

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TUG OF WAR IRELAND MEMBERS & OFFICIALS

We are all involved in Tug of War to have fun and enjoy the sport, while respecting each other.

This Code of Conduct sets out expected standards of behaviour for (i) Members/Competitors, (ii) Officials and (iii) Clubs, so that each person can enjoy our sport. It should be read in conjunction with the Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and any other Rules of TOWI.

MEMBERS / COMPETITORS

- To treat everyone involved in Tug of War with dignity and respect regardless of their background or sporting ability.
- Listen to your co-members and competitors;
- Ensure that the welfare, health and safety of all is the primary consideration in all you do.
- Develop appropriate relationships with all participants based on mutual trust and respect.
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language. Do not exert undue influence in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Avoid critical language or actions that undermine the self-esteem of others. Give feedback only in a constructive way, only at the appropriate time and directly to the person concerned.
- Respect the dignity of everybody.
- Verbal or physical behaviour that constitutes harassment or abuse is unacceptable.
- Show integrity and professionalism in your dealings with others.
- Co-operate fully with other Colleagues (e.g. Coaches, Officials, and Team Members).
- Encourage and guide Pullers to accept and take responsibility for their own behaviour and performance and give them as much autonomy as possible.
- Arrive in good time if involved on the day of a competition.
- Never condone violations of the rules for competition.
- Act in a manner that will bring credit to Irish Tug of War and yourself both within and outside the competition area.

OFFICIALS

- Co-operate with other Officials in the provision of fair and equitable conditions for the conduct of Tug of War events under the relevant rules of competition, thereby offering all participants every opportunity to achieve their own personal goals and aspirations.
- Act in an impartial, decisive but friendly manner in your interactions with other Officials, Competitors, Coaches and Spectators, respecting the right of others.
- Keep fully up to date with any changes in the relevant competition rules, and attend any officiating trainings where appropriate.
- Never smoke or drink alcoholic beverages whilst officiating, nor consume alcoholic beverage so soon before the competition that it affects your competence.
- Dress appropriately, to the standard and nature of competition.
- Be fully prepared for any officiating task that is assigned to you.
- Arrive in good time for the competition and report immediately to the Official in charge.
- Conduct the event according to the rules with the welfare of the Teams in mind and carry out your assignments in an efficient, impartial and constructive manner.
- Work in a spirit of co-operation with other officials and do not interfere in any way with their responsibilities.
- Extend the benefit of your experience to the less experienced Officials whenever possible
- Give evaluations, when requested in an objective and impartial manner.
- Act in a manner that will bring credit to Irish Tug of War and yourself, both in and out of competition
- Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of the tasks assigned to you.
- Never condone or engage in violations of the rules of competition

CLUB COMMITTEES / LEADERS AND COACHES/TEACHERS

You must follow the points stated in the code of conduct and be familiar with and follow the required all rules and procedures of TOWI, in particular in the Code of Ethics and Child Welfare. Where relevant, you should go to trainings to get up-to-date knowledge and skills as required by TOWI from time to time.

Standards for all members, including children should include:

- Never using physical punishment or force
- Not using verbal or physical punishments or exclusion for mistake
- Making sure all levels of participation should be enjoyable and fun,
- Prioritising skill development and personal satisfaction over highly structured competition.
- Setting age appropriate and realistic goals
- Praising and encouraging effort as well as results
- Showing respect for all involved
- Do not allow or engage in bullying behaviour, rough physical games,
- Co-operate with the recommendations from medical and ancillary practitioners in the any persons problems.
- Keep any sensitive information, confidential.
- Ensure effective communications with members through recognised means e.g. e-mail, web posting, use of noticeboards, etc.

In addition to the above, when coaching / teaching children the following standards should be focussed on to create a safe and enjoyable environment for children:

- Planning and preparing appropriately and be positive during sessions
- Ensuring there is adequate supervision, where needed
- Keeping attendance records
- Involving and updating parents, especially if a problem has arisen
- Respecting a child's sensitivity to their height and weight
- Inform parents/guardians in advance and obtain consent for children to be involved in events outside the normal activities within the aquatic disciplines e.g. fun day out, fundraising
- Monitor with the Children's Officer any changes in membership and any unusual dropout, absenteeism or Club