



GUIDELINES & VALUES OF SPORTSMANSHIP

IN ABU DHABI

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INTRODUCTION



1.1 Definitions

“UAE.”: United Arab Emirates.

“Emirate”: The Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

“Department”: Department of Community Development.

“Council”: Abu Dhabi Sport Council.

“GAS”: The General Authority of Sports.

“Competent Entities”: Any local entities concerned with licensing, regulating, supervising, and controlling Sports Entities and activities.

“Physical Activity”: means any physical movement emanating from the muscles that moves the entire human body therefore consuming energy, including but not limited to any physical exercises that can be performed at any level of skill and for the purpose of personal benefit or athletic competition.

“Sport”: all forms of physical or mental activity, which are practiced by members of the community or through Sports Entities, whether professionally or as a hobby; with the aim of raising levels of physical fitness and general health, or with the aim of participating in friendly or official tournaments and competitions, or for the purpose of entertainment.

“Sports Entities”: any non-governmental sports entity registered by the GAS or licensed by the competent authorities; working in the field of sports, such as federations, associations, clubs, companies, and sports institutions.

“Sports Sector”: Integrated system of sports work aimed at raising levels of physical fitness and public health and developing participation in international, local, or other sports tournaments and competitions, including the public and private entities, whether profitable and non-profitable, which provide services to the Sports Sectors and concerned by sportsmen and champions affairs from segments of the community and Sports Entities. It is also concerned with

international and local sports championships and any other championships.

“Sportsmanship”: is, at its core, practicing sports according to the rules governing each game, demonstrating self-control, courage, respect for competitors and the audience, accepting the outcome gracefully, and behaving positively under any circumstances.

“Sports Event”: any activity, competition or sports training in which amateurs or professionals participate, and which takes place in locations designated for sports activities, such as sports complexes, sports centers or other locations that can be used for the same purpose such as beaches, desert, and mountainous areas, provided that the public is allowed to attend the event. or watch them.

“Sports Professionals”: All workers in the Sports Sector who possess technical skills and who must obtain a license from the GAS before practicing any sporting activity in the Emirate, including coaches, physical education teachers, swimming rescue officials, and any other category of workers in the Sports Sector, they are determined by the Department.



2. General Brief

The values of Sportsmanship guide the behaviors of participants to enrich the Sports experience, enhance positive behaviors in the community, and contribute to the personal growth of athletes. Therefore, the Emirate strives to build a vibrant and inclusive sports culture supported by values of respect, safety, fairness, dignity, solidarity, and excellence by focusing on the values of Sportsmanship. These values also reinforce a supportive environment and unity between sports teams and the broader community within the Emirate. Furthermore, they enhance the Emirate's global reputation and demonstrate its commitment to upholding the highest values in the Sports Sector, highlighting its status as a global hub for Sports.

3. Objectives

1. Foster a culture of respect for rules, officials, opponents, community, and the Sportsmanship.
2. Promote positive sporting behaviour and ethical conduct at all competitive and recreational Sport levels and disciplines.
3. Create an inclusive sporting environment that embraces diversity and inclusion and encourages fair play.
4. Capitalise on the power of Sport to build community cohesion and create sustainable pathways that promote individual and collective excellence on and off the pitches.
5. Strengthen Emirate's reputation as a leading sports hub committed to upholding the highest values of Sportsmanship.
6. Clarify roles and responsibilities across the Emirates Sports structure and levels on the promotion, incentivisation and regulation of the Sportsmanship in alignment with the existing policies, procedures, and practices at all levels.

4. Scope of the Guidelines

This Guidelines applies in the Emirate to:

1. Sports Entities except for associations and federations
2. Administrators and professionals working in the Sports Sector.
3. Athletes and participants playing Sports.
4. Spectators at Sports Events in the Emirate, including parents and guardians.
5. Sports officials and volunteers working in the Sports Sector.
6. School and university Sports, including participating students, teachers and administrators.

5. The Emirate Sportsmanship Model

These Guidelines are considered an awareness tool that aligns with the ethical principles and prevailing community values in the Emirate, built upon six core values that define the behaviour expected from all participants and the institutions, facilities, competitions and programmes that comprise the Emirate Sports ecosystem.

6. Alignment and Complementary to Existing Systems

The values are aligned and complementary to federal laws and Emirate's policies, including:

1. Federal Law No. 4 of 2008 regarding The Sports.
2. Federal Law No. 8 of 2014 and Cabinet Resolution No. (31) of 2015 regarding the Security of Sports Facilities and Events.
3. Federal Law No. 5 of 2023 regarding the General Sports Authority regulation.
4. Sport For All Policy.
5. Abu Dhabi Child Protection Policy (Daman Al-Aman 2024).

SPORTSMANSHIP TERMINOLOGY



7. Sportsmanship Terminology

The term “Sportsmanship” is typically associated with acts of respect and appreciations of the competitor when practicing Sport, it’s beyond the usual behaviours not only during Sports activities but also in the individual’s and community’s life in general.

The term Sportsmanship is used to summarize the individual and collective responsibility of all entities involved in the Sports Sector in the Emirate, guiding them to adopt, protect, promote, and acknowledge the wide range of values represented by this concept. The hierarchy presented in the model below illustrates the values and behaviors that should be followed both on off the pitches:



Spots Values:





7.1 Respect

Demonstrating the value of respect, as it pertains to Sportsmanship, encompasses a range of behavioural expectations:

- Adhere and Acknowledge:** Understand and adhere to the established rules and regulations of the sport, appreciate the roles of all participants, from officials to administrators, and respect their decisions and contributions. This also includes acknowledging opponents' skills, efforts and rights, and being considerate to spectators.
- Act Responsibly and Sensitive:** Recognise that participation in sport extends beyond oneself to the team, the sport, and the broader community, thereby conducting oneself in a manner that respects and upholds their reputation. This entails a heightened level of cultural sensitivity and consideration for the shared enjoyment of the sport.
- Preserve and Appreciate:** Honour the intrinsic values of the sport and strive to maintain its spirit beyond the rules. Show care for the sporting environment, ensuring it is left in the same or better condition after use, and appreciate the diverse cultural backgrounds of all individuals involved in the sport, along with the contributions of volunteers and support staff.





7.2 Safety

Promoting the value of Safety involves upholding the following behavioural:

- Act Safely and Accountably:** Prioritise safety and well-being by responsible equipment use, avoiding physical violence, respecting physical boundaries, and refraining from substance abuse. This also includes supporting the well-being of injured athletes and ensuring they receive appropriate care while complying with safety guidelines and rules of the sport and its environment.
- Promote Holistic Well-being:** Recognise holistic safety for physical and mental health. Avoid actions that could harm others physically or psychologically, promote a supportive, positive, and respectful atmosphere free from bullying and/or harassment, and place the safety and well-being of oneself and others above the desire to win or achieve personal bests.
- Be Involved in Safe Practices:** Contribute to maintaining a safe environment by reporting hazards and unsafe conditions, and adhering to safety guidelines, Advocate for safety measures, improvements and provision of protective gear, safe facilities, and relevant participant training.





7.3 Fairness

The following behavioural expectations underpin the value of Fairness:

- **Act with Integrity and Honesty:** Compete honestly, making decisions with integrity and impartiality, admitting errors willingly, and rejecting doping. Athletes, coaches, officials, or administrators should not attempt to gain unfair advantages through cheating, deception, or other dishonest means. They should respect the principle of fair play and the health of all competitors.
- **Honour and Value the Opportunity:** Honour the rules of the game, accept and respect the judgement of officials, advocate for equal opportunities for all participants, and display humility in victory and graciousness in defeat. Value the competition process over winning and understand that fair and honest competition is more important than the outcome.
- **Promote Fair Play:** Encourage fair competition, act as a role model for fair play, and support efforts to eliminate unfair practices from sports. Promote equal opportunity and respect the official's judgement.





7.4 Dignity

Fostering the value of Dignity involves following these behavioural expectations:

- **Promote Equality:** Treat everyone as equals with courtesy, recognise and uphold the rights and freedoms of all individuals, stand against all forms of harassment and bullying, show mutual respect during interactions, and foster positive and respectful relationships between all participants.
- **Nurture Inclusion and Diversity:** Embrace and respect the diversity of participants, refrain from discriminatory behaviour or language, and foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and able to participate fully.
- **Uphold Privacy and Positive Relationships:** Respect the privacy of others following the UAE's Personal Data Protection Law, avoid intrusive or inappropriate actions and misuse of personal information, and actively work to foster positive and respectful relationships between all individuals involved in sport.





7.5 Solidarity

The following behavioural expectations define the value of Solidarity:

- Foster Unity and Togetherness:** Promote team spirit, offering support to fellow athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators, fostering cooperation, and embracing inclusivity. Recognise and appreciate each individual's role within a team or sporting organisation as essential for collective success. Everyone should feel part of the team and contribute to collective goals regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.
- Promote Shared Learning and Collective Success:** Share knowledge, skills, and experiences to help others grow. Celebrate successes as shared accomplishments, and recognise the efforts of others, not just their achievements or performance. Foster an environment where success is celebrated as a collective achievement, acknowledging everyone's contributions.
- Cultivate Empathy and Communal Responsibility:** Assist others when they need help, showing empathy and understanding and fostering a sense of communal responsibility for the success and reputation of the team, the club, the school, the sport, and/or the sporting community. Underscore the significance of mutual aid, understanding, and collective responsibility in maintaining a supportive sporting environment.





7.6 Excellence

Pursuing Excellence as a value goes beyond performance and encompasses these behavioural expectations:

- Commit to Growth and Improvement:** Strive for personal improvement, demonstrate unwavering dedication to training and development, set challenging yet achievable goals, and adopt a healthy lifestyle that supports optimal performance. Demonstrate resilience and mental toughness in the face of adversity, using setbacks as opportunities for learning and growth.
- Maintain a Positive and Respectful Attitude:** Maintain a positive and respectful attitude towards all individuals involved in the sport, regardless of the situation or outcome. Act as a role model for others, display exemplary behaviour on and off the field-of-play, and exhibit leadership qualities that foster a positive, supportive, and motivational environment.
- Uphold Ethical Standards:** Adhere to the highest standards of ethics, demonstrate the Spirit of Sport values in oneself through decisions and actions and inspire others to do the same through role modelling and leadership.



**CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE
WITH GUIDELINES & FAILURE TO UPHOLD
THE VALUES OF SPORTSMANSHIP**



8.1 Effects on Athletes' Reputation

Non-compliance with Guidelines and the values of Sportsmanship can significantly tarnish athletes' reputation and their professional future, including:

- 1. Public Perception:** Athletes who frequently violate the Sportsmanship values may be viewed negatively by the public. Their reputation for poor sportsmanship can overshadow their athletic accomplishments, affecting how fans, peers, and the media perceive them.
- 2. Sponsorships and Endorsements:** Brands and sponsors are often wary of associating with athletes with a reputation for poor Sportsmanship, which could harm their image. An athlete with a history of disciplinary actions might find it challenging to secure lucrative sponsorship deals or endorsements.
- 3. Career Opportunities:** Teams, clubs, and Sports Entities typically prefer athletes with good Sportsmanship. Penalties and disciplinary actions can impact an athlete's chances of being signed to a team, selected for prestigious events, or progressing in their career.
- 4. Future in Coaching or Management:** Athletes often transition to coaching or administrative roles after their competitive careers. Therefore, an athlete's reputation, if they do not adhere to the values of Sportsmanship, could limit their opportunities for employment after their Sports career. Sports Entities may have doubts about their ability to promote positive values within the Entity or community.
- 5. Legacy:** An athlete's legacy is not just about their performance but also their character. Athletes known for poor Sportsmanship may be remembered more for their violations than their achievements, affecting how future generations perceive them.
- 6. Legal Consequences:** Severe violations of sports integrity and ethics outside the scope of the Sports Integrity and Ethics Policy may be referred to the competent authorities for further legal action.
- 7. Loss of Role Model Status:** Many athletes are seen as role models, particularly by young fans. A record of poor Sportsmanship can impact this status, losing respect and admiration from fans and aspiring athletes.

8.2 Effects on Team Dynamics and Performance

Violating the values of Sportsmanship can negatively impact team morale and performance, including:

1. **Decreased Morale:** Penalties against an individual can affect the overall team morale, leading to decreased motivation and team spirit to win.
2. **Competitions Team Cohesion:** Actions that violate the Sportsmanship values can cause discord within the team, affecting the trust and unity between team members. This could hinder teamwork and collaborative performance.
3. **Absence of Key Athletes:** If a key player is suspended or expelled due to a violation, the team can suffer in performance and strategy, especially if a suitable replacement is not readily available.
4. **Reputational Damage:** The reputation of the entire team can be tarnished by the actions of one individual, leading to negative public perception and potential loss of fan support.
5. **Strained Coach-Athlete Relationship:** Violations can lead to strained relationships between the athlete and the coach, impacting the team's communication, strategy execution, and overall harmony.
6. **Distractions:** The controversy surrounding penalties can distract the team from focusing on training and performance, affecting their preparations and outcomes in competitions.
7. **Increased Pressure:** The rest of the team may feel increased pressure to perform when one of their members is penalised. This could lead to stress, anxiety, and burnout, affecting overall performance.
8. **Role Model Impact:** Younger or less experienced athletes in the team might be influenced negatively by a teammate's poor Sportsmanship, potentially leading to similar behaviour in them.
9. **Sponsorship and Funding:** Brands and sponsors may be wary of associating with teams with a reputation for poor Sportsmanship.
10. **Loss of Support:** Continuous disciplinary actions against one or multiple team members can lead to a drop in spectatorship or support for the team as a whole.

The behaviour and actions of individuals in a Sport environment can significantly impact the overall dynamics and performance of the team and community. Upholding the Sportsmanship values is not just an individual responsibility but a collective one.

CELEBRATING GOOD SPIRITS



9. Celebrating Good Spirits

The Department encourages relevant entities to implement awards and recognition program aimed at honouring individuals and entities that adhere to and promote Sportsmanship values, and to disseminate these experiences throughout the year.

United Arab Emirates - Emirate of Abu Dhabi
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