

Technical Officials Code of Ethics and Conduct

What is a Code of Ethics and Conduct?

A code defines what is considered good and correct behaviour of all Technical and Motorcycle Officials (hereby described under the umbrella term ‘Technical Officials’) by British Triathlon. It reflects the desired values and outlines the expected conduct of Technical Officials while they perform their duties. It can also be used as a benchmark to assess whether certain behaviours are acceptable or not acceptable.

By volunteering as a Technical Official, you are expected to adhere to this code of ethics and conduct at all times. Trainee and qualified Technical Officials should only officiate at events that have received a Home Nation Association Event Permit; the public liability insurance you are provided with does not cover unpermitted events.

The code relates to officiating fairly, ensuring all participants are able to compete safely and encouraging them to focus on their performance as opposed to results. Further, the code requires you to recognise the need to present yourself and the sport in a positive manner at all times. The essence of good ethical conduct and practice is summarised below and divided into five key areas:

Officiating Responsibilities

- Follow all guidelines set by British Triathlon.
- Only officiate at events that have received a Home Nation Association Event Permit.
- Have knowledge and understanding of the rules of the sport and ensure you are able to uphold them.
- Always proactively educate and interact with competitors to prevent penalties being issued, though recognise when it may be appropriate to issue a penalty.
- Ensure the event is safe for competitors to take part in, raising any concerns with the Event Organiser but not making event operational changes yourself unless competitor safety is in immediate danger. Do not amend any Competition Rules without prior approval from British Triathlon, unless within the scope of rule 1.6.a.
- Make sure events you are involved with are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Complete and submit accurate and concise reports from every event at which you officiate.

Integrity in Relationships

- Develop appropriate working relationships with the Event Organiser, event staff and volunteers, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Be free to discuss the officiating decisions to be made, and respect the final decision made by the Chief Technical Official.
- Acknowledge and adhere to the relevant Home Nation Safeguarding and Protecting Children policy.
- Not engage in behaviour that constitutes any form of abuse.

Fair Play Principles

- Be fair, honest and considerate to competitors and others in the sport.
- Apply the Competition Rules with impartiality at all times whilst recognising the range of experience of competitors.
- Stand by the decisions that you make, but demonstrate humility if incorrect and the decision needs to be changed at a later date.

Respect for Participants

- Always adopt an open, friendly and respectful tone when communicating with competitors, through both verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all competitors at all times, treating everyone equally.
- Respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate in triathlon.
- Never use offensive, insulting, abusive or threatening language or behaviour towards competitors or other volunteers; this includes raising your voice or shouting unless for safety reasons to prevent an incident.

Personal Standards

- Take pride in the role and display consistently high standards of behaviour.
- Never take any action or use language which could bring the sport into disrepute or is contrary to this code of ethics and conduct.
- Refrain from making negative comments about any event, or anything associated with it (whether you are directly or indirectly involved) on any form of social media before, during or after the event without first getting agreement from the Event Organiser.
- Not attend any event whilst under the influence of alcohol, drugs or prohibited substances.
- Only the current provided uniform is worn when officiating, and that it is clean and smart.
- Attain a high level of competence through qualifications and a commitment to ongoing training that ensures safe and correct practice.
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting, abusive or threatening language or behaviour from competitors or other volunteers.
- Be responsible and accept responsibility for your actions.

Breaches of the Code of Ethics and Conduct

Technical Officials will at all times represent their role in a way which reflects positively on British Triathlon. All complaints will be dealt with according to the relevant Home Nation Association Complaints Procedure.

[Triathlon England](#)

[Triathlon Scotland](#)

[Welsh Triathlon](#)

Declaration

I hereby declare to abide by and uphold the standards of ethics and conduct whilst representing British Triathlon as a Technical Official.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Reviewed and updated December 2018