



# **COMPETITION CODE OF CONDUCT**

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## **SPECTATORS, GYMNASTS, COACHES & JUDGES**

Version 1. January 2025



## Version History

Version	Summary of amendments/changes	Published Date
Version 1	Policy Created	January 2025



## Introduction

At IGA, we are committed to maintaining a positive, safe, and fair environment at all our competitions. We expect all gymnasts, coaches, and judges to uphold the highest standards of conduct and professionalism while attending and participating in our events. The following code of conduct outlines our expectations for all involved parties.

## General Rules of Conduct

Whether you are a gymnast, coach, judge, or spectator, your conduct at IGA competitions reflects the values of the sport and the IGA community. We expect:

- **Respect for All:** Treat everyone involved in the event, from staff to competitors to spectators, with dignity and respect.
- **Punctuality:** Ensure that all individuals arrive on time for their scheduled events.
- **Abide by Event Guidelines:** Follow the event-specific rules and regulations as outlined by IGA and venue management.
- **Professionalism:** Coaches, gymnasts, and judges should conduct themselves professionally and contribute to a positive, supportive atmosphere.

## Spectators

Spectators play an essential role in creating a positive and supportive atmosphere at IGA competitions. Your enthusiasm and encouragement are appreciated, but it is important that all spectators adhere to the following guidelines to ensure a fair and enjoyable event for everyone.

### 1. Show Respect for All Participants:

- **Positive Support:** Cheer for all gymnasts, regardless of their performance. Avoid negative comments or booing, as this can negatively impact the athletes.
- **Respect Coaches and Judges:** Allow coaches to coach and judges to judge. Refrain from questioning or challenging their decisions during or after the event.

### 2. Adhere to Event Protocols:

- **Follow Venue Rules:** Obey all venue rules and regulations, including seating areas, designated spectator zones, and any safety instructions provided by event staff.
- **Remain Seated During Routines:** Please stay seated during gymnasts' performances to minimize distractions and ensure safety.
- **Supervise Young Spectators:** Ensure that children attending as spectators remain in designated areas and do not disrupt the competition or enter restricted zones.

### 3. Be a Role Model for Young Athletes:

- **Exemplify Good Sportsmanship:** Your behavior sets an example for young athletes. Celebrate effort and improvement over results, and encourage a healthy perspective on competition.
- **Respect Personal Space:** Allow gymnasts, coaches, and event staff space to do their jobs. Avoid approaching the competition floor or entering restricted areas without permission.



## Gymnasts

As a competitor, your behaviour is a reflection of your club, your coaches, and the IGA community.

We expect you to:

### 1. Demonstrate Respect and Sportsmanship:

- **Respect Others:** Show respect to all participants, coaches, officials, and event staff. Treat your fellow gymnasts as teammates, regardless of competition results.
- **Good Sportsmanship:** Win or lose, display a positive attitude. Congratulate your competitors and appreciate your own progress, regardless of the outcome.
- **Listen to Your Coaches:** Follow the instructions given by your coach and officials. Your coach is there to guide and support you.

### 2. Be Prepared and Focused:

- **Punctuality:** Arrive at the venue on time for warm-ups and your scheduled routines. Late arrivals may affect your ability to participate.
- **Safety First:** Always perform within your ability level. Attempting skills you have not mastered can lead to injury, and safety is our top priority.
- **Warm-Up:** Ensure you have warmed up appropriately before your routine. Failure to do so increases the risk of injury.

### 3. Respect Equipment and the Venue:

- **Equipment Use:** Only use the equipment you have trained to perform on. Do not misuse or damage equipment, as this can jeopardise the safety of others.
- **Keep the Venue Clean:** Respect the venue by cleaning up after yourself. Leave the space as you found it, or better.

### 4. Dress Code and Presentation:

- **Appropriate Attire:** All gymnasts must wear the appropriate competition attire as specified by IGA rules. Attire should be neat, clean, and reflect the professionalism of the sport.
- **Hair and Accessories:** Hair should be neatly secured, and jewellery requirements must be met, as per the competition guidelines.

## Coaches

Coaches play a pivotal role in the success and well-being of their gymnasts. The IGA expects coaches to maintain the highest levels of professionalism and care.

### 1. Professional Standards and Safety:

- **Qualified Coaching:** Coaches must only instruct gymnasts within their level of qualification. A minimum of a Level 2 coaching qualification is required to take responsibility for a group of gymnasts.
- **Up-to-Date Certifications:** All coaches attending IGA events must have a current DBS check, safeguarding training, and IGA membership. Coaches who do not meet these requirements will not be able to book onto the event.
- **Prioritise Safety:** Coaches must ensure their gymnasts are only performing skills for which they are adequately prepared and trained. The skills performed must not exceed the coaches qualification. Encouraging gymnasts to attempt high-difficulty skills without proper preparation is strictly prohibited.

### 2. Supportive and Positive Coaching:

- **Encourage Positive Behavior:** Promote a supportive, inclusive, and positive environment for your gymnasts. Refrain from negative feedback or public criticism.
- **Be a Role Model:** Demonstrate professionalism at all times. Your behavior sets the tone for your gymnasts and reflects on your club.
- **Effective Communication:** Maintain clear and respectful communication with gymnasts, judges, and other coaches. If disputes arise, address them through the proper channels.
- **When raising a score challenge** do not approach the Judges table, you must approach the competition organiser who will appeal your challenge on your behalf.

### 3. Event Participation and Expectations:

- **Event Preparation:** Coaches must ensure that all necessary documentation, athlete information, and competition entries are submitted on time. Failure to meet deadlines can result in gymnasts being unable to compete.
- **Stay Updated on Rules:** Familiarise yourself with the latest IGA competition rules, Code of Points, and any updates provided. Ensuring you are up to date will help guide your gymnasts through the competition safely and fairly.
- It is your responsibility to ensure you have your Intention Sheets ready for IGA Events.



## Judges

Judges are responsible for ensuring the fairness and integrity of IGA competitions. We hold our judges to the highest standard of professionalism and impartiality.

### 1. Impartial Judging and Professionalism:

- **Unbiased Evaluation:** Judges must remain impartial and ensure fair scoring for all competitors. Personal relationships with gymnasts or clubs should not influence decisions.
- **Consistency:** Apply the IGA Code of Points consistently across all gymnasts. Use the provided IGA Judging Resource Pack to ensure uniformity in deductions and scoring.
- **Maintain Confidentiality:** Judging decisions should not be discussed outside of official channels. Do not engage in conversations about scores or individual gymnasts outside of the judging team.
- **Remember you are representing IGA as a paid IGA Official.**

### 2. Commitment and Preparedness:

- **Punctuality and Readiness:** Judges should arrive early to all events to ensure they are prepared for the day. Ensure you have all necessary materials, including the latest version of the Code of Points.
- **Feedback:** Provide constructive feedback when appropriate, but avoid discussing individual scores with gymnasts or coaches directly. If a score challenge is raised, you will need to pass all relevant information to the competition organiser.

### 3. Ethical Responsibility:

- **Conflict of Interest:** If you feel you cannot fairly judge an athlete due to personal relationships, you must disclose this information and step back from judging that particular gymnast or group.
- **Professional Behavior:** Maintain decorum and professionalism in all interactions with gymnasts, coaches, and fellow judges.

### 4. Judge in the correct region:

- It is crucial that Judges only judge within their correct region, the region you are allocated is based upon your home address.

## Disciplinary Procedures for Competition Code of Conduct Violations

To maintain a fair and respectful environment at IGA competitions, all participants—including gymnasts, coaches, judges, and spectators—are expected to adhere to the established code of conduct. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in disciplinary actions based on the severity and frequency of the violations. The following procedures will be implemented:

### 1. Yellow Card (Warning)

- **Issuance:** A yellow card serves as an official warning for minor infractions of the code of conduct.
- **Examples of Infractions:**
  - Unsportsmanlike behaviour, such as disrespect towards judges, officials, coaches or competitors.
  - Distracting others during competition.
  - Failing to adhere to competition protocols.
- **Process:**
  - The individual (gymnast, coach, or spectator) will be verbally warned by an IGA official.
  - A record of the warning will be kept for future reference.
- **Outcome:** If a second yellow card is issued to the same individual during the same event, a red card may be issued.

### 2. Red Card (Immediate Suspension)

- **Issuance:** A red card is issued for serious violations of the code of conduct, resulting in immediate suspension from the event.
- **Examples of Infractions:**
  - Severe disrespect towards judges, officials, coaches, or gymnasts.
  - Aggressive behavior, including physical confrontations or verbal abuse.
  - Repeated violations after receiving a yellow card.
  - Disruption of the event, such as entering restricted areas or ignoring venue rules.
- **Process:**
  - The individual will be immediately removed from the competition area and may be required to leave the venue.
  - A report detailing the incident will be submitted to the appropriate authorities for review.
- **Outcome:** The individual may be subject to further disciplinary action, including a review of their participation in future events.

### 3. Suspension (Temporary or Permanent Ban)

- **Issuance:** Suspension may be applied following severe misconduct or repeated violations of the code of conduct.
- **Process:**
  - An investigation will be conducted to gather information about the violation.
  - A committee will review the case, including the event officials and the senior safeguarding officer.
- **Outcome:**
  - Depending on the severity of the incident, a suspension may range from a specified duration (e.g., one competition season) to a permanent ban from IGA events.
  - The individual will be notified in writing of the decision and any conditions for reinstatement.



## Conclusion

At IGA events, every participant is not only a representative of their club but also an ambassador for the gymnastics community as a whole. It is essential to remember that the values we uphold during competitions extend beyond the individual, reflecting on the clubs we represent and the supportive network we aim to cultivate.

We want to encourage clubs to actively engage in IGA events, fostering an environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging and support. By promoting a culture of respect and teamwork, we can inspire both participants and spectators to celebrate achievements together, no matter how big or small.

The purpose of these disciplinary measures is to uphold the integrity and spirit of IGA competitions. We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all participants. By adhering to the code of conduct, everyone can contribute to a positive atmosphere that fosters sportsmanship, fair competition, and mutual encouragement among clubs.

Let us work together to create an inclusive community that uplifts each other and celebrates the dedication and hard work of all our gymnasts. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.