

SFFNZ Code of Conduct - Revised Edition - 2025

Introduction

The reputation of Sports Fly Fishing New Zealand (SFFNZ) is vital to enable our sport to attract a wide range of people who compete in competitive fly fishing within New Zealand and at Championships on the World stage.

While I recognise that no Code can detail every behavior expected of us, it is intended to be a guiding document to set common standards of behavior. Our Code asks us to consciously exhibit behavior which is aligned to Our Values.

- Fairness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability

We are all leaders of ourselves and ultimately our collective behaviors reflect on the culture among our competitors, and the reputation that our sport has within the wider community.

I urge everyone who is involved with SFFNZ to be familiar with the contents of this Code.

Damon Taylor
President, SFFNZ
20 October 2025

Who does it apply to and when?

This Code applies to everyone who is a SFFNZ competitive angler, controllers, and officials (e.g. Committee members and Patron) who conduct business on behalf of Sports Fly-Fishing New Zealand.

This Code applies to everyone outlined above when they are competing in competitions or conducting themselves outside of competitions where their actions may bring SFFNZ into disrepute and damage any trust and confidence the public have on SFFNZ.

Fair play

All anglers agree to conduct themselves in a respectful sporting manner and are responsible for their actions while participating. Respectful sporting conduct includes respect for competition officials, fellow competitors, facilities, the use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly, and refraining from the use of abusive language. Bullying, harassment, pressure, or abuse of officials or controllers is considered unrespectful sporting conduct and will be treated as such.

Rule Compliance

SFFNZ competitors shall be subject to SFFNZ rules, policies, and this Code of Conduct. They are responsible for knowledge of the competition rules in effect (SFFNZ and FIPS Mouche rules) and with ensuring they are complied with.

Digital and Social Media Conduct

Participants must behave responsibly on digital platforms. Defamatory, discriminatory, or inflammatory content related to SFFNZ, its members, or events is prohibited. Members are encouraged to promote the sport positively online.

Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion

SFFNZ is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Discrimination based on race, gender, age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation will not be tolerated. Inclusive language and behavior are encouraged.

Health, Safety, and Wellbeing

Participants should prioritize physical and mental wellbeing so they can safely compete at a high level. This includes hydration, rest, and stress management. Unsafe conditions or injuries must be reported promptly, and support for fellow participants in distress is encouraged.

Environmental Stewardship

We operate our competitions in natural habitats and waterways, which are often on public or private land. It follows that waste products should be disposed of properly, and sustainable practices should be followed. Respect for wildlife and local ecosystems are essential, together with leaving private land as it was before any competition.

Alcohol and Substance Use

Alcohol and drug use before or during competitive events is prohibited, specifically if its use is deemed to affect the safety of the competitor or others. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including testing protocols if applicable.

Conflict Resolution and Reporting Mechanisms

Breaches of this code must be reported through a clear and confidential process as outlined in the SFFNZ constitution. Whistleblowers will be protected. Mediation and appeal steps are available in case of disputes.

Recognition and Rewards

SFFNZ encourages a healthy culture among its members. Exemplary conduct and fair play will be acknowledged through awards or public recognition. Role models in the community will be celebrated.

What is misconduct?

Misconduct is behavior or actions that breach this Code of Conduct or other SFFNZ policies. For example, Team contracts, Smoking policy, Harassment and discrimination policy and any other policy that SFFNZ enacts from time to time.

Misconduct may not justify or result in formal disciplinary action and consideration should be on how any harm caused can be restored.

What is serious misconduct?

Serious misconduct is behavior or actions that breach this Code of Conduct or other SFFNZ policy in a way that seriously impacts an individual, or undermines or has potential to damage the reputation of SFFNZ

This level of breach may lead to disciplinary action by SFFNZ, including disqualification from events, suspension from teams, elimination of funding and benefits, and banning from future participation in SFFNZ events.

What is considered?

In considering if a behavior is a breach of this Code and how serious it is, the following factors should be considered.

- The nature and circumstances of the breach
- Intent – did you knowingly make decisions or act out of line with this code, Our Values and policies?
- Your position within or relationship to SFFNZ
- The impact on the reputation of SFFNZ
- How similar behavior has been treated in the past