

## **British Water Ski & Wakeboard Code of Ethics & Behaviour**



The British Water Ski & Wakeboard (BWSW) Code of Ethics & Behaviour applies to all those involved in the sport of Water skiing at every level, including participants, Officials, Coaches, Instructors, Administrators, Club Officials, parents and spectators. All such individuals have a responsibility to act according to the highest standard of integrity, and to ensure that the reputation of Water skiing is beyond reproach.

Those involved in Water skiing must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person, participant and non-participant alike, treating everyone equally within the context of the sport. In particular, to be aware of the special needs of young people, their wellbeing, including difficulties or possible abuse experienced from within the sport or from other sources.

The sport has a duty to ensure that every child and young person involved in Water skiing is able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse.

The sport of Water skiing is committed to maintaining the highest possible standards of behaviour and conduct at all Water skiing training, competitions and events.

The sport of Water skiing is opposed to discrimination of any form and will promote measures to prevent discrimination, in whatever form, from which it is expressed.

All those involved in Water skiing must respect the rights and choices of all human beings, treating everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation.

Allegations of a safeguarding nature and concerns about poor practice relating to the breaking of this Code must follow the BWSW Reporting Procedures. All other allegations should be addressed by the internal rules of the affiliated Club concerned.

The following Codes of Conduct must be adhered to at all times so that Water skiing can be enjoyed by all.

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### INSTRUCTORS AND COACHES

This Code is a BWSW Coach Education Programme policy within which a licenced BWSW Coach must work. It should be used in conjunction with all other BWSW Coaching policies, procedures or recognised standards.

Through this Code, Coaches and Instructors who are licenced by BWSW accept their responsibility to sports performers and their parents and families, to coaching and to BWSW affiliated Clubs, employers and all other colleagues.

#### Humanity

The Instructor/Coach must respect the rights and choices of all human beings, treating everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation.

#### Relationships

The good BWSW Instructor/Coach is concerned with:

- The safety, wellbeing and protection of all individuals in their charge, ensuring that all training and competing demands are not detrimental to the social, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of the individual
- Encouraging independence through guiding participants to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance within training and competition
- Ensuring their behaviour is not misconstrued or open to allegations of favouritism, misconduct or impropriety, particularly where physical contact between instructor/coach and participant is necessary within coaching practice
- Ensuring participants and relevant people are aware of their qualifications and experience, respecting the rights of the performers to choose to consent or decline to participate within coaching or competing situations
- Refraining from public criticism of other instructors/coaches, or officials – the definition of public in this instance means criticism expressed before, during or after training or competition and in any branch of media, in a lecture or seminar

#### Integrity

The good BWSW Instructor/Coach:

- Abides by the rules of BWSW
- Follows fair play and ethical guidelines
- Ensures that all training is suitable and relevant dependant on the age, maturity, experience and ability of participant
- Promotes the prevention and education of the misuse of performance enhancing drugs and illegal substances
- Accurately present and evidence, upon request, details of their training qualifications and services
- Claim any affiliation, sponsorship or accreditation with any organisation should do so in a truthful and accurate manner
- Declare, to the appropriate body, any criminal convictions

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### Confidentiality

The Instructor/Coach and participant must reach an agreement about what is to be regarded as confidential information. Confidentiality does not preclude disclosure of information to persons who can be judged to have a right to know. For example:

- Evaluation for selection purposes
- Recommendations for employment
- In matters of discipline within the sport
- In matters of disciplinary action by a sports organisation against one of its members
- Legal and medical requirements
- Recommendations to parents/family where the health and safety of participants might be at risk
- In pursuit of action to protect children and young persons from abuse

### Personal Standards

BWSW Instructors/Coaches within the coaching/competing environment must not attempt to exert undue influences and pressures in order to obtain personal benefit and reward.

Instructors/Coaches must display high personal standards that project a favourable image of Water skiing including:

- Good personal appearance that projects an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency
- Instructors/Coaches should never smoke when in the coaching environment
- Instructors/Coaches should refrain from drinking alcohol whilst coaching and whilst they have a duty of care to young people

### Competence

All Instructors/Coaches must be appropriately qualified as per the requirements of the BWSW Coach Education Programme.

Instructors/Coaches should regularly seek ways of increasing their personal and professional development.

Instructors/Coaches must be receptive to employing systems of evaluation that include self-evaluation and also external evaluation in an effort to assess the effectiveness of their work.

Instructors/Coaches must be able to recognise and accept when to refer or recommend participants to other Coaches or structures. It is the Instructor's/Coach's responsibility as far as possible to:

- a) Verify the competence of the participant
- b) Verify the competence and integrity of any other persons or structure to which they refer the participant

### Safety

Within the limits of their control Instructors/Coaches have a responsibility to:

- Establish a safe working environment
- Ensure as far as possible the safety of the participants with whom they work

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- Protect children and young people from harm and abuse
- Fully prepare their participants for the activities and make them aware of their personal responsibility in terms of safety
- Ensure all activities undertaken are suitable for the experience and ability of the participants and in keeping with the approved practices as determined by BWSW Coach Education Programme
- Communicate and co-ordinate with registered medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their participants' medical and psychological problems

### **Complaints Procedures**

Any individual or organisation wishing to make a complaint against a BWSW Instructor/Coach within the context of this Code should follow the procedure below:

- Report the matter to the employer of the sports Coach and to the relevant

BWSW Committee responsible for that discipline.

N.B. (Employer in this instance refers to the organisation that commissioned the Instructor/Coach to do the coaching whether this engagement is paid or unpaid)

- Complaints that refer to the protection of children and young people should be dealt with in accordance with the procedures laid down in the BWSW Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

The BWSW Coach Education Programme's Code of Ethics and Conduct closely follows the model produced by sports coach UK.

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### PARTICIPANTS

- Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation
- Know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the sport
- Accept the decisions of the Officials without question or complaint (let your Team Captain or Coach ask the necessary questions) and avoid words or actions which may mislead an Official
- Respect the Officials at all times
- Exercise self-control at all times and do not use illegal or dangerous tactics
- Give maximum effort and strive for the best performance during a training session or competition
- Must have the correct licence from BWSW for the level of competition they are entering
- Learn to accept success and failure, victory and defeat with humility and dignity respectively and without excessive emotional displays
- Abide by the instructions of the Instructor/Coach and Club Officials provided they do not contradict the spirit of this Code
- Treat your team mates and competitors, Instructors/Coaches, Officials and Club Officials with respect and consideration at all times – treat them, as you yourself would like to be treated
- Do not attempt to improve individual performance by the use of banned substances or banned techniques
- Do not use foul, sexist or racist language at any time
- Be a good sport; applaud good performance, whether by your team or the competitor
- Remember that the aim of sport is to have fun, improve yours skills and feel good
- At the end of a competition thank your competitors and the Officials

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### **SPECTATORS**

- Remember the participants are taking part for their enjoyment not yours
- Be on your best behaviour. Do not use foul, sexist or racist language or harass participants
- Verbal abuse of participants, Officials and Instructors/Coaches is not acceptable in any shape or form
- Show respect for competitors and Officials, without them there would be no competitions
- Acknowledge good performance and fair play by competitors as well as your own participants
- Do not ridicule participants who make mistakes
- Do not overemphasise the importance of winning

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### PARENTS

- Teach your child to treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation
- Do not force an unwilling child to take part in Water skiing
- Encourage your child always to play by the rules and respect the Officials
- Young people are involved in sport for their enjoyment – not yours
- Never ridicule or shout at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition
- Teach your child that effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each competition is accepted without undue disappointment
- Support all efforts to remove verbal, physical and racist abuse from Water skiing
- Turn defeat into victory by helping young people towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship
- Remember young people learn best by example
- Do not question publicly the judgement of Officials and never their honesty
- Respect the decision of the Instructors/Coaches, they know the sport and the young person's ability and capability

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### OFFICIALS

- Must treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation
- Be consistent, objective, impartial and courteous when applying the rules of the sport
- BWSW does not advise Officials to travel alone with young people (under the age of 18) to competitions. We advise you generally always have another adult with you at all times
- Compliment all competitors on good performance when the opportunity arises
- Use common sense to ensure the spirit of the sport is not lost
- Show patience and understanding towards participants who may be learning the sport
- Must be in possession of and follow scrupulously and conscientiously all rules and regulations published by International Water Ski Federation (IWSF)/Europe Africa and Middle East (EAME)/BWSW
- Make every effort to prepare fully for a competition, both physically and mentally
- Do not be afraid to make decisions. An Official should be firm and fair at all times and must resist any possible influence from protests on the part of participants, team officials or spectators
- Show respect towards participants and Team Officials
- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Decline to be appointed to a competition if not completely mentally and physically fit (because of illness, injury, or for family or other reasons)
- Inform the person or body directly responsible if unable to officiate for any reason
- Refrain from requesting hospitality of any kind, or accept any hospitality offered and considered to be excessive, this could be misconstrued as a form of bribe
- Always have regard to the best interests of the sport, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the competition or any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the competition
- Do not tolerate foul, sexist or racist language from participants and/or Officials
- Must comply with the decisions of the Chief Judge and/or Jury taken within their authority
- In reports Officials should set out the true facts and not attempt to justify any decisions
- An Official should refrain from publicly expressing any criticism of fellow Officials
- An Official should assist with the development of less experienced Officials
- An Official must uphold the authority and dignity of International Water Ski Federation (IWSF)/Europe Africa and Middle East (EAME)/BWSW

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### CLUB OFFICIALS

- Must treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation
- Accept the special role that you have to play in the establishment of standards by setting a good example of behaviour and conduct at all times
- Do not manipulate the rules in order to benefit yourself personally or your Club
- Encourage participants and Instructors/Coaches to abide by the rules and spirit of the sport
- Do not use foul, sexist or racist language
- Use your official position to take action against spectators who harass, abuse or use foul, sexist or racist language towards participants, Officials or Instructors/Coaches
- Ensure that proper supervision is provided with suitably qualified Instructors/Coaches and Officials who are capable of promoting good sporting behaviour and good technical skills
- Ensure all equipment and facilities meet safety standards
- Respect the rights of other Clubs
- Show respect to Officials, Instructors/Coaches, participants and others involved in the sport
- Do not endeavour to influence the result of a competition by any actions that are not strictly within the rules of the sport
- Remember sport is enjoyed for its own sake – play down the importance of winning
- Always have regard to the best interests of the sport, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the competition or any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the competition
- Resist illegal or unsporting influences, including banned substances and techniques
- Promote ethical principles
- Accept the decisions of the Officials without protest
- Avoid words or actions, which may mislead an Official

### Document History

Created	2006	Integrated into BWS Child Protection Policy
Updated	June 2015	Separated from BWSW Safeguarding Policy & small amendments made
Review	May 2017	Review and minor amendments