

European Kendo Federation - Code of Conduct

We are proud to live the Way of the Sword.

We are cultivating self-improvement following a **traditional art** of Japan – be it Kendo, laido or Jodo.

We value the **indomitable fighting spirit** of our shiaisha and we wish to preserve the rigorous aspects of our discipline.

We respect **hierarchy** based on experience and skill and we cherish **reiho**.

We study the **history** of our budo and how it developed from a path of death to a way of life. We refer to the life of Japanese feudal warriors, with medieval values, while at the same time we are European modern practitioners, with contemporary sensitivity.

More specifically:

- Practicing a traditional art is a way to learn and teach a respectful attitude towards everyone, hence we do not condone backward, prejudiced, offensive attitudes in the dojo.
- Training in a martial art helps the physical and spiritual development of all practitioners and, even if it was originated by male warriors, we do not condone discrimination or harassment against women.
- Honouring fighting spirit enhances the energy in the practice within the rules of keiko, hence we do not condone violence in our dojo or bullying against any group.
- Respect for hierarchy is meant to create a positive environment for learning, hence we do not condone inappropriate behaviour of kodansha and teachers toward lower grades and students.

The Way of the Sword in 21st century Europe means:

- Safe environment for everyone to study our art
- Respect and inclusion for all, irrespective of age, sex, nationality, religion.
- Ability to grant the way to speak up safely against bad behaviours and being heard.

For these reasons, **EKF invites all member Federations to adopt a Code of Conduct**, which complements the values promoted by the Way of the Sword and sanctions inappropriate behaviours and attitudes, from doping to harassment.

The Code should be structured into sections: a general introduction for all members, one section for Practitioners/Competitors, one section for Teachers/Trainers and whoever holds some authority within our environment.

Below are some basic Templates that can be adapted and adopted by EKF member Federations :

- Code of Conduct for Practitioners/Competitors
- Code of Conduct for Teachers/Managers/Officials

By promoting the adoption of a Code of Conduct, each Federation is committed, through its member clubs, to providing good quality Kendo/laido/Jodo keiko and shiai in a safe environment.

A. CODE OF CONDUCT for Practitioners/Competitors

- Show respect and fair play to your opponents
- Practice and compete within the rules of Kendo/laido/Jodo
- Encourage, support and co-operate with your dojo- and team-mates
- Respect Instructors, Teachers and Referees and accept their decisions
- Refuse the consumption of any prohibited substance

In order that I remain a valued and respected member of my Kendo/laido/Jodo community, I,

..... agree to abide by the [name of Federation]'s Code of Conduct.

Signature Date

B. CODE OF CONDUCT for Teachers/Managers/Officials

Safety and Health of Participants

- Place the safety and welfare of the practitioners above all else.

Coaching excellence

- Help each person (practitioner, competitor, referee, official, etc) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the Way of the Sword.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.

Honour the Way

- Act within the rules and spirit of the Way of the Sword.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the practice.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.

Integrity

- Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications or coaching experience to be misrepresented.

- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.

Respect

- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

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