



International Committee of the Mediterranean Games

Ethics CODE
&
RULES OF
PROCEDURE

IN FORCE / 8 SEPTEMBER 2023



“ICMG Ethics Code”

(Bye-law 1)

I. PREAMBLE

The ICMG, its NOCs, its International Sports Federations and Mediterranean Sports Unions or Confederations (hereinafter “Members”), the International Olympic Academy and any other organization which deals with matters of physical education, sport and culture in all their relations with ICMG, restate their commitment to the Olympic Charter and in particular its Fundamental Principles, and reaffirm their loyalty to the Olympic ideal inspired by Pierre de Coubertin.

ICMG and its “Members” undertake to disseminate the culture of ethics and integrity within their respective areas of competence and to serve as role models.

The role of the ICMG is to promote, in particular, sport and Olympism, the ideals and values which they embody, in the countries of the Mediterranean Basin.

For this purpose the ICMG, in accordance with its Charter, supports and encourages the promotion of sports ethics, all the efforts being made to ensure that the spirit of fair play prevails in sport and that violence is banned, participates in the fight against doping in sport using all available means for that purpose and in the fight against any threat to sport’s integrity, in particular through illegal sports betting.

II. DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

II.1) This Ethics Code (*hereinafter also “Code”*) applies to the persons and organizations below described in the following circumstances:

► **ICMG** (ICMG stands for the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games):

All persons elected or appointed to represent, or to act on behalf of ICMG (whether paid or volunteer) including the President, Vice Presidents, and all other members of the EC (EC stands for Executive Committee of the ICMG), all ICMG staff, contractors, consultants and advisors, members of ICMG Commissions, Committees, Working Groups, however described, and persons appointed to Honorary positions,

at all times and in all circumstances;



► **NOCs** (NOC stands for National Olympic Committee):

All National Olympic Committees and their officials, therein included

- the delegates of NOCs, members of the ICMG, appointed by their NOC to attend the ICMG General Assembly
- the active IOC members for the countries whose NOCs are members of the ICMG

(also referred to throughout this Code as ICMG's "Members")

in all their relations with ICMG ;

► **IF** (IF stands for International Sports Federation), **IOA** (IOA stands for International Olympic Academy), **Mediterranean Sports Unions or Confederations and any other organization which deals with matters of physical education, sport and culture**, and their officials,
(also referred to throughout this Code as ICMG's "Members")

in all their relations with ICMG;

► **Accredited Participants:**

All ICMG Games participants and the participants in any other Events organized under the sole or shared jurisdiction of ICMG, throughout each edition of the ICMG or other Events, for which they are accredited; including in these, but without limitation:

- individual and team competitors,
- coaches, trainers, managers, agents, team staff, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating competitors, officials, judges, referees,

in all their relations with ICMG;

► **Candidatures:**

- All applicants for the elective positions listed in the ICMG Charter,
- The Cities and Bid Committees, and their officials, taking part in any type of candidature procedures of ICMG, throughout the procedure in question,

in all their relations with ICMG;



► **OCMG** (OCMG stands for Organizing Committee for the Mediterranean Games):

- The Organizing Committees of the ICMG Games and of any other Events organized under the sole or shared jurisdiction of ICMG, and their officials, throughout the existence of each such Committee,

in all their relations with ICMG;

► **External Entities**

in all their relations with ICMG;

11.2) Every reference to ICMG, NOCs, International Sports Federations, Participants, Cities, Bid Committees, and Organizing Committees in this Code includes with limitation any and all of the persons described above.

Participants, Cities, Bid Committees, Organizing Committees and External entities are also referred to throughout this Code as ICMG's "Affiliates".

III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

Respect for the universal fundamental ethical principles is the foundation of Olympism. These include:

1.1 Respect for the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play;

1.2 Respect for the principle of the universality and political neutrality of the Olympic Movement;

1.3 Maintaining harmonious relations with state authorities, while respecting the principle of autonomy as set out in the Olympic Charter;

1.4 Respect for International conventions on protecting human rights insofar as they apply to the ICMG Games and all other business and activities of ICMG, its NOCs and its Continental Associations, and which ensure in particular:

- Respect for human life;
- Respect for human dignity;



- ▶ Rejection of discrimination of any kind on whatever grounds, be it race, color, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
- ▶ Rejection of all forms of harassment, be it physical, psychological or sexual, and any physical or mental abuse;

1.5 Ensuring ICMG Games participants, and participants in any other Events organized under the sole or shared jurisdiction of ICMG, conditions of safety, well-being and medical care favorable to their physical and mental health.

IV. INTEGRITY OF CONDUCT

Article 2

ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates” must use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. At all times, they must act with the highest degree of integrity, and particularly when taking decisions, they must act with impartiality, objectivity, independence and professionalism.

They must refrain from any act involving fraud or corruption.

They must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of ICMG or of the Mediterranean Sport Movement.

Article 3

ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates”, or their representatives must not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any improper or concealed form of remuneration or commission, benefit, or service of any nature, connected with the ICMG Games and any other ICMG Events.

Article 4

Only tokens of consideration or friendship of nominal value, in accordance with prevailing local customs, may be given or accepted by ICMG , its “Members” and its “Affiliates” or their representatives or third parties in connection with ICMG business and activities, and then only where such tokens will not lead to reasonable concerns about the impartiality and integrity of ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates”, or their representatives.

Any other form of token, object or benefit constitutes a gift that may not be accepted, but must be passed on to the organization of which the beneficiary is a member.



Article 5

For hospitality shown to ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates”, or their representatives, as well as those accompanying them, a sense of measure must be respected.

Article 6

ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates”, or their representatives, shall carefully avoid creating or placing themselves in situations of conflicts of interest, whether actual or apparent.

V. INTEGRITY OF COMPETITIONS

Article 7

ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates” shall commit to combat all forms of cheating and shall continue to undertake all the necessary measures to ensure the integrity of sports competitions.

Article 8

ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates” shall respect the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code and any relevant decision or instrument of the ICMG on this matter, as well as the provisions of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

Article 9

None of ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates” or representatives shall engage in or support betting related to the ICMG Games, or to any other Events organized under the sole or shared jurisdiction of ICMG.

Article 10

Participants in the ICMG Games, or in any other Events organized under the sole or shared jurisdiction of ICMG, must not, by any manner whatsoever, manipulate the course or result of a competition, or any part thereof, in a manner contrary to sporting ethics, infringe the principle of fair play or show unsporting conduct.



VI. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCES

Article 11

ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates” must respect the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement, in particular financial transparency, responsibility and accountability, and must also recognize that good governance is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive.

Article 12

Resources that are received by ICMG with indicated purposes specific or general, must be used only for such purposes.

Article 13

13.1 ICMG's income and expenses must be recorded in its accounts and maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

13.2 In cases where ICMG provides financial support to member NOCs:

- NOCs are responsible for the use of said financial support and must provide detailed financial reporting in accordance with ICMG directives;
- The use of such ICMG resources must be specifically recorded in the accounts of the NOC and may be audited by an independent expert designated by the ICMG Executive Committee.

VII. CANDIDATURES

Article 14

14.1 ICMG “Members” and “Affiliates” shall respect the integrity of any candidature procedure initiated by ICMG, in order to allow equal access to the promotion of each candidature and the avoidance of any risk of conflict of interest and to preserve the transparency and integrity of all procedure.

14.2 The election process, among others, shall include:

- Eligibility rules
- A clear procedure and deadlines to submit the nominations and communicate the list of eligible candidates



- Campaign rules, including a fair opportunity for each candidate to present their programme
- A clear voting procedure, which shall include a vote by secret ballot (electronic or paper)

Article 15

15.1 ICMG, its “Members” and its “Affiliates” recognize the significant contribution that broadcasters, sponsors, partners and other supporters and stakeholders make to the development and prestige of the ICMG Events. In order to preserve the integrity and neutrality of the various candidature procedures, the support and promotion of any of the candidatures by broadcasters, sponsors, partners and other supporters and stakeholders must be in a form consistent with the rules of sport and the principles defined in the Olympic Charter, the ICMG Charter and the present Code.

15.2 ICMG marketing partners, however, must refrain from supporting or promoting a candidature within any of the ICMG candidature procedures. The broadcasters, sponsors, partners and other supporters and stakeholders must not interfere in the running of sports organizations.

VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY

Article 16

16.1 The principle of confidentiality shall be strictly respected by the Executive Committee in the implementation of this Code of Ethics, except to the extent determined to be appropriate by the Executive Committee.

16.2 The principle of confidentiality shall be strictly respected by the Members of the ICMG Ethics Commission in the implementation of this Code.

IX. REPORTING

Article 17

ICMG, Members, Affiliates and External entities, shall inform the ICMG President of the Ethics and Juridical Commission, in the strictest confidentiality and by using the appropriate mechanisms provided by the Rules of procedure (*Bye-law 2*) of any information related to a violation of the ICMG Code of Ethics, so that the ICMG Ethics Commission can analyze the case and take the pertinent recommendations to be forwarded to the ICMG Executive Committee.



Any disclosure of information must not be for personal gain or benefit, nor be undertaken maliciously to damage the reputation of any person or organization.

X. IMPLEMENTATION and ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 18

18.1 This “ICMG Ethics Code” (Bye-law 1) is integrated with a series of implementing Provisions, called Implementing provisions of the ICMG Code Ethics Code - "Rules of Procedure Governing Cases of Possible Breach of Ethical Principles" (Bye-law 2).

18.2 The provisions of the ICMG Ethics Code and the Rules of Procedure Governing Cases of Possible Breach of Ethical Principles enter into force following the approval of the ICMG Executive Committee, through publishing on the ICMG website.

18.3 All those who, in any capacity, contribute to the activities and the pursuit of the aims of ICMG or maintain relations with it, undertake to know and observe the aforementioned principles and rules.

XI. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

With reference to the superior art. 18, 18.2, the present provisions must be approved by the ICMG Executive Committee and enter into force only after appropriate updates and implementations of the ICMG Charter in ethical matters.

Subsequently, this Code must be published on the official ICMG website.

The publication on the official website of ICMG realizes the principle of everyone's knowledge.

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Implementing provisions of the ICMG Ethics Code

RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING CASES OF POSSIBLE BREACH OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

(Bye-law 2)

I. ICMG Ethics and Juridical Commission - Composition and Organization

1. The Commission consists of 6 (six) members, including its President, who represents it and convenes and chairs its meetings.

When the President convenes a meeting with a specific agenda concerning Ethical matters, the Commission acts as the “ICMG Ethics Commission” (*hereinafter* “Ethics Commission”).

In assuming these functions, the Ethics Commission applies the ICMG Ethics Code and the present Rules of Procedure (Bye-law 2).

The Ethics Commission will be composed of the President of the ICMG Ethics and Juridical Commission - who will act as President (*hereinafter* “the President”) - and the members of the ICMG Ethics and Juridical Commission.

All members must carry out their duties in full independence and act only in the best interest of the ICMG.

Members of the Ethics Commission shall not take any measure nor exercise any influence in relation to a matter where any conflict of interests or any other conflict exists or is perceived to exist.

If the President, for any reason, believes that he/she himself cannot take part in the case, he/she designates a member of the commission as the interim President for the specific case.

All the activities of the Ethics Commission are subject to the principle of exemption from liability. No member (nor any ICMG assistant) may be held personally liable for any act or omission relating to any case, procedure or opinion.

II. General Provisions

Article 1

These Rules of Procedure Governing Cases of Possible Breach of Ethical Principles (*hereinafter* “Ethics Rules of Procedure”) apply to all cases of possible breaches of the ethical principles, as per the ICMG Ethics Code.



If something has not been foreseen in the present Ethics Rules of Procedure, as far as possible the IOC Code of Ethics and the general principles of international sports law shall apply.

Article 2

The proceedings opened through application of these Ethics Rules of Procedure are confidential. All the parties concerned undertake not to divulge to third parties any of the facts or other information linked to the proceedings.

Article 3

The meetings of the Ethics Commission will take place in Athens, at the ICMG headquarters. However, the President of the Ethics Commission may carry out all the acts either on site in Athens or in any other place that he/she deems appropriate or remotely, as the case may be.

III. Notification and Communications

Article 4

The Ethics Commission has the power to review any complaint filed against a member or affiliate, whether filed by another member or other affiliate under this Code.

The Ethics Commission is competent to act in the cases of complaints presented by the members and affiliates on the subjects provided by the ICMG Ethics Code. It deals with the receipt, examination and evaluation of complaints and formulates recommendations to the ICMG Executive Committee.

All complaints must be brought, in the strictest confidence, to the attention of the President of the Ethics and Juridical Commission by certified mail. They can also be sent by courier or delivered by hand at the Office of the ICMG headquarters, provided they are in a sealed envelope and in a form that allows proof of receipt (*see the "Instructions for notifications and communications"*).

A complainant must sign the complaint. The action cannot be brought on the basis of anonymous complaints.

When deemed necessary and provided it is duly justified, after the request of a complainant the Ethics Commission may take appropriate measures to protect the identity of the person/s submitting the complaint.



The complaint must be detailed. A vague and indeterminate suspicion is therefore not sufficient to be considered as a prerequisite for complaint, but specific and determinable elements are needed.

IV. Case Management

Article 5

1. When the President receives a complaint of alleged violations, within fifteen (15) days he must appoint a Panel for the analysis, verification and preparation of a dossier of the documents received. The Panel will consist of three (3) Ethics Commission members, one of whom will typically be the Ethics Commission President.

2. The Panel first of all ensures that the report or information received concerns an alleged violation of the Ethics Code. With a view to facilitating the tasks of the Ethics Commission, if the Panel, consulting all the relevant documents for the analysis of the likelihood of a breach, considers it appropriate to do so, may ask the complainant to provide further information, in particular with regard to the evidence.

3. When the Panel considers that its tasks mentioned above (*paragraph 1.*) have been concluded, within a reasonable time period the President convenes the Ethics Commission to submit the case and includes the complete dossier.

4. If, after reviewing a complaint, the Ethics Commission, by a majority vote, believes that the report is frivolous or malicious and therefore not to take further action, the President will notify the person who reported the matter that the Commission will not open any infringement procedure.

5. If, following receipt of a complaint, the Ethics Commission, by a majority vote, will consider whether there is sufficient evidence to establish a “prima facie” case of breach of the ICMG Ethics Code, will have discretion, to be exercised as appropriate, to write to any Applicable Persons against whom a prima facie case has been found to exist, to ask whether or not they wish to admit any breaches suggested by the prima facie case.

6. All persons concerned must cooperate fully with the Ethics Commission. The persons concerned shall have opportunity within reasonable time period, determined by the Ethics Commission, to make a response to the complaint as sent to them.

The person/s involved should be afforded of a right to be heard by the Ethics Commission, either through written observations or orally during an interview for which the circumstances will be decided by the Commission.

7. Once the responses have been received, the Ethic Commission shall decide, whether a hearing is necessary or not.

In case no hearing is held, parties may present a last round of submissions.

In case the hearing is held, after evaluating the circumstances of the case, the hearing can be managed by the Panel. Parties shall be free to appoint a representative of their choice at their own expense. Such representatives



include but are not limited to: parents or guardians for parties who are minors; lawyers, or any other person who has the capacity to represent a party.

All parties are required to fully disclose to the Ethics Commission no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing all written evidence and shall specify any witnesses and experts which they intend to or may call, and disclose any other evidence which they intend to present during the course of the hearing. All written submissions shall be disclosed to all parties prior to the hearing.

8. Hearings are not public. Any defense based on lack of competence of the Ethics Commission must be raised at the start of the proceedings or, at the latest, at the start of the hearings.

9. The Ethics Commission shall have full power to establish the facts relevant to any decisions to be taken in the proceedings.

The Ethics Commission shall reach its decision within a reasonable period of time.

10. Proceedings under this Code are confidential in principle. The parties and ICMG undertake not to disclose to any third party any facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings until the decision. Decisions shall not be made public unless all parties agree or the ICMG Executive Committee so decides.

11. All the proceedings shall be conducted in English language.

12. All legitimate subjects have the right to take action before the Ethics Commission.

12.1 ICMG Executive Committee, for the entire four-year period or for each year, determines the extent of the fee for access to the procedures of this Code.

12.2 Parties shall incur costs of any form of representation as chosen by themselves, as well as the witnesses they indicate to intervene in the proceedings.

12.3 Each party who wishes to have an interpreter during the proceedings shall bear the costs of the interpreter. Any person requiring the assistance of an interpreter at a hearing must arrange for the attendance of an interpreter, retained at the expense of the Party requiring the interpreter.

V. Decisions on recommendations to be made

Article 6

1. The Ethics Commission deliberates in camera and transmits the recommendations it deems appropriate to the ICMG Executive Committee.

2. The Ethics Commission's recommendations are taken by a simple majority of the members present.

3. The Ethics Commission can, among others, recommend to the ICMG Executive Committee to take the following decisions:



a) Archiving

or

b) Referring to the NOC of origin of the person/s involved in the proceeding of violation of the ethical rules, or to another relevant sports organization.

or

c) Suspending provisionally the person/s involved in the proceeding of violation of the ethical norms and referral to the NOC of origin, or to another relevant sports organization.

4. The Ethics Commission will inform the ICMG Executive Committee of its position in the case under consideration with a reasoned written document, as soon as reasonably possible and ordinarily no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the hearing or, if no hearing, from the closing date of the dossier of the documents.

The ICMG Executive Committee takes every decision in full autonomy.

All decisions of the ICMG Executive Committee are immediately communicated to the interested party and contextually the complete dossier sent to the NOC to which the person/s belongs, or to another relevant sports organization.

V. Appeals

Article 7

1. Only the Person/s addressees of the provisional suspension may exclusively appeal against this part of the decision of the ICMG Executive Committee to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. The deadline for appealing is twenty-one (21) days from the receipt by the appellant of the decision to be appealed. The disciplined party must be advised of these rights of appeal.

2. The applicable NOC or the another relevant sports organization, must communicate to ICMG the outcome of the decisions taken against the person/s involved in the proceeding of violation of the ethical rules. ICMG maintains the right to appeal these decisions to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, when it deems it necessary to preserve its image. The deadline for appealing is sixty (60) days from the receipt of the decisions.

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