance of the results; recognition of the dignity of human beings; knowing how to be in the moment and more generally; persistence; discipline; socialisation; the habits of a healthy lifestyle; mutual aid; responsibilities; honesty; humility; loyalty; respect for your body; impartiality; cooperation with and defense of social inclusion in all its aspects.
- 1.3.3 In this Code three essential dimensions are considered:
- a) Sports ethics in all its aspects, particularly as a means of preventing social phenomena which, in any form or level, threaten the essence of sport, such as violence; doping; racism; xenophobia; social discrimination and sexual harassment; and all acts and/or omissions which misrepresent sporting truth.
 - b) Education through sport, as a way of promoting the practice of numerous human values, and also as a way of defending healthy lifestyle habits, the environment, play areas, leisure and sport. In this educational aspect, sport stakeholders take on a high level of responsibility by setting an example, in particular for younger people.
 - c) Fair play in sport, with the inherent promotion of respect and strict compliance with rules, as well as friendship, mutual respect and cordially interacting with everyone they come across in sport, particularly towards opponents.

1.4 Responsibilities

- 1.4.1 It is up to NSAs to implement structures and instruments which enable sports ethics to be carried out by those involved in their sports and adopt mechanisms that foster the creation of sports rules.
- 1.4.2 NSAs must approve rules which emphasise, first and foremost, ethically appropriate behaviour. They should ensure that all structures and athletes comply with applicable legal standards regarding safeguarding sports ethics, particularly through the relevant and appropriate disciplinary regulations.
- 1.4.3 All participants in sporting events have to bear in mind that sport should always be practiced according to the principles of ethics, it is therefore up to all to promote and defend the objectives within this Code.

1.5 Sexual Harassment

- 1.5.1 BNSC is committed to ensuring that the sport sector is a safe environment for all who are involved in it free from discrimination on any grounds and from harassment at work including sexual harassment.
- 1.5.2 BNSC and all its affiliates will operate a zero tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment in the workplace, sporting arenas and anywhere else the sporting fraternity interacts and will treat all incidents seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of sexual harassment.
- 1.5.3 Any person found to have sexually harassed another will face disciplinary action, in accordance with the BNSC Sexual Harassment policy.
- 1.5.4 All complaints of sexual harassment will be taken seriously and treated with respect and in confidence.
- 1.5.5 BNSC and all NSAs at all levels shall ensure compliance with the

Sexual Harassment Policy adopted by the Commission at all times

PART II - COMMITMENT TO SPORTS ETHICS

2.0 General

- 2.0.1 The commitment to sports ethics is, by its nature, not merely a general statement of principles of appropriate behaviour in sport but also behaviour required at any moment, which guides everything with which sport interacts and relates.
- 2.0.2 This commitment shall apply to all entities/practitioners which, in any way are connected to sports, in particular those listed below are some the key critical players;

2.1 Botswana National Sport Commission

- 2.1.1 As the competent authority for national sport, it should commit to:
 - 2.1.1.1 Promote and defend sport as a universal right, as well as its pedagogic and educational aspects;
 - 2.1.1.2 Promote the practice of sport, taking into consideration its ethical values;
 - 2.1.1.3 Ensure fairness in sports events and competitions;
 - 2.1.1.4 Ensure that there are legal mechanisms leading to equitable distribution of resources for sport as well as those generated by it;
 - 2.1.1.5 Promote the inclusion in primary and secondary school curriculum programmes of a module on ethics in sport.
 - 2.1.1.6 Provide support to initiatives and actions on sports ethics, for example setting up a National Award for Sports Ethics, to be awarded annually.
 - 2.1.1.7 Promote the carrying out of in-depth studies on sports ethics and research work regarding its meaning and the many uses of it.

2.1.1.8 Encourage NSAs organisations to establish their own Codes of Sports Ethics, in line with this code, giving this adequate public visibility.

2.2 Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC)

- 2.2.1 Respect, in all forms and at all times, and equally, athletes for whom you are responsible, by preserving their health and physical and mental integrity.
- 2.2.2 Promote sportspersonship among athletes, and also in their own training.
- 2.2.3 Respect the technical rules of sport and contribute to the qualitative improvement of your athletes.
- 2.2.4 Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
- 2.2.5 Provide an ethical model for all, especially for younger people.
- 2.2.6 Promote the ethical values underlying sport and life for all athletes.
- 2.2.7 Oppose the use of any prohibited substances or methods that artificially improve the performance of athletes, in accordance with applicable anti-doping rules, and the use of methods that do not comply with medical ethics or regular scientific data.
- 2.2.8 Do not allow the use of training methods, practices or rules that may endanger the health and welfare of athletes, and assess and provide adequate nutrition, leisure and recovery time.
- 2.2.9 Avoid any situation that may lead to conflicts of interest whether real or perceived.

2.3 National Sports Associations (NSAs)

- 2.3.1 Implement regulations and standards concerning ethical content in their internal governance processes and systems.
- 2.3.2 Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
- 2.3.3 Carry out campaigns on ethical values in sport, promoting them as suitably as possible, within internal and external media.
- 2.3.4 Act by primarily taking into consideration the interests of and service for communities, through the principles laid down in the aims of its statutes –*Service to the Community*.
- 2.3.5 Be fair and impartial to all citizens, acting according to the principles of neutrality - *Impartiality*.
- 2.3.6 Not discriminate against any citizen on the basis of race, sex, language, religious or political ideologies or social or economic conditions - *Equality*.
- 2.3.7 Strive to disseminate information about the sport sector with all relevant stakeholders - *Information and Quality*.
- 2.3.8 Be governed by principles of honesty and integrity of character - *Integrity*.
- 2.3.9 Act responsibly and competently, being actively involved in carrying out the aims of the sporting discipline they form part of -*Responsibility*.
- 2.3.10 Take a proactive stance in the fight against doping, acting preventatively, promoting the rights and duties of athletes and their support staff, as well as refusing to exert pressure on professionals in order to improve sporting performance of the athletes and their teams.

2.4 Clubs/ Movements and Other Sport Structures

- 2.4.1 Enable your associates and those involved in sport to become aware of regulations and technical and sports rules applicable to events and competitions.
- 2.4.2 Treat all athletes in the same fair and equitable manner.
- 2.4.3 Establish lasting institutional relationships with sports organisations promoting good practices in sports ethics.
- 2.4.4 Involve younger athletes, and their parents or guardians, in the planning and decisions concerning their training and competitions.
- 2.4.5 Prevent and take disciplinary measures against unsporting and unethical behaviour by their sports agents and associates.
- 2.4.6 Carry out campaigns, through all means, actions and practices relevant to sports ethics, and promote them as suitably as possible, within internal and external media.
- 2.4.7 Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always arguing for sporting truth.
- 2.4.8 Set down in your statutes or regulations, rules providing for the promotion of and respect for ethical values in sport, in accordance with this Code of Ethics for Sports and/or any identical Code created within the sports federation under your remit.
- 2.4.9 Plan and establish suitable competitive frameworks for the state of development of your athletes, in particular younger individuals, and so contribute to all-round development.

2.5 Athletes

- 2.4.10 Respect the rules of the game or competition.
- 2.4.11 Turn down and denounce fraud or the manipulation of results, always

arguing for sporting truth.

- 2.4.12 Always give your best in competition, regardless of the opponent.
- 2.4.13 Consider sports opponents as partners and not as enemies, treating them politely and with respect.
- 2.4.14 Respect your own body, as well as those of your opponents, safeguarding them from any harm to their physical and mental integrity.
- 2.4.15 Reject doping in any form, thereby protecting your health and preserving sporting truth.
- 2.4.16 Recognise the value of your opponents and congratulate them when they win the game or competition. Do not look for excuses or hold a grudge for having lost the game but, on the contrary, know how to use defeat as a means of improvement.
- 2.4.17 Learn how to win: maintain, in your happiness at victory, humility and simplicity and acknowledging the effort of each one of those who has been defeated.
- 2.4.18 Respect other sports agents (managers, coaches, referees and judges, etc.) and spectators, in all circumstances and times, during or outside competition, treating them in a respectful and courteous manner.
- 2.4.19 Be respectful and correct to all entities providing support services.
- 2.4.20 Remember that as you get better results your obligations to safeguard sportspersonship will be greater, as these will become a public example of ethics for all, especially for younger people.
- 2.4.21 Get to know and comply with the Code of Ethics for Sports which has been approved by associations representing the area of activity in which you take part.

References

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