



British Sumo: Code of Conduct

Introduction

British Sumo is committed to promoting the principles of respect, fairness, and integrity within the sport of sumo wrestling. This Code of Conduct outlines the responsibilities and expectations of all members, including athletes, coaches, referees, officials, and volunteers. By adhering to this Code, we ensure that sumo remains a sport that fosters mutual respect, personal development, and the spirit of healthy competition.

General Conduct

Respect for Others

All members are expected to treat others with dignity and respect, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, ability, or sexual orientation. Discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Integrity and Honesty

Members must act with integrity, be honest in all interactions, and refrain from dishonest or unethical behaviour. This includes abiding by the rules of the sport, not engaging in any form of cheating, and respecting the authority of officials.

Safety and Well-being

The safety and well-being of all participants is paramount. Members must ensure they are physically and mentally prepared for competition, training, and officiating. Adequate safety equipment must be used where required at all times, and any injuries must be reported immediately.

Sportsmanship and Fair Play

Members are expected to display good sportsmanship at all times, whether they are winning or losing. They should support their fellow competitors and be gracious in victory and defeat.

Specific Responsibilities for Athletes

Adherence to Rules

Athletes must adhere to the official rules of sumo wrestling as set by British Sumo and international governing bodies. They are expected to respect referees' decisions and act in accordance with the spirit of the sport.

Fitness and Preparation

Athletes should maintain appropriate fitness levels and train regularly to improve their skills. They should consult with coaches or medical professionals before engaging in strenuous activities to prevent injury.

Substance Use

The use of illegal substances or performance-enhancing drugs is strictly prohibited. Athletes must comply with anti-doping regulations set forth by British Sumo and other relevant bodies.

Conduct During Competitions

Athletes should behave professionally during competitions, both inside and outside the arena. Unruly behaviour, such as engaging in verbal or physical altercations, will not be tolerated.

Specific Responsibilities for Coaches

Coaching and Leadership

Coaches are expected to provide guidance that encourages the personal and athletic development of their athletes. This includes developing training programmes that are age and ability-appropriate, fostering a positive learning environment, and motivating athletes to perform at their best.

Respect for Athletes

Coaches must treat their athletes with respect and provide them with constructive feedback. They should promote positive values such as discipline, effort, and teamwork.

Ethical Conduct

Coaches should refrain from any actions that could exploit or manipulate their athletes. This includes maintaining appropriate boundaries, respecting personal privacy, and not pressuring athletes to overtrain or compete when unfit.

Specific Responsibilities for Referees and Officials

Fair and Impartial Judging

Referees and officials must conduct their duties impartially, applying the rules of sumo equally to all participants. They should act without bias and be consistent in their decisions.

Respect for Athletes and Coaches

Officials must treat athletes, coaches, and other officials with professionalism and respect. They should communicate clearly and constructively when making decisions or giving feedback.

Ongoing Education

Referees and officials are encouraged to continuously update their knowledge of sumo rules and officiating techniques to ensure fair and accurate judgement during events.

Specific Responsibilities for All Members (Including Volunteers)

Professionalism

All members, including volunteers, should conduct themselves in a professional manner, both at events and in their interactions with others. They should act as role models for younger or newer participants in the sport.

Responsibility for the Community

All members are expected to contribute to the growth of sumo wrestling in the UK and the development of its athletes. This can include promoting the sport, encouraging new participants, and supporting local clubs or events.

Confidentiality and Privacy

All personal information shared by members, including medical or financial information, should be kept confidential. Members must respect the privacy of others and not disclose any personal information without proper consent.

Disciplinary Action

Failure to adhere to British Sumo's Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary actions, including warnings, suspension, or expulsion from the organisation. Such actions will be taken following a review process that ensures fairness and transparency.

Review of Code of Conduct

British Sumo's Code of Conduct will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains up to date with the latest best practices, legal requirements, and developments within the sport. This review process will involve consultation with relevant stakeholders, including athletes, coaches, officials, and safeguarding experts, to ensure that the code reflects the evolving needs of the sumo community. Any necessary revisions or updates will be made promptly, and all members will be informed of any changes. British Sumo is committed to maintaining a Code of Conduct that continues to promote respect, fairness, and integrity, and that ensures a safe and positive environment for all participants.

Conclusion

British Sumo is dedicated to fostering a positive and inclusive environment for all participants. By adhering to this Code of Conduct, we ensure that sumo wrestling continues to be a safe, respectful, and enjoyable sport for everyone involved.