

# **ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR ROLLER SPORTS OFFICIALS**

- 1.0 GENERAL STANDARDS** - These General Standards are applicable to the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Sports activities of all competitive officials.
- 1.01 APPLICABILITY OF THE ETHICS CODE** - While many aspects of personal behavior and private activities seem far removed from official duties of officials, should be sensitive to their position as role models for athletes as well as other officials. Private activities perceived as immoral or illegal can influence the officiating environment and officials are encouraged to observe the standards of this Ethics Code consistently.
- 1.02 BOUNDARIES OF COMPETENCE**
- a) Officials provide service to the sport of roller skating only within boundaries of their competence, based on their education, training, or appropriate roller sports and officiating experience
  - b) Officials may provide service as an official involving new techniques only after first undertaking appropriate study training, supervision and/or consultation from persons who are competent in those areas or techniques
  - c) In those emerging areas in which generally recognized standards for preparatory training do not exist, officials nevertheless take reasonable steps to ensure the competence of their work and to protect athletes and other participants from harm.
- 1.03 MAINTAINING EXPERTISE** - Officials maintain a reasonable level of expertise of current scientific and professional information in their field of activity and undertake ongoing efforts to maintain competence in the fields where they are used.
- 1.04 BASIS FOR JUDGMENTS** - Officials maintain a reasonable level of expertise of current scientific and professional information in their field of activity and undertake ongoing efforts to maintain competence in the fields where they are used.
- 1.05 DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND RESULTS OF OFFICIATING** - When officials provide services to an individual group or an organization they should provide this using language that is reasonably understandable to the recipient of those services, communicating appropriate information beforehand about the nature of such services and appropriate information later about results and conclusions.
- 1.06 HONORING COMMITMENTS** - Officials take reasonable measures to honor all commitments they have made to organizations.
- 1.06 RESPECTING OTHERS** - Officials respect the rights of others to hold values, attitudes and opinions that differ from their own.

**1.08 NON-DISCRIMINATION** - Officials do not engage in discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, socioeconomic status or any basis prescribed by law.

**1.09 HARASSMENT** - Officials do not engage in behavior that is harassing or demeaning to persons with whom they interact in their duties based on factors such as those persons age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language or socioeconomic status.

**1.10 PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS**

a) Officials recognize that their personal problems and conflicts may interfere with their effectiveness. Accordingly, they refrain from undertaking an activity when they know or should know that their personal problems are likely to lead to harm to athletes or other participants to whom they may owe a duty and sport obligation.

b) In addition, officials have an obligation to be alert to signs of, and to obtain assistance for their personal problems at an early stage, in order to prevent significantly impaired performance.

c) When officials become aware of personal problems that may interfere with their performing official duties adequately, they take appropriate measures, such as obtaining professional consultation or assistance and determine whether they should limit, suspend or terminate their official duties.

**1.11 AVOIDING HARM** - Officials take reasonable steps to avoid harming their athletes or other participants, and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.

**1.12 MISUSE OF OFFICIALS' INFLUENCE** - Because officials' judgments and actions may affect the lives of others, they are alert to guard against personal, financial, social, organizational, or political factors that might lead to misuse of their influence.

**1.13 MULTIPLE RELATIONSHIPS**

a) In many competitions and situations, it may not be feasible or reasonable for officials to avoid social or other non-professional contacts with athletes and other participants. Officials must always be sensitive to the potentially harmful effects of other contacts on their position as officials and on those persons with whom they deal. An official refrains from entering into or promising another personal, professional, financial, or other relationships with such persons if it appears likely that such a relationship reasonably might impair the official's objectivity or otherwise interfere with the official effectively performing his or her functions as an official or might harm or exploit the other party.

b) Likewise, when feasible, an official refrains from taking on official obligations when pre-existing relationships would create a risk of such harm.

c) If an official finds that, due to unforeseen factors, a potentially harmful multiple relationship has arisen, the official attempts to resolve it with due regard for the best interests of the affected person and maximal compliance with the Ethics Code.

**1.14 EXPLOITATIVE RELATIONSHIPS** - Officials do not exploit athletes or other participants over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority.

**1.15 CONSULTATIONS AND REFERRALS** - When indicated and professionally appropriate, officials cooperate with other officials in order to serve their athletes or other participants effectively and appropriately.

**1.16 DELEGATION AND SUPERVISION OF SUBORDINATES**

a) Officials may delegate duties as needed to supervisees and assistants, but only those responsibilities that such persons can reasonably be expected to perform competently, on the basis of their education, training, or experience, either independently or with the level of supervision being provided.

b) Officials provide proper training and supervision to their peers or supervisees and take reasonable steps to see that such persons perform services responsibly, competently and ethically.

**1.17 FEES AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

a) As early as feasible in a professional relationship, the official and the competition host or other management participants reach an agreement specifying the compensation and the billing arrangement appropriate for the services provided.

b) Officials do not exploit recipients of services or payers with respect to fees.

c) Officials' fees practices are consistent with the governing association.

d) Officials do not misrepresent their fees.

e) If limitations to services can be anticipated because of limitations in financing, this is discussed with the host or other participants as appropriate.

f) In nearly all cases, such agreements should be summarized in writing.

**2.0 ADVERTISING AND OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**2.01 DEFINITION OF PUBLIC STATEMENT** - officials comply with the Ethics Code in public statements relating to their services, products or publications.

**2.02 STATEMENTS BY OTHERS**

a) Officials who engage others to create or place public statements that promote their practices, products or activities retain professional responsibility for such statements.

b) In addition, officials make reasonable efforts to prevent others whom they do not control from making deceptive statement concerning the official or his or her professional activities.

c) If officials learn of deceptive statements about their work made by others, officials make reasonable efforts to correct such statements.

**2.03 AVOIDANCE OF FALSE OR DECEPTIVE STATEMENTS** - Officials do not make public statements that are false, deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent, either because of what they state, convey or suggest, or because of what they omit, concerning their activities as a sport official, or those persons or organizations with which they are affiliated. As example (and not in limitation of this standard), officials do not make false or deceptive statements concerning:

- a) their training, experience or competence
- b) their academic degrees
- c) their credentials
- d) their institutional or association affiliations
- e) their services
- f) the fee basis for, or results or degree of success of their services, or
- g) their fees

**2.04 MEDIA REPRESENTATION** - When officials provide advice or comment by means of public lectures, demonstrations, radio, or television programs, prerecorded tapes, printed articles, mailed material, or other media, they take reasonable precautions to ensure that the statements are consistent with the Ethics Code.

**2.05 TESTIMONIALS** - Officials do not solicit testimonials from current officials or other participants who, because of their particular circumstances, are vulnerable to undue influence.

### **3.0 TRAINING SUPERVISION**

**3.01 DESIGN OF TRAINING PROGRAMS** - Officials who are responsible for training programs for other officials seek to ensure that the programs are competently designed, provide the proper experiences, and meet the requirements for certification or other goals for which claims are made by the program.

#### **3.02 DESCRIPTION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS**

- a) Officials responsible for training programs for other officials seek to ensure that there is a current and accurate description of the program content, training goals and objectives, and requirements that must be readily available to all interested parties.
- b) Officials seek to ensure that statements concerning their training programs are accurate and not misleading.

#### **3.03 ACCURACY AND OBJECTIVITY IN OFFICIALS**

- a) When engaged in officiating, officials present information accurately with reasonable degree of objectivity.
- b) When engaged in officiating, officials recognize the power they hold over athletes and therefore make reasonable efforts to avoid engaging in conduct that is personally demeaning to athletes and other participants.

#### **3.04 ASSESSING ATHLETE PERFORMANCE**

- a) In official-athlete relationships, officials establish an appropriate

process for providing feedback to athletes.

b) Officials evaluate athletes on the basis of their actual performance on relevant and established program requirements.

#### **4.0 RESOLVING ETHICAL ISSUES**

**4.01 FAMILIARITY WITH ETHICS CODE** - Officials have an obligation to be familiar with the Ethics Code, other applicable ethics codes, and their application to the official's work. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not in itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct.

**4.02 CONFRONTING ETHICAL ISSUES** - When an official is uncertain whether a particular situation or course of action would violate the Ethics Code, the official ordinarily consults with other officials knowledgeable about ethical issues, with USA Roller Skating or USOC ethics committees, or with other appropriate authorities in order to choose proper response.

**4.03 CONFLICTS BETWEEN ETHICS AND ORGANIZATION DEMANDS-** If the demands of an organization with which officials are affiliated conflict with the Ethics Code, the officials clarify the nature of the conflict, make known their commitment to the Ethics code and to the extent feasible, seek to resolve the conflict in a way that permits the fullest adherence to the Ethics Code.

**4.04 INFORMAL RESOLUTION OF ETHICAL VIOLATIONS** - When officials believe that there may have been an ethical violation by another official, they attempt to resolve the issues by bringing it to the attention of that individual if an information resolution appears appropriate and when intervention does not violate any athlete's rights that may be involved.

**4.04 REPORTING ETHICAL VIOLATIONS** - If an apparent ethical violation is not appropriate for informal resolution under Standard 4.04 or is not resolved properly in that fashion, officials take further action appropriate to the situation, unless such action conflicts with athletes rights in ways that cannot be resolved. Such action might include referral to USA Roller Sports or USOC committees on professional ethics.

**4.06 COOPERATING WITH ETHICS COMMITTEES** - Officials cooperate in ethics investigations, proceedings and resulting requirements of USA Roller Sports and the USOC. Failure to cooperate is itself an ethics violation.

**4.07 IMPROPER COMPLAINTS** - Officials do not file or encourage the filing of ethics complaints that are frivolous and are intended to harm the respondent rather than to protect the public.

#### **5.0 PROCESS RELATING TO VIOLATION OF CODE**

**5.01** The official acknowledges that this Ethics Code is administered under the authority of USA Roller Sports and that a violation of this code subjects the official to the processes of USA Roller Sports in the event of disciplinary action. USA Roller Sports acknowledges that all violations of the Ethics Code will be reviewed for possible disciplinary action and it will provide a written report to the USOC on all review and actions.

- 5.02** In the event that a violation of the Ethics Code occurs during an authorized U. S. Olympic Training Center activity. the USOC may, as landlord of the facility, take action separate and independent from that of USA Roller Sports in order to protect its interests and those of athletes, officials and others at the location.
- 5.03** If the violation of the Ethics code occurs while a member of the USOC team or event, the official and USA Roller Sports acknowledge that the USOC may institute its own proceeding regarding the violation, which action shall not restrict the ability or obligation of USA Roller Sports to take its own separate and independent action.
- 5.04** In the event that an official is found to have violated the Ethics Code, such action is separate and apart from any other legal consequences which may occur as a result of the act.

## **OFFICIALS CREED**

### **MEET DIRECTORS, JUDGES, CHIEF REFEREES AND TABULATORS**

I believe in the USA Roller Sports Code of Ethics for Officials, and will abide by the rules.

This code is intended to provide both the general principles and the decision rules to cover most situations encountered by officials. Its primary goal is the welfare and protection standards of the individuals and groups with whom officials serve.

- A. Officials should seek to promote integrity in the practice of officiating.
- B. Officials should strive to maintain high standards of excellence in their work.
- C. Officials should respect the fundamental right, dignity and worth of all participants.
- D. Officials should seek to contribute to the welfare of those with whom they interact professionally.
- E. Officials should uphold professional standards of conduct, and accept appropriate responsibility for their behavior and adapt their methods to the needs of athletes and coaches.
- F. Officials should be aware of their responsibility to their community and the sport of roller skating in which they function as officials.

**I WILL ABIDE BY THE OFFICIALS ETHICS CODE ADOPTED BY USA  
ROLLER SPORTS AT THE 1996 ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_