



These Official **DDO Code of Ethics**
are written and published by the
Deaf Darts Organisation.

CODE OF **ETHICS**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Deaf Darts Organisation of United Kingdom (DDO) is a non-profit organisation governing the sport of darts for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing in the UK. The DDO Board of Directors consists of 6 elected officers responsible for the day to-day operations of the organisation.

- The Deaf Darts Organisation (DDO), its Executive members, associate members, officers and the darts community aim to promote the highest possible ethical values within darts.
- **1.2** In furtherance of this aim the DDO Executive has adopted this Code of Ethics based on the principles and rules of the IOC Code of Ethics.
- **1.3** At all times the DDO, and in the framework of events organised and/or sanctioned by the DDO, the participants undertake to respect and ensure respect of the present Code.

2. RESPECT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

Respect is the cornerstone of any ethical organisation. In DDO, respect involves treating all participants with fairness, dignity, and consideration, regardless of their background, level of ability, or role in the organisation.

- **2.1 Players:** Respect your fellow competitors, regardless of their skill level, background, or hearing abilities. Show sportsmanship, acknowledge good plays, and avoid any verbal or physical intimidation.
- **2.2 Coaches and Officials:** Serve as role models for athletes. Ensure that communication is respectful, fostering an environment where players feel valued and heard.
- **2.3 Volunteers and Spectators:** Ensure that those who are involved in the Deaf Darts community, whether as volunteers or spectators, treat each other with courtesy and respect, and refrain from any form of negative behaviour, such as mocking or discriminatory comments.
- **2.4 Inclusivity:** Use appropriate language and behaviour, especially around participants with different communication needs (e.g., sign language users, lip readers, etc.).
- **2.5 Non-Discrimination:** Discrimination based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability (including hearing loss), or other personal attributes is strictly prohibited.
- **2.6 Conflict-Free Environment:** Participants must avoid any behaviour that could lead to hostility or division within the Deaf Darts community.


3. FAIR PLAY & INTEGRITY

Ethics in Deaf Darts means upholding fairness, transparency, and honesty at all times. Integrity in gameplay and conduct is paramount.

- **3.1 Honesty in Competition:** Players must play the game fairly and without cheating. This includes adhering to the official rules of darts and not engaging in any form of match-fixing or unethical conduct (e.g., intentionally throwing off target to affect outcomes).
- **3.2 Respect for Rules:** All participants, whether competitors, coaches, or officials, must abide by the established rules of the game and respect the spirit of competition, recognising the hard work and dedication of all players.
- **3.3 Accountability:** Players and coaches are expected to take responsibility for their actions, both on and off the playing field.
- **3.4 No Tolerance for Corruption:** Any form of cheating, such as collusion, betting fraud, or manipulation of scores, will result in immediate sanctions.
- **3.5 Transparency:** All processes, including the reporting of results, selection of players for teams, and the governance of tournaments, should be transparent and accessible to all stakeholders.

4. PROMOTION OF SAFE & HEALTHY PARTICIPATION

The safety, health, and well-being of participants must always come first. This extends beyond physical health to include mental and emotional wellness.

- **4.1 Physical Safety:** Ensure that all events, including tournaments and training sessions, are organised in a safe environment. This includes ensuring that the equipment is in proper condition, the playing space is safe, and first aid facilities are available.
 - **4.2 Mental Health Awareness:** Players, coaches, and officials should be aware of the mental and emotional challenges that players might face. Mental health support, whether through counselling, open dialogue, or stress management programs, should be available.
 - **4.3 Inclusive Participation:** Recognise the physical and sensory differences of participants, ensuring that the venue, equipment, and format of the competition are accessible to Deaf and hard-of-hearing players.
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- **4.4 No Tolerance for Abuse:** Any form of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse is not acceptable. This includes bullying, harassment, or any behaviour that could lead to a hostile or unsafe environment.
- **4.5 Drug-Free Sport:** The use of performance-enhancing drugs, recreational drugs, or any substance that could jeopardize the health of an individual is strictly prohibited. Players should maintain their physical health through natural means, focusing on training and well-being.
- **4.6 Support Systems:** Ensure that participants are provided with mental health resources, such as counselling services or peer support networks, and make accommodations where necessary for participants with specific needs.

5. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Deaf Darts strives to eliminate barriers that prevent people from participating. This means providing equal opportunities to all athletes, regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, or disability.

- **5.1 Accessibility:** Ensure that venues and competitions are fully accessible to all players, including those with mobility issues or other disabilities. This includes providing sign language interpreters, written materials, and communication support during events.
- **5.2 Equitable Treatment:** Ensure that all players have access to the same level of training, coaching, and competition opportunities. No one should be marginalised or excluded due to their disability or other personal factors.
- **5.3 Anti-Discrimination Policies:** Establish clear and enforceable policies to address discrimination based on disability, race, gender, or any other factor. Ensure these policies are actively promoted and followed.
- **5.4 Support for Underrepresented Groups:** Make specific efforts to support players from underrepresented groups, such as women in a male-dominated sport or players from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY

All members of the Deaf Darts community should be accountable for their actions, ensuring that both individual and collective behaviours uphold the integrity of the organisation.

- **6.1 Transparency in Governance:** Leaders within the organisation (board members, directors, and high-level officials) should be accountable to the community. Transparent decision-making, budgeting, and strategic planning should be prioritised.

- **6.2 Self-Accountability:** Players, coaches, and officials are encouraged to hold themselves to high standards of conduct. Mistakes should be acknowledged and learned from.
- **6.3 Clear Consequences for Misconduct:** There should be well-defined and consistently applied procedures for addressing breaches of the code of ethics, including disciplinary actions when necessary.
- **6.4 Fostering a Culture of Integrity:** It is essential to create an environment where ethical behaviour is encouraged and bad practices are swiftly dealt with, whether through counselling, warnings, or sanctions.

7. COMMUNICATION & TRANSPARENCY

Effective communication is vital for maintaining trust and ensuring that all members of the Deaf Darts community can make informed decisions and engage meaningfully.

- **7.1 Accessible Communication:** Communication should be accessible to all participants, especially for those who may rely on sign language or lip-reading. Interpreters should be made available during meetings, tournaments, and other key events.
- **7.2 Clear Information:** Organisers should ensure that information about tournaments, rules, policies, and organisational decisions is readily accessible, accurate, and timely.
- **7.3 Open Dialogue:** Encourage an open dialogue among players, coaches, officials, and the broader Deaf Darts community. Feedback should be welcomed, and issues should be addressed promptly and openly.
- **7.4 Grievance Procedures:** A clear, fair, and confidential process for addressing grievances should be in place, ensuring that complaints can be filed without fear of retaliation.

8. RESPECT FOR ITS GAME & ITS TRADITIONS

Deaf Darts should honour the rich tradition of the sport while embracing innovation and improvements that enhance the experience of players.

- **8.1 Respect for Historical Legacy:** Recognise the importance of the history of Deaf Darts and the contributions of pioneers in the sport. Celebrate milestones and achievements within the community.
- **8.2 Innovative Growth:** Embrace new technologies or strategies that help develop the sport while staying true to the values that the organisation was built upon.

- **8.3 Preserving Integrity:** Do not allow commercial interests or changes in the sport to undermine the integrity or traditional values of the game.
- **8.4 Promote Fair Competition:** Ensure that new changes or ideas, whether related to competition formats or scoring systems, maintain the principles of fairness and accessibility for all participants.

9. AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

- **9.1** The DDO Executive reserves the right to amend the DDO Code of Ethics at any time to meet any purposes deemed to be necessary by the DDO Executive, with such amendments coming into effect on the date specified by the DDO Executive.
- **9.2** The headings used for the various Articles of this Code of Ethics are for the purpose of guidance only and shall not be deemed to be part of the substance of this Code of Ethics or to inform or affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- **9.3** This Code of Ethics shall come into full force and effect on 9th January 2025

9. REVISION NOTES

Approved by DDO Executive at the Zoom Videocall dated: 11th November 2024.





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