



SAFE SPORT CODE

“TOWARDS A SAFE SPORTING ENVIRONMENT”

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1. INTERPRETATION

Listed below is a list of definitions and the explanation of terms as stated in this Safe Sport Code, unless the context otherwise requires different interpretations:

“Sports Activity”	in relation to sport, includes— (a) the organization of competitions, seminars, clinics or courses for a sport b) the sending of participants to sporting competitions or events; and c) any other activity ancillary or related to a sport. ¹
“Sports Body”	means an association, club or society or which acts as the governing or representative body of a sport in Malaysia whether at district, State or national level, whether or not such association, club or society is only an affiliate of another association, club or society. ²
“Code”	refers to the Safe Sports Code issued by the Ministry of Youth and
“Sports Community”	means any individual involved in any Sports Activity as defined in the Sports Development Act 1997 [Act 576].
“Organization”	means an entity directly or indirectly involved in Sports Activities, including government bodies, non-governmental organizations, companies, and others.
“Misconduct”	refers to the conduct specified in Article 4 of this Code.

¹ The interpretation of Sporting Activity is as stated in section 2 of the Sports Development Act 1997 [Act 576]

² The interpretation of Sport Body is as stated in section 2 of the Sports Development Act 1997 [Act 576]

2. INTRODUCTION

The Safe Sports Code is a set of guidelines developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) to provide guidance on creating a safe sports environment with clear guidelines that defines the roles and responsibilities of all parties in addressing misconduct and abuse in sports.

2.1. SAFE SPORT

- 2.1.1 Sports industry and organizations, in general can be exposed to various forms of abuse, disruptions, and violence, including in education, sports, and social settings. Malaysia, as a nation that upholds principles of equality and fair play, places great emphasis on a safe sports ecosystem that is free from all forms of abuse, disruptions, and violence.
- 2.1.2 Based on the International Olympic Committee Consensus Statement (2016), Safe Sport has been defined as a "sport environment characterised by respect, fairness, and freedom from all forms of intentional violence (non-accidental violence) towards athletes."
- 2.1.3 This statement is also supported by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) through the recognition of the Safe Sport International Declaration.

2.2. SAFE SPORT CODE

- 2.2.1 This Code was developed by KBS as a reference document for the Sports Community in Malaysia to encompass all aspects of safe sports. The development of this Code took into account the views and suggestions from stakeholders based on the laws applicable in Malaysia and international guidelines.
- 2.2.2 This Code describes the forms of abuse, disruptions, violence, and safety that may occur in the sports environment, including inappropriate acts, whether of a sexual, psychological, or physical nature, and the roles and responsibilities of all involved stakeholders.
- 2.2.3 The contents of this Code were conceived and collectively agreed upon by stakeholders through consultation sessions and is tailored to suit the sports landscape in Malaysia.
- 2.2.4 This Code may be amended by KBS as and when required.

2.3. OBJECTIVES OF ESTABLISHING THE SAFE SPORT CODE

2.3.1 The purpose of establishing this Code is:

- i. to serve as a reference point with clear guidelines for all members of the Sports Community regarding the scope of safe sports and the responsibilities of the Sports Community.
- ii. to protect the Sports Community from any form of abuse, disruptions, and violence in sports that may affect mental and physical well-being.
- iii. to strengthen the aspect of integrity in the governance of Sports bodies and the overall sports ecosystem in Malaysia.
- iv. to promote and ensure that positive values in safe sports are applied and implemented in every Sports Activity at all levels.
- v. to encourage and raise awareness among all members of the Sports Community to create a safe sports environment.

3. APPLICATION

3.1. APPLICATION OF THE CODE

- 3.1.1 The Code is applicable to any person(s) who participate in any Sports Activity.
- 3.1.2 Sports bodies are responsible for safeguarding their respective sports environments to ensure that it is free from abuse and harassment.
- 3.1.3 Sports bodies must acknowledge the Code and develop their respective Safe Sports Policies to serve as guidance and reference for their members, based on the following fundamental principles:
- i. to identify and appoint individuals responsible for managing complaints and taking action against any misconduct;
 - ii. to implement awareness and promotional activities regarding the importance of compliance with this Code;
 - iii. to conduct regular training and educational sessions to enhance understanding of this Code;
 - iv. to establish internal mechanisms for complaint resolution and management;
 - v. to provide support programs and assistance for the Code's compliance; and
 - vi. to implement and execute a detailed, comprehensive monitoring, and advocacy processes.

3.2. VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES OF SAFE SPORTS

3.2.1 By adopting the Code, all individuals agree to uphold the following principles and values:

- i. **Respect:** Showing respect to all parties by way of good behavior and treating everyone with courtesy and compassion.
- ii. **Fair Play:** Playing by the rules, being honest, and refraining from any form of deception.
- iii. **Safety:** Prioritizing the physical and emotional well-being of all individuals involved.
- iv. **Inclusiveness:** Creating a friendly and inclusive environment for everyone, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion, or abilities.
- v. **Responsible Behaviour:** Executing and taking responsibility for matters within one's responsibility.
- vi. **Teamwork:** Collaborating towards a common goal, supporting and encouraging each other.
- vii. **Support:** Fostering a supportive environment, encouraging and assisting others in achieving positive goals.
- viii. **Empathy:** Understanding and caring about the feelings and well being of others.
- ix. **Transparency:** Being straightforward, open, honest, and maintaining integrity.
- x. **Continual Improvement:** Constantly reviewing and updating policies to ensure their relevance and effectiveness in promoting safe sports.

4. SCOPE OF MISCONDUCT

4.1. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

4.1.1 Sexual harassment means any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, in any form, whether verbal, non-verbal, visual, gestural or physical, directed at a person which is reasonably offensive or humiliating or is a threat to his well-being.⁴

4.2. PSYCHOLOGICAL MISCONDUCT⁵

4.2.1 It refers to the improper or inappropriate patterns of behavior, repeatedly, towards an individual's mental and psychological well-being, which include but are not limited to the following:

- i. Physically or verbally aggressive, threatening, and intimidating actions towards an individual.
- ii. Neglect - failing to provide attention or support, disregarding, neglecting, refusing to allow, or failing to provide necessary treatment for an individual's mental health or medical needs. Neglect includes:
 - a. Encouraging or knowingly allowing an athlete who has suffered a serious injury to return to training or competition prematurely without the approval of a qualified medical professional (e.g., after a severe injury).
 - b. Deliberately encouraging or allowing an athlete to train without adequate rest, risking their physical and mental well-being and/or contradicting medical advice.
- iii. Spurning - an act of rejection, humiliation, disgracing, or ridicule towards an individual, particularly in public places; and/or
- iv. Stalking - described as any person(s) who repeatedly engages in any harassing conduct, intending to cause, or knowing that the conduct is likely to cause distress, fear, or harm to that person or their safety. Stalking also includes "cyberstalking" using electronic media (e.g., the internet and social media networks).

⁴ The interpretation of Sexual Harassment is as stated in section 2 of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act 2022 [Act 840].

⁵ The interpretation of section 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 are in accordance with the guidelines issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

4.3. PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

4.3.1 Physical misconduct refers to any behavior involving physical contact/ touch that causes or reasonably threatens to cause physical harm to another individual, such as contact violations like punching, hitting, biting, choking, or slapping others, including the use of objects such as sports equipment.

4.4. BULLYING

4.4.1 Bullying is described as behavior that hurts, persecutes, or frightens someone through physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, threats, or form of intimidation.

4.5. SEXUAL GROOMING

4.5.1 Sexual grooming refers to the act of establishing emotional trust and relationships to create an environment in which the individual accepts an inappropriate form of relationship. It can occur physically or virtually.

4.5.2 Grooming can occur in the following circumstances:

- i. Using a person's position, power, or reputation to entice or influence an individual.
- ii. Establishing a relationship with an individual to build trust and friendship.
- iii. Initiating an illicit relationship gradually, going beyond the boundaries of friendship through oral or physical communication, such as sitting on one's lap, sharing sexual material, joking with sexually suggestive words or any non-consensual sexually charged behaviour.

4.6. MISCONDUCT UNDER MALAYSIAN LAW

4.6.1 Any misconduct stipulated under the laws applicable in Malaysia includes the following:

- i. **Penal Code [Act 574];**
- ii. **Anti-Sexual Harassment Act 2022 [Act 840];**
- iii. **Child Act 2001 [Act 611];**
- iv. **Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 [Act 792];**
- v. **Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 [Act 685];**
- vi. **Employment Act 1955 [Act 265];**
- vii. **Sports Development Act 1997 [Act 576];**
- viii. **Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 [Act 588]; and**
- ix. **Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 [Act 711].**
- x. **Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 [Act 852]**

5. SAFE SPORTS ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1. Any individual is not allowed to smoke, use tobacco products or electronic cigarettes, or consume alcoholic beverages during the organization or conduct of any Sports Activities approved or supported by Government and its agencies or within facilities owned by Government and its agencies.
- 5.2. Any individual or organization involved in the business related to tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or alcoholic beverages is not allowed to organize, sponsor, promote, advertise, sell, give as a gift, or display trademarks in any organization of Sports Activities approved or supported by Government and its agencies, or within facilities owned by Government and its agencies.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETES

- 6.1.1 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes encompass the following:
 - i. to understand the contents of this Code and Safe Sports Policies issued by the represented Sports Bodies, as well as understanding of the applications and responsibilities outlined in the Code and policies
 - ii. to ensure compliance with the Code at all times during any Sports Activity. This includes respecting teammates and opponents and refraining from engaging in negative behavior.
 - iii. to become a positive role model to everyone in the sports environment by way of conduct that aligns with the principles of the Code.
 - iv. to encourage and remind teammates, coaches, and other athletes to comply with the Code.
 - v. to participate in training and educational programs to raise awareness about the Code and provide guidance on how to report violations of the Code and seek assistance.
 - vi. to encourage anyone aware of the Code's violations to report them to the relevant authorities.

6.2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPORTS BODIES

6.2.1 The roles and responsibilities of Sports Bodies encompass the following:

- i. to develop their respective Safe Sports Policies that outline the necessary compliance and responsibilities of all athletes, coaches, officials, and other stakeholders in their respective sports.
- ii. to promote Safe Sports Policies widely to ensure that all members of the Sports Body are aware of the existence and implementation of the policy.
- iii. to appoint at least one officer to manage matters related to safe sports.
- iv. to provide training and education programs to increase awareness about safe sports.
- v. to manage and resolve complaints related to safe sports using internal mechanisms.
- vi. to monitor the implementation of Safe Sports Policies.
- vii. to provide support such as counseling services and assistance to Sports Body members who may be affected by abuse, disruptions, or violence,
- viii. to collaborate, where applicable, with other Organizations, including law enforcement agencies, government bodies, and related non-governmental organizations.
- ix. to update the Safe Sports Policies to align with the Code in order to remain relevant.
- x. to enforce Safe Sports Policies through methods stipulated by the Sports Body, by way of including safe sports compliance clauses in appointment contracts.

6.3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND CAREGIVERS

6.3.1 The roles and responsibilities of Parents, guardians, and caregivers encompass the following:

- i. to understand the contents of the Code and Safe Sports Policies issued by the Sports Body of which their child or individual under their care is a member, as well as to comprehend the applications and responsibilities outlined in the Code and policies.
- ii. to teach and become good role models to their children or individuals under their care.
- iii. to encourage and remind their children or individuals under their care to comply with the Code.
- iv. to participate in training and educational programs to raise awareness about the Code and provide guidance on how to report violations of the Code and seek assistance.
- v. maintain regular communications with the Sports Body and being aware of the development of their child or the individual under their care.
- vi. maintain regular communications with the Sports Body and being aware of the development of their child or the individual under their care.

6.4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS

6.4.1 The roles and responsibilities of Organizations encompass the following:

- i. to adapt the Code into their internal procedures or protocols.
- ii. to integrate the Code into any event or Sports Activity organization and complying with other applicable regulations.
- iii. to provide training, education, and awareness about the Code to their respective employees.
- iv. to take proactive action in the event of any violation of the Code.
- v. to assist in conducting appropriate promotional activities to foster a safe sports environment.

6.5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

- 6.5.1 The roles and responsibilities of coaches and technical officials encompass the following:
- i. to comply with the Code and any regulations set by the certifying regulatory body.
 - ii. to participate in training and education programs to raise awareness about the Code's implementation.
 - iii. being a good role model in the sports environment.
 - iv. monitoring and taking cognizance of the well-being and health of athletes and taking appropriate action if there is a breach of the Code.
 - v. to ensure that the usage of banned substances for performance enhancement (performance enhancing drugs) does not occur.

7. MANAGEMENT OF COMPLAINTS

- 7.1. Organizations or Sports bodies, upon receiving a complaint of any misconduct, shall handle the complaint via their respective internal procedures or policies set by the international federation for that sport.
- 7.2. All complaints submitted to the authority or Organization as stated in Section 7 of the Code must be resolved according to the procedures and protocols of the relevant authority or organization.
- 7.3. Any person should immediately notify the relevant authorities should there be evidence or suspicion of misconduct against a child. Failure to notify the authorities on matters regarding child abuse or victimization is an offence that may be subject to legal action.
- 7.4. Any person with information that a police report involving a criminal offence has been reported and/or a court proceeding has been initiated against a coach or member of a sports association/club, such person may provide such information to the Sports Commissioner for appropriate action

8. COMPLAINT MECHANISM

8.1. CHANNELING COMPLAINTS

8.1.1 Individual who experiences or is aware of any misconduct and violation of the Code may submit a report through any of the following channels:



- i. **Royal Malaysia Police (RMP);**
For the nearest police station or in case of emergencies, you can contact the hotline at 999.



- ii. **Sports Body;**
(Phone, email, and address of the sports body can be referred to on the website of the Commissioner of Sports Office at <https://pps.kbs.gov.my>)
Phone : 03 8994 4800



- iii. **Olympic Council of Malaysia;**
Phone : 03 2715 2810
Email : whistleblowing@olympic.org.my



- iv. **Paralympic Council Malaysia;**
Phone : 03 9201 0350
Email : info@paralympic.org.my



- v. **Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development;**
(a) Talian Kasih / 15999 / 019-2615999 (whatsapp)
(b) Tribunal for Anti-Sexual Harassment



- vi. **Ministry of Education**
Phone : 03 9201 0350
Email : adukpm@moe.gov.my
Website : <https://moe.spab.gov.my>



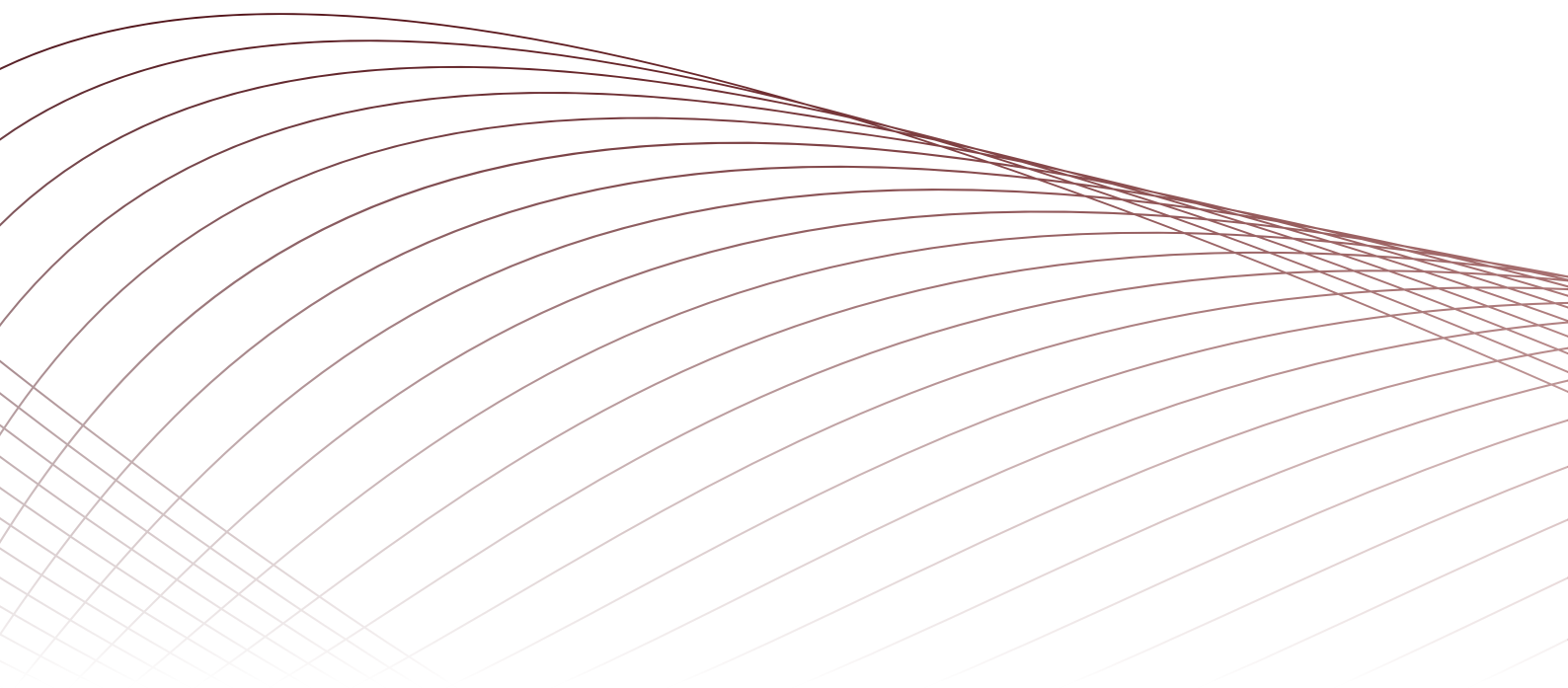
- vii. **Ministry of Youth and Sports**
Phone : 03 8871 3498
Website : <https://kbs.spab.gov.my>

- 8.1.2 Complaints submitted should include information about the misconduct and the violation of the Code, along with relevant evidence and supporting documents, if available.
- 8.1.3 Complaints involving physical misconduct and related criminal elements should be reported to the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) concurrently with the internal procedures of the respective Sports Body.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 9.1. The privacy of all parties involved must be respected and protected by striking a balance between the need to gather information to assess the report and taking steps to address the misconduct.
- 9.2. All documents and evidence related to instances of misconduct are confidential and must not be disclosed except for the purpose of civil or criminal proceedings under any written law.

NOTES



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