



Code of Conduct

World English-Language Scrabble Players Association

1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behavior expected from all members, players, officials, volunteers, and stakeholders of WESPA (“the Association”). Its purpose is to uphold integrity, fairness, respect, and inclusivity in Scrabble worldwide.

2. Scope

This Code applies to:

- a) Participants in Association-sanctioned events and tournaments including players, officials, organizers, referees, staff, and volunteers.
- b) Member federations, associations, and clubs.
- c) Individuals representing the Association in an official capacity including committee members.

This Code governs Association events and tournaments before, during and after play, and in related venues to the event such as hotels and restaurants.

3. Applicability to Member Associations of WESPA

The principles of this Code apply to all member federations, associations and clubs of WESPA, and we urge member associations to affirmatively adopt this Code of Conduct if they do not have an existing Code of Conduct that is equivalent in purpose and effect.

4. Core Principles

4.1 Integrity and Fair Play

- a) Compete honestly and fairly, without cheating, collusion, or manipulation of results. Play to the best of your ability.
- b) Respect the rules of the game and abide by tournament regulations.
- c) Avoid conduct that undermines the credibility and reputation of the Association.

4.2 Be Respectful and a Good Sport

- a) Show respect to participants and spectators at all times.
- b) Refrain from abusive, offensive, or discriminatory language or behavior.
- c) Accept decisions of tournament officials gracefully, with the right to appeal through proper channels.



4.3 Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination

- a) Treat all individuals with dignity and fairness and do not discriminate in language or behaviour on the basis of race, colour, creed or religion, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or citizenship, age, marital status, or disability.
- b) Promote a safe and welcoming environment for all participants.
- c) WESPA affirms that competitions specifically for groups facing barriers, for example tournaments for youth, seniors or women, or specific prizes for members of those groups at a tournament, are not considered improperly discriminatory. National and similar competitions are also approved. Other discrimination in entry to tournaments or in prizes is not permitted.
- d) WESPA recognizes the right of independent directors to restrict entry for non-discriminatory reasons in the best interests of their events. Players denied entry will have the right of appeal to WESPA to ensure such restriction is not a violation of 4.3 (a).

4.4 Responsibility and Accountability

Individuals acting on behalf of WESPA should:

- a) Represent the Association with professionalism and integrity.
- b) Protect the reputation and interests of the Association.
- c) Use Association resources responsibly and for their intended purposes.

4.5 Compliance with Constitution, Rules and Regulations

- a) Abide by the Constitution, rules, Code of Conduct, and policies of the Association.
- b) Respect intellectual property rights, including those of Scrabble and associated brands.

5. Anti-Cheating and Fair Competition

- a) The use of prohibited aids, unauthorized software, or external assistance is strictly forbidden.
- b) Players must not engage in collusion or result manipulation.
- c) Allegations of cheating must be reported promptly and will be investigated in line with disciplinary procedures.

6. Safeguarding and Welfare

- a) Maintain an environment free from harassment, bullying, or exploitation.
- b) Report any misconduct or safeguarding concerns to the appropriate authority within the Association, and to outside legal authorities where warranted.
- c) Respect the well-being of minors and vulnerable individuals participating in Scrabble activities.

7. Conflict of Interest

- a) Disclose any personal or professional conflicts that may influence decision-making.
- b) Avoid situations that could create the appearance of bias or favoritism.



8. Social Media and Public Conduct

- a) Use social media responsibly when discussing Scrabble or the Association.
- b) Distinguish personal opinions from official Association positions when communicating publicly.
- c) Defamatory social media posts directed against participants in Association events or activities, or against the Association or its officials may be considered violations of this Code of Conduct.

9. Breaches and Sanctions

- a) Any violation of this Code may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, expulsion, or ineligibility from Association activities.
- b) Sanctions will be applied fairly and consistently, with the right to appeal.

10. Reporting Misconduct

- a) Reports of misconduct at a tournament should be made as soon as possible to the Tournament Director (TD). Misconduct that is within the authority of a member association of WESPA should be reported to the responsible person or body of the member association, and if not resolved satisfactorily, any appeal process provided by the member association should be followed. If it is not possible to report a complaint of misconduct to a TD or a member association, a complaint can be made in writing to the WESPA Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (ethics@wespa.org).
- b) Complaints of a violation of 4.3 (d) or 8 (c) can be made in writing to the WESPA Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (ethics@wespa.org).
- c) The WESPA Ethics and Disciplinary Committee will also review appeals from a final decision of a member association where there is a claim of procedural unfairness. Such a review will not be considered a retrial of the facts, and the authority of WESPA will be limited to providing recommendations.
- d) The Association will ensure confidentiality, fairness, and protection against retaliation for good-faith reports. People participating in Association investigations or review of complaints will also respect confidentiality.

11. Commitment

By joining or participating in activities of the WESPA, every member, player, volunteer, and official agrees to uphold this Code of Conduct and contribute to a culture of fairness, respect, and excellence in Scrabble worldwide. Member associations will communicate this Code of Conduct to their members.