



International Association of Athletics Federations

# Code of Ethics

*(adopted by the IAAF Council in March 2012 & in force as from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012)*

# IAAF Code of Ethics

## Preamble

It is the aim of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), its officers and the entire Athletics family to promote the highest possible ethical values within the sport of Athletics.

In furtherance of this aim, the IAAF Council has accepted the following IAAF Code of Ethics.

## Application

There are two groups of persons subject to this Code to the extent specified below:

1. IAAF Officials - those who are in a position of trust within the IAAF, such as the members of the IAAF Council, Committees and Commissions, and those who are otherwise entitled to act for, or on behalf of the IAAF, such as IAAF officials and staff, as well as the IAAF consultants, agents etc, when acting for, or on behalf of, the IAAF.
2. Participants – those Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, competition officials, officials, managers or other members of any delegation, referees, jury members and any other persons accredited to attend or participate in an International Competition.

**All Articles of this Code except Article I.24 apply to IAAF Officials. Only Articles C.6, H and I apply to Participants.**

**Definitions:** Words used in this Code of Ethics shall have the same meaning as set out in the IAAF Constitution and the IAAF Competition Rules, unless specified otherwise.

## The Code of Ethics

- A. EQUALITY (see: IAAF Constitution, Articles 3.3 and 3.4)
1. No discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, political opinion or other such ground will be tolerated in Athletics, including in the IAAF Council, Committees, Commissions and other elected or appointed organs of the IAAF.
  2. When electing or appointing persons in a position of trust, both sexes should be considered.
- B. DIGNITY
3. The governance of the IAAF shall have due regard to the physical and mental well-being of all participants in Athletics. All forms of harassment, be they physical, mental, professional or sexual, are strictly prohibited.

- C. FAIR PLAY (see IAAF Constitution, Articles 3.3, 3.8 and 3.9, IAAF Competition Rules 9, 20 and 32.1)
4. Fair play is the basic guiding principle in the sport of Athletics.
  5. Doping is strictly forbidden at all levels. The IAAF Anti-Doping Rules shall be scrupulously observed at all times.
  6. Betting on Athletics and other corrupt practices relating to the sport of Athletics by IAAF Officials or Participants, including improperly influencing the outcomes and results of an event or competition are prohibited. In particular, betting and other corrupt practices by Participants under Rule 9 of the IAAF Competition Rules are prohibited.
  7. Friendly and loyal cooperation and understanding between all parties in Athletics shall be encouraged for the benefit of the sport as a whole.
  8. All IAAF Officials shall use due care and diligence in fulfilling their roles for, or on behalf of, the IAAF. Such persons must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the IAAF or Athletics generally, nor act in a manner likely to bring the sport into disrepute.

(COMMENTS: This paragraph might concern inter alia the disclosure of information if such disclosure is undertaken maliciously in order to damage the interests of the IAAF, especially when it is made for personal gain or benefit. It is also expected that no person who is subject to this Code of Ethics will publicly make adverse comments on a policy decision of the IAAF Council once such a decision has been taken. This does not prevent an individual from explaining his or her standpoint on the policy in question before the final decision of the IAAF Council is taken.)

- D. INTEGRITY (see IAAF Constitution, Article 3, including Article 3.9)
9. The standards of hospitality afforded to persons subject to this Code shall not exceed the standards prevailing in the host country concerned. Any hospitality afforded which exceeds such standards shall be disclosed to the IAAF Council, or, where appropriate, to the IAAF Committee or Commission concerned.
  10. Only gifts of nominal value may be given or accepted as a mark of respect or friendship.
  11. Except as may otherwise be permitted under this Section D, no IAAF Official shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any concealed remuneration, commission, benefit or service of any nature connected with their participation in Athletics or with their function as an IAAF Official.
  12. No IAAF Official may be involved with any company, firm or person whose activity is inconsistent with the objectives or interests of the IAAF. If it is unclear, whether this kind of a connection exists in any given situation, the matter shall be submitted to the Ethical Commission for a decision (see Section I).

13. The members of the IAAF Council and any other persons in the IAAF as may be defined by the IAAF Ethical Commission from time to time shall be required to submit to the IAAF Council a list of companies, associations and other entities for which they have agreed to act as agent, counsellor, representative or in any other commercially relevant capacity.

[COMMENTS: This paragraph applies to a person who has an agreement, written or oral, or only factual, with a company, association or entity. The person's acting for such company, association or entity must be in a commercially relevant capacity, not merely in a position of trust.]

#### E. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

14. All IAAF Officials agree to act for the benefit of the IAAF when making decisions that affect, or may affect, the IAAF and to do so without reference to their own personal interests, either financial or otherwise. Should a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, arise between the IAAF and any IAAF Official, or if there is a danger of such conflict arising, the individual concerned must refrain from taking any further part in the handling of the matter. If it is unclear whether such a conflict of interest exists in any given situation, the matter shall be submitted to the organ handling the matter to be decided.

[COMMENTS: The interest must be personal and not only national or regional. For example, when selecting countries to host future competitions, any IAAF Official who is from the country which is making the bid shall not be prevented from taking part in the decision-making process if he or she has no personal interest in the outcome of the decision (either from being a member of the local organising committee or from receiving a salary or other payment from such committee etc. The same principle shall also apply when electing or appointing persons to IAAF organs.)

#### F. RESOURCES (See IAAF Constitution, Articles 6.13 - 6.19)

15. The resources of the IAAF may only be used for Athletics purposes.
16. The IAAF recognises the significant contribution that sponsors, partners and other supporters of sports events make to the development and prestige of Athletics throughout the world. However, such support must be in a form consistent with the IAAF Constitution and its Rules and Regulations as well as the principles set out in this Code of Ethics. By virtue of their position, they must not be allowed to interfere with the running of the sport by the IAAF.

#### G. CONFIDENTIALITY

17. No IAAF Official shall improperly disclose any documents or information entrusted to them in confidence.

## H. IMPLEMENTATION

18. It is the duty of all persons under this Code of Ethics to see to it that IAAF Rules and this Code of Ethics are applied.
19. The IAAF Ethical Commission may make recommendations to the IAAF Council for the modification, amendment or deletion of provisions in this Code of Ethics.

## I. IAAF ETHICAL COMMISSION

20. The IAAF Ethical Commission shall be composed of four independent members appointed by the Council, and one additional member whom shall be the Chairman of the IAAF Juridical Commission. The IAAF President shall appoint the chairperson of the IAAF Ethical Commission from amongst its members.
21. At least three members of the IAAF Ethical Commission (as determined by the Chairperson), shall be appointed by rotation, as required on a case by case basis, to sit as a panel.
22. Each panel of the IAAF Ethical Commission shall have the power to hear and decide any breach of this Code of Ethics, including the power to impose sanction(s) as set out in this Code of Ethics, unless stated otherwise in this Code of Ethics.
23. The IAAF Ethical Commission shall act in accordance with the principles of natural justice and shall determine its own procedure.
24. For breaches of betting and other corrupt practices (see paragraph C6) by a Participant, the Ethical Commission may only impose such sanctions as specified in Rule 9 of the IAAF Competition Rules.
25. For any other breach or breaches of this Code of Ethics (including breaches of betting or other corrupt practices by an IAAF Official who is not a Participant), the IAAF Ethical Commission may impose any one or more of the following sanctions:
  - a. a caution or censure;
  - b. a suspension for a fixed period of up to 4 years from holding office or other position held by an IAAF Official and/or until a specified set of conditions have been met to the IAAF Ethical Commission's satisfaction;
  - c. a fine of up to a maximum of fifty thousand United States dollars (USD 50,000);
  - d. the return of any IAAF award;
  - e. a ban for a fixed period of up to a lifetime from taking part in any Athletics-related activity;
  - f. a recommendation to the IAAF Council that it impose any one or more of the sanctions on a Member Federation under Article 14.7 of the IAAF Constitution.