

Code of Ethics

The IKF's Code of Conduct for Korfball includes all the sporting and ethical principles for which the IKF has always been known for.

The rules below serve as a statement of beliefs that should be observed by all those who participate directly and indirectly in the game.

1. **Play to Win**

It is recognised that winning is the object of playing any game. However, never set out to lose. If you do not play to win, you are cheating your opponents, fooling yourself and deceiving those who are watching. It is an insult to any opponent to play at less than full strength. You should play to win until the final whistle and never give up against stronger opponents nor relent against weaker ones.

2. **Play Fair**

Winning is without value if victory has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly. Even though it may be easy, never cheat. Playing fair earns you respect, while cheats are detested. Remember: It's only a game and games are pointless unless played fairly.

3. **Accept Defeat with Dignity**

Learn to lose graciously. Good losers earn more respect than bad winners. Don't seek excuses for defeat. Nobody wins all the time. You win some, you lose some. Genuine reasons for losing will always be self-apparent. Congratulate the winners with good grace. Don't blame the (assistant) referee, the jury or anyone else.

4. **Observe the Rules of the Game**

All games need rules to guide them as without rules there would be chaos. Make an effort to learn the rules so that you can understand the game better. Knowing the rules can make you a better player but it is just as important to understand the spirit of the rules.

5. **Respect Opponents, Team-mates, Referees, Officials and Spectators**

Fair Play means respect for everyone concerned, your opponents, team-mates, referees, jury and spectators.

Without opponents there is no game. Remember, they have the same rights as you have, including the right to be respected.

You play in a team in which all members are equal so your team-mates or colleagues must also be respected.

Referees are there to maintain discipline and Fair Play so always accept their decisions without arguing, and help them to help you enjoy the game more.

Officials are also part of the game and must be respected accordingly.

Spectators and media give the game more atmosphere. They want to see the game played fairly, but must also behave fairly themselves at all times. Media attention is vital to increase the number of spectators significantly. Media attention contributes to the image of the korfball sport all over the world.

6. Reject Drugs, Racism and any other Dangers to our Sport

Watch out for attempts to tempt you into cheating or using drugs. Say No to Drugs. Drugs have no place in sport or in our society. Treat all players and everyone else equally, regardless of their skin colour or origin. Harassment, bullying, physical, sexual or emotional abuse has no part in our sport. The korfbal community including spectators and media should be a safe, caring environment with a happy and friendly atmosphere into which one can be welcomed without consideration for age, culture, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity.

7. Promote the Interests of Korfbal

Before acting, think how your actions may affect the image of korfbal. Never act in any way that may do harm to the image of the sport. Be an ambassador for the game and the sport. Be proud to play korfbal and display this. Encourage other people to watch or play it. Talk about the positive things to the game. Help others to have as much fun from korfbal as you do. If somebody does something exceptional that deserves our special recognition they should be honoured and their fine example made public. This encourages others to act in the same way. Help promote korfbal's image by publicising its good deeds.

8. Denounce Those who Attempt to Discredit our Sport

The good name of korfbal has survived and spread because the vast majority of people who love the game are honest and fair. Show up anyone who tries to make others cheat. It's better to expose them before they can do any damage. It often takes more courage to denounce what is wrong, than to go along with dishonesty. Your honesty will be admired but your complicity will not. Don't just say "No" but denounce the culprits who are trying to spoil our sport.