



# The International Sumo Federation

Code on the Prevention of the  
Manipulation of Competitions and Etc.

## **Sumo Value & Integrity**

**Honor** – This requires the involvement of all Sumo stakeholders such as national member federations, sport organizations, showing respect for one another, towards the rules and regulation of The International Sumo federation (hereinafter called the “IFS”), and upholding a spirit of solidarity.

**Tradition & Culture** – The fostering of Sumo’s historical roots and all cultural aspects and customs inherent in the sport from its ancient origins.

**Respect** – The practice by all IFS stakeholders of a respectful involvement regardless of race, age, gender, religion, disability or nationality.

**Excellence** – Promoting the highest levels of achievement in competition, coaching, and judging.

**Fair Play** – The provision of a level playing field for competition, encouraging sportsmanship, efficiency and transparency in the operations of IFS Competition rules, IFS Judge and Referee Rules, IFS Anti-Doping code, as well as strict adherence to Olympic Committee Anti-Doping Code and the World Anti-Doping Code.

All national member federations and their members provide harmonized regulations to protect all competitions from the risk of manipulation. This Code establishes regulations that are in compliance with International Olympic Committee, IOC Charter and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

### **Article 1 Definitions**

- 1.1 “Benefit” means the direct or indirect receipt or provision of money or the equivalent such as, but not limited to, bribes, gains, gifts and other advantages including, without limitation, winnings and/or potential winnings as a result of a wager; the foregoing shall not include official prize money, appearance fees or payments to be made under sponsorship or other contacts;
- 1.2 “Competition” means any sports competition, tournament, match or event, organized in accordance with the rules of the IFS or its affiliated organizations, or where appropriate, in accordance with the rules of any other competent sports organization;
- 1.3 “Inside Information” means information relating to any competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to a sport or competition, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant Competition;
- 1.4 “Participant” means any natural or legal person belonging to one of the following categories:
  - a. “athlete” means any person or group of persons, participating in sumo competitions;
  - b. “athlete support personnel” means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, team official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating sumo athletes participating in or treating athletes participating in or preparing for sumo competitions, and all other persons working with athletes;
  - c. “official” means any person who is the owner of, a shareholder in, an executive or a staff member of IFS, member federation, the entities which organize and/or promote sumo competitions, as well as judge, referees, jury members and any other accredited persons. The term also covers the executives and staff of the IFS, IFS member federation’s official, or where appropriate, other competent sumo organization or sumo club that recognizes the competition.

- 1.5 “Sport Betting, Bet or Betting” means any wager of a stake of monetary value in the expectation of a prize of monetary value, subject to a future and uncertain occurrence related to a sports competition.

## **Article 2 Violations**

The following conduct as defined in this Article constitutes a violation of this Code;

### **2.1 Betting**

Betting in relation either:

- a. to a Competition in which the participant is directly participating; or
- b. to a sumo event or
- c. to any event of a multisport Competition in which the sumo athlete is a participant.

### **2.2 Manipulation of sumo competition**

An intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sumo competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the sumo competition with a view to obtaining an undue Benefit for oneself or for others.

### **2.3 Corrupt conduct**

Providing, requesting, receiving, seeking, or accepting a Benefit related to the manipulation of IFS competition or any other form of corruption.

### **2.4 Inside information**

1. Using Inside Information for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of sumo completion of IFS competitions or any other corrupt purposes whether by the Participant or via another person, and/or entity.
2. Disclosing Inside Information to any person and/or entity, with or without Benefit, where the Participant knew or should have known that such disclosure might lead to the information being used for the purposes of Betting, Match- Fixing, any form of manipulation of competitions or any other corrupt purposes.
3. Giving and/or receiving a Benefit for the provision of Inside Information regardless of whether any Inside Information is actually provided.

### **2.5 Failure to report**

1. Failing to report to IFS, IFS Ethic Commission concerned or a relevant disclosure/reporting mechanism or authority, at the first available opportunity, full details of any approaches or invitations received by the Participant to engage in conduct or incidents that could amount to a violation of this Code.
2. Failing to report to IFS, IFS Ethic Commission concerned or a relevant disclosure/reporting mechanism or authority at the first available opportunity, full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to the attention of a Participant (or of which he ought to have been reasonable aware) including approaches or invitations that have been received by another Participant to engage in conduct that could amount to violation of this Code.

### **2.6 Failure to cooperate**

1. Failing to cooperate with any investigation carried out by IFS, IFS Ethic Commission in relation to a possible breach of this Code, including, without limitation, failing to provide accurately, completely and without undue delay any information and/or document and/or access or assistance requested by the competent of IFS, IFS Ethic Commission as part of such investigation.
2. Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the IFS, IFS Ethic Commission in relation to possible violation of this Code, including, without limitation, concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation.

### **2.7 Application of Articles 2.1 to 2.6**

1. For the determination of whether a violation has been committed, the following are not relevant:

- a. Whether or not the Participant is participating in the sumo Competition concerned;
  - b. Whether or not the outcome of the Sumo Competition on which the Bet was made or intended to be made;
  - c. Whether or not any Benefit or other consideration was actually given or received;
  - d. The nature or outcome of the Bet;
  - e. Whether or not the Participant's effort or performance in the Sumo Competition concerned were (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
  - f. Whether or not the result of the Sumo Competition concerned was ( or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
  - g. Whether or not the manipulation included a violation of a technical rule of the respective the IFS, IFS Code of Ethic;
  - h. Whether or not the competition was attended by the competent national or international representative of IFS, member federation.
2. Any form of aid, abetment or attempt by a Participant that could culminate in a violation of this Code shall be treated as if a violation had been committed, whether or not such an act in fact resulted in a violation and/or whether that violation was committed deliberately or negligently.

### **Article 3      Disciplinary Procedure**

The contents of this Article are minimum standards which must be respected by IFS and all its members, sumo community.

#### **3.1 Investigation**

1. The Participant who is alleged to have committed a violation of this Code must be informed of the alleged violations that have been committed, details of the alleged acts and/or omissions, and the range of possible sanctions.
2. Upon request by the competent IFS, IFS Ethic Commission, member federation, the concerned Participant must provide any information which IFS considers may be relevant to investigate the alleged violation, including records relating to alleged violation (such as betting account numbers and information, itemized telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices), and/or a statement setting out the relevant facts and circumstances around the alleged violation.

#### **3.2 Rights of the concerned person**

In all procedures linked to violations of the present Code, the following rights must be respected:

1. The right to be informed of the charges; and
2. The right to a fair, timely and impartial hearing either by appearing personally in front of the competent International Sumo Federation, member federation and/or submitting a defense in writing; and
3. The right to be accompanied and/or represented.

#### **3.3 Burden and Standard of proof**

IFS, member federation, sumo clubs shall have the burden of establishing that a violation has been committed. The standard of proof in all matters under this Code shall be the comfortable satisfaction, a standard that implies that on the preponderance of the evidence it is more likely than not that a breach of this Code has occurred.

#### **3.4 Confidentiality**

The principle of confidentiality must be strictly respected by IFS, member federation during all the procedure; information should only be exchanged with entities on a need to know basis. Confidentiality must also be strictly respected by any person concerned by the procedure until there is public disclosure of the case.

#### **3.5 Anonymity of the person making a report**

Anonymous reporting must be facilitated.

#### **3.6 Appeal**

1. IFS shall have an appropriate appeal framework within their organization or recourse to an

external arbitration mechanism (such as a court of arbitration).

2. The general procedure of the appeal framework shall include provisions such as, but not limited to, the time limit for filing an appeal and the notification procedure for the appeal.

#### **Article 4 Provisional Measures**

- 4.1 IFS, member federations, sumo club may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on the participant where is a particular risk to reputation of the sport, while ensuring respect for Articles 3.1 to 3.4 of this Code.
- 4.2 Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration in the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

#### **Article 5 Sanctions**

- 5.1 Where it is determined that a violation has been committed, the competent IFS, member federations, sumo club shall impose an appropriate sanction upon the Participant from the range of permissible sanctions, which may range from a minimum of a warning to a maximum of life ban.
- 5.2 When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, IFS shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.
- 5.3 Substantial assistance provided by a sumo Participant that results in the discovery or establishment of an offence by another Participant may reduce any sanction applied under this Code.

#### **Article 6 Mutual recognition**

- 6.1 Subject to the right of appeal, any decision in compliance with this Code by IFS must be recognized and respected by all national member federations and other Sumo Sporting Organizations.
- 6.2 All IFS members, sumo Sporting Organizations must recognize and respect the decisions(s) made by any other sporting body or court of competent jurisdiction which is not a Sport Organization as defined under this Code.

#### **Article 7 Implementation**

- 7.1 IFS is bound by the Rule 1.4 of the Olympic Charter agree to respect this Code.
- 7.2 IFS, National Member federations, Sumo Sports Organizations are responsible for the implementation of the present Code within their own jurisdiction, including educational measures.
- 7.3 Any amendment to this Code must be approved by the board of director of IFS following an appropriate consultation process and all national members will be informed.

#### **Supplementary Provisions**

These rules shall take effect as of 29 July 2016.

#### **Revised Supplementary Provisions July 29, 2016**

These rules shall take effect as of November 10, 2020