IFS Guidelines for the conduct of the Athletes’ Entourage

Approved by the IFS Board of Director Meeting on July 29, 2016

These regulations apply mutatis mutandis to private and professional entourages.

1. Definition

The Entourage comprises all the people associated with the sumo athletes, including, without limitation, managers, agents, coaches, physical trainers, medical staff, scientists, sumo organizations, sponsors, lawyers and any person promoting the sumo athletes’ sporting career, including family members.

2. General Principles


- The Entourage must, in accordance with such principles, always act in the best interests of the sumo athletes.

- Minors must be given special care and consideration.

- Members of the Entourage should be adequately qualified to work in their area of expertise, through licenses, certificates or diplomas, particularly when such are proposed by the IFS and any national sport organization.

3. Integrity
The Entourage shall act in good faith and demonstrate the highest level of integrity, in particular respecting the following principles;

- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Fight against any form of bribery and take resolute and appropriate action against any form of cheating or corruption in sport.
- Reject any form of doping; Comply with the IFS anti-doping code, WADA code and support its programs
- Refrain from any form of betting or promotion of betting activity on the athlete’s sport
- Refrain from any form of harassment
- Refrain from any abuse of a position of influence

4. Confidentiality

- The Entourage must respect confidentiality, including the content of their contract/relationship and personal information.
- The Entourage must protect any inside information, such as any non-public information obtained by the person by the virtue of his/her position within the athletes’ entourage, within framework of the regulations of the IFS.

5. Transparency

- The Entourage’s interactions within the relevant populations must be clearly defined, in a written contract where applicable. The IFS will provide standardized contract templates.
- The Entourage must be transparent about their personal and professional background with regards to matters which could affect the relationship, including, but not limited to doping, sexual misconduct or financial matters.
- The IFS has a responsibility to inform sumo athletes about their rights and obligations, including the legal means to resolve any disputes.

6. Responsibility / Accountability
• The Entourage must always act with due diligence and in the best interest of the sumo athlete; short-term interests should not take precedence over a successful and balanced athletic career and a long-term partnership.

• Contractual relationships with sumo athletes must be based on balanced conditions, including fair financial conditions and professional liability insurance.

• The Entourage must always respect the moral, physical and psychological integrity of the athlete.

• The Entourage must respect and promote the rules and regulations of the IFS, and encourage the sumo athlete to behave accordingly.

• The Entourage must keep the sumo athlete fully informed of all dealings and arrangements made on the athlete’s behalf.

• The Entourage must comply with best accounting practices and make available to the athlete full and accurate accounts and records and, where applicable, to the relevant authorities.

7. Sanction

Any breach of these Guidelines as well as any other relevant IFS’s regulations by a member of the Entourage shall be sanctioned. The IFS define the terms of the sanction and the disciplinary procedures.

8. Athlete’s Responsibility

The sumo athletes have a responsibility to act responsibly, choosing their Entourage members with care and with the exercise of due diligence and to use their best efforts to ensure that any contract is negotiated with fair conditions.