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CHAMPIONSHIPS
The International Governing Body for the Sport of
Alpabut

INTERNATIONAL REFEREE

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CODE OF CONDUCT

Standards of Integrity and
Professional Conduct

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ENGLISH · OFFICIAL TEXT



OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

WAF International Referee Code of Conduct

Standards of Integrity and Professional Conduct

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This Code of Conduct establishes the binding standards of integrity, impartiality, and professional conduct for all referees licensed by the World Alpaut Federation. It applies to all five referee grades from ELKIN through ULUCA, in all WAF-sanctioned competitions and activities. Compliance with this Code is a condition of holding and renewing a WAF referee licence.



OPENING

Preamble

The integrity of competition rests, more than on any other factor, on the integrity of those who officiate. Athletes, coaches, member organisations, and the public must be able to trust that every decision rendered by a WAF referee is grounded in the rules of Alpagut, in honest observation, and in unwavering impartiality.

This International Referee Code of Conduct establishes the binding standards expected of every person licensed by the World Alpagut Federation as a referee, technical official, or competition judge, from ELKIN (Referee Candidate) through ULUCA (Elite Referee). It complements the technical rules established in the Alpagut Official Competition Regulations and the training requirements set out in the Referee Training Manual.

Where the rules of competition speak to what referees must do, this Code speaks to who referees must be. Mastery of the rules without integrity of character is not refereeing — it is only mechanics. The Federation expects, and athletes deserve, both.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR REFEREES

Impartiality · Competence · Decisiveness · Honesty · Respect for Athletes · Loyalty to the Rules · Independence from Pressure · Self-Discipline · Confidentiality · Continuous Learning



REFERENCE

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below.

Referee	Any person holding a current and valid WAF referee licence at any of the five grades: ELKİN (Referee Candidate), TOLU (National Referee), BİLGE (Senior Referee), ATAMAN (International Referee), or ULUCA (Elite Referee).
Technical Official	Any person holding a WAF licence as a timekeeper, scorer, recorder, scale official, medical attendant, or other technical role at WAF-sanctioned competitions. Where this Code refers to Referees, it applies equally to Technical Officials, mutatis mutandis.
Active Assignment	The period during which a Referee has been formally appointed to officiate a WAF-sanctioned event, commencing from the date of formal notification of the assignment and ending forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the event.
Pre-Match Period	The period from arrival at the venue or from formal pre-event briefing, whichever is earlier, until the call to the area of competition.
In-Match Period	The period from the call to the area of competition until the official conclusion of the bout, including any subsequent decision-confirmation procedures.
Post-Match Period	The period from the official conclusion of the bout until the close of the competition day, including any review or protest procedures arising from the bout.
Conflict of Interest	Any situation defined as such under the WAF Ethics & Conflict of Interest Code, applied to refereeing functions.
Examination Commission	The body established under the WAF Licensing System with authority over referee licensing, examination, suspension, and removal.
Chief Referee	The senior referee designated for a specific competition with overall authority for the conduct of officiating at that competition.

**Match Official**

Any Referee or Technical Official assigned to a specific bout, including the central referee, judges, timekeeper, recorder, and scale official.



PART I

General Provisions

Purpose, scope, and core principles

**PART I****General Provisions**

Article 1 Purpose and Scope

- 1.1. The purpose of this Code is to establish the standards of conduct, integrity, and professional discipline expected of every WAF-licensed Referee and Technical Official, and to provide the framework for the management of breaches.
- 1.2. This Code applies to all WAF-licensed Referees and Technical Officials at all times, with intensified application during Active Assignments. It applies equally to refereeing duties at international, continental, and national WAF-sanctioned events, and to refereeing-related conduct outside Active Assignments where such conduct affects the integrity of the office.
- 1.3. Acceptance of a WAF referee licence constitutes acceptance of, and submission to, this Code.

Article 2 Core Principles

- 2.1. Impartiality — The Referee shall officiate every bout without favour or prejudice, applying the rules of Alpagut equally to all athletes regardless of nationality, member organisation, ranking, name recognition, or any other consideration extraneous to the competition.
- 2.2. Competence — The Referee shall possess and continuously refresh the technical knowledge, physical conditioning, observational acuity, and decision-making capacity required for the grade and level of competition assigned.
- 2.3. Decisiveness — The Referee shall render decisions with confidence and timeliness. Hesitation, indecision, or visible self-doubt undermines the authority of the decision and the integrity of the bout.
- 2.4. Honesty — The Referee shall render only those decisions that reflect the Referee's honest observation and best technical judgement. The Referee shall not render any decision known to be incorrect, nor any decision shaped by external pressure, personal benefit, or ulterior motive.
- 2.5. Respect for Athletes — The Referee shall treat every athlete with the dignity owed to a competitor, including those whom the Referee has just penalised, disqualified, or ruled against.
- 2.6. Independence — The Referee is independent of the parties to the bout, of member organisations, of sponsors, and of any external authority. Pressure, instruction, or attempted influence from any source shall not affect refereeing decisions.
- 2.7. Self-Discipline — The Referee shall maintain personal discipline in conduct, appearance, language, alcohol abstention during Active Assignments, and adherence to the dress and protocol requirements of the event.

Article 3 Relationship to Other WAF Documents



- 3.1.** This Code operates as a Level III Technical Regulation under the WAF Master Document Register. It shall be read in conjunction with: (a) the WAF Statutes; (b) the Alpaut Official Competition Regulations (technical rules); (c) the WAF Licensing System (referee grades, examination, renewal); (d) the Alpaut Referee Training Manual (technical training); (e) the WAF Ethics & Conflict of Interest Code (general ethics); (f) the WAF Disciplinary Code (disciplinary follow-up); (g) the WAF Anti-Doping Code (anti-doping reporting duty); and (h) the WAF Safeguarding Policy (Protected Person duties).
- 3.2.** Where this Code conflicts with the technical rules of competition in the Official Competition Regulations, the Official Competition Regulations shall prevail in respect of technical matters. This Code shall prevail in respect of conduct, integrity, and professional discipline.



PART II

Duties of Office

Pre-match, in-match, and post-match obligations

**PART II**

Duties of the Office

Article 4 Pre-Match Duties

4.1. On formal notification of an Active Assignment, the Referee shall:

- (a) Confirm acceptance of the assignment within the time set by the Examination Commission or the Chief Referee;
- (b) Disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest under Article 8 before the assignment commences;
- (c) Ensure physical fitness, current technical knowledge, and personal preparedness for the level of competition;
- (d) Comply with travel, accreditation, and arrival requirements set by the event organiser.

4.2. On arrival and during the Pre-Match Period, the Referee shall:

- (a) Attend the pre-event briefing in full;
- (b) Familiarise themselves with the venue, equipment, scoring system, and emergency procedures;
- (c) Verify uniform, equipment, and identification compliance with event requirements;
- (d) Refrain from social or unstructured contact with athletes, coaches, or member-organisation representatives associated with the bout to which the Referee is assigned;
- (e) Refrain from alcohol consumption from twelve (12) hours before any assigned bout.

Article 5 In-Match Duties

5.1. During the In-Match Period, the Referee shall:

- (a) Maintain undivided attention to the bout;
- (b) Apply the Alpagut Official Competition Regulations consistently and impartially;
- (c) Communicate decisions clearly and audibly using the official signals and terminology;
- (d) Maintain personal composure regardless of provocation, confusion, crowd reaction, or pressure from any source;
- (e) Prioritise athlete safety over the continuity of the bout — stopping the action without hesitation where injury, exhaustion, or unfair advantage requires intervention;
- (f) Where doubt arises as to a technical point, consult with co-officials in accordance with the procedures established in the Official Competition Regulations and the Referee Training Manual.

Article 6 Post-Match Duties

6.1. During the Post-Match Period, the Referee shall:



- (a) Sign the official scoresheet and any documentation required;
- (b) Cooperate with any review, protest, or appeal procedure under the Official Competition Regulations;
- (c) Refrain from public commentary on the decisions rendered (including statements to media, social media, athletes, coaches, or member-organisation representatives) until forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the event;
- (d) Where requested by the Chief Referee or the Examination Commission, participate in post-match review and assessment;
- (e) Maintain the confidentiality of any deliberation or evaluation conducted by the referee panel.

Article 7 Continuous Professional Development

- 7.1. Every Referee shall maintain currency in the technical rules of Alpabut and the practical application thereof. The Examination Commission shall publish, in conjunction with the Referee Training Manual, the minimum continuing-education requirements for each grade.
- 7.2. Failure to complete continuing-education requirements may result in the suspension or non-renewal of the licence under the WAF Licensing System.



PART III

Impartiality and Conflicts

Conflicts of interest, recusal, and gifts

**PART III****Impartiality and Conflicts**

Article 8 Conflicts of Interest

- 8.1.** A Referee has a conflict of interest in respect of a specific assignment, bout, or athlete where one or more of the following circumstances exists:
- (a)** The Referee is a Family Member of, or in a close personal relationship with, an athlete or coach in the bout;
 - (b)** The Referee is a current or recent (within twenty-four (24) months) coach, training partner, or athlete-support person of an athlete in the bout;
 - (c)** The Referee is a current officer, employee, or member of a club, member organisation, or other body of which an athlete in the bout is a member;
 - (d)** The Referee has a financial interest, sponsorship arrangement, or other material economic relationship with an athlete, member organisation, or other party to the bout;
 - (e)** The Referee has a documented personal animosity or hostility toward an athlete or coach in the bout;
 - (f)** The Referee has been the subject, within the preceding twenty-four (24) months, of a formal complaint by or concerning an athlete or coach in the bout;
 - (g)** Any other circumstance that would lead a reasonable observer to question the Referee's impartiality.
- 8.2.** Disclosure and Recusal — A Referee identifying a conflict of interest shall disclose the conflict to the Chief Referee in writing without delay, and in any event before participating in the assignment. The Chief Referee shall reassign the bout or vary the assignment as necessary.
- 8.3.** Failure to disclose a conflict of interest shall constitute a breach of this Code, regardless of whether the conflict in fact influenced any decision.

Article 9 Gifts and Hospitality

- 9.1.** During an Active Assignment, a Referee shall not accept any Gift, hospitality, or benefit from any athlete, coach, member organisation, sponsor, or other party with an interest in the assignment, save for: (a) ordinary hospitality at official event functions; (b) participant gifts of nominal value distributed to all officials on the same basis; and (c) reimbursement of authorised expenses by the event organiser.



9.2. Outside Active Assignments, the gifts regime of the WAF Ethics & Conflict of Interest Code, Article 11, applies. Gifts received that may relate to future refereeing assignments shall be recorded in the Gifts Register and disclosed to the Examination Commission.

9.3. Cash, cash equivalents, and gift vouchers shall not be accepted in any amount.

Article 10 Independence from External Pressure

10.1. A Referee shall not solicit, accept, or act upon any instruction, recommendation, request, or expectation from any source — including a member organisation, a coach, an athlete, a sponsor, a national authority, or another Referee — concerning how a specific bout should be officiated.

10.2. Any attempt to influence a Referee's decisions shall be reported by the Referee to the Chief Referee and, in serious cases, to the Examination Commission and the Ethics Committee. The Referee reporting in good faith shall be afforded the protections of Article 18 of the WAF Ethics & Conflict of Interest Code (Whistleblower Protection).



P A R T I V

Prohibited Conduct

Match manipulation, betting, abuse, and discrimination

**PART IV****Prohibited Conduct**

Article 11 Match Manipulation

11.1. Match manipulation by a Referee — defined as any act or omission intended to alter the outcome, course, or result of a bout otherwise than in accordance with the honest application of the rules — constitutes the most serious breach of this Code.

11.2. Match manipulation includes:

- (a) Rendering decisions known to be incorrect, with the intention of favouring or disfavouring an athlete or member organisation;
- (b) Failing to apply rules that should be applied, with corresponding intent;
- (c) Coordinating with athletes, coaches, or other officials to predetermine the outcome of a bout;
- (d) Accepting any benefit, financial or otherwise, in exchange for a particular outcome;
- (e) Failing to report knowledge of any of the above by any other person.

11.3. Sanction — Established match manipulation by a Referee shall result in lifetime ineligibility from any WAF officiating role and shall be referred for disciplinary proceedings under the WAF Disciplinary Code, with potential consequences for any associated WAF licence and grade.

Article 12 Betting and Wagering

12.1. Referees shall not, directly or indirectly, place, accept, or facilitate any bet or wager — financial or otherwise — on the outcome of any WAF-sanctioned bout, competition, or other event of the sport of Alpagut.

12.2. The prohibition extends to bets placed through Family Members, agents, or other intermediaries; to bets placed on competitions in which the Referee is not officiating; and to the disclosure of inside information that may be used for betting purposes.

Article 13 Abuse, Discrimination, and Harassment

13.1. A Referee shall not engage in any verbal or physical abuse, discrimination, harassment, or intimidation of athletes, coaches, fellow officials, or any other person in connection with WAF activities.

13.2. Where the conduct concerns a Protected Person, the WAF Safeguarding Policy applies in addition to this Code, and the matter shall be handled jointly by the Safeguarding Officer and the Examination Commission.



Article 14 Anti-Doping Reporting Duty

- 14.1.** A Referee who, in the course of refereeing duties, becomes aware of conduct that may constitute an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under the WAF Anti-Doping Code shall report the matter to the Anti-Doping Committee or through the dedicated whistleblower channels under that Code.
- 14.2.** Failure to report shall not in itself constitute a breach of this Code, but knowing concealment, in agreement with the person concerned or with intent to defeat anti-doping enforcement, shall constitute an aggravated breach attracting the most severe sanctions under Article 17.

Article 15 Confidentiality

- 15.1.** A Referee shall maintain the confidentiality of: (a) the deliberations of any referee panel; (b) the assessment and evaluation of fellow officials; (c) any personal data concerning athletes acquired in the course of duties; (d) the contents of any closed pre-event or in-event briefings; and (e) any other information designated as confidential by the Chief Referee or by the WAF Data Protection Policy.
- 15.2.** Public commentary on bouts officiated by the Referee shall be limited to the technical principles of refereeing and shall not identify athletes, member organisations, or specific decisions in a manner that brings the Federation, the sport, or any individual into disrepute.



P A R T V

Enforcement

Examination Commission jurisdiction, procedures, and sanctions

**PART V****Enforcement**

Article 16 Jurisdiction and Procedure

- 16.1.** The Examination Commission, established under the WAF Licensing System, has primary jurisdiction over breaches of this Code by Referees and Technical Officials.
- 16.2.** Where the alleged breach also constitutes an offence under another WAF instrument (the WAF Ethics & Conflict of Interest Code, the WAF Disciplinary Code, the WAF Anti-Doping Code, or the WAF Safeguarding Policy), the Examination Commission shall coordinate with the relevant body and shall apply the principle of non bis in idem.
- 16.3.** Procedure — The investigation and hearing of alleged breaches shall follow the procedures set out in the WAF Disciplinary Code, applied mutatis mutandis to the refereeing context, with the following adaptations:
- (a) Initial assessment by the Chief Referee at the event level;
 - (b) Referral to the Examination Commission for breaches that cannot be resolved by routine on-event correction;
 - (c) Hearing by a panel of three (3) members of the Examination Commission, none of whom shall have a prior connection to the matter;
 - (d) Right of the Referee to be heard, to submit evidence, and to be accompanied by a representative;
 - (e) Reasoned written decision within thirty (30) days of the hearing;
 - (f) Right of appeal to the WAF Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

Article 17 Sanctions

- 17.1.** Where a breach of this Code is established, sanctions may include:
- (a) Confidential warning;
 - (b) Public reprimand recorded in the Referee's licensing file;
 - (c) Mandatory additional training or re-examination;
 - (d) Restriction from officiating at specific events, levels, or roles for a defined period;
 - (e) Suspension of the referee licence for a defined period;
 - (f) Reduction of grade;
 - (g) Permanent revocation of the referee licence;
 - (h) Where applicable, restitution of any improperly received benefit;
 - (i) Referral to law enforcement where the conduct may constitute a criminal offence.



- 17.2.** Sanctions shall be proportionate to the nature and gravity of the breach, the grade and experience of the Referee, the consequences for athletes and the integrity of competition, prior breaches, and any aggravating or mitigating factors.
- 17.3. Aggravated Breaches** — Match manipulation, betting, accepting bribes, and serious abuse or safeguarding-related breaches shall be treated as aggravated and shall, on first established breach, ordinarily attract suspension of the licence for a minimum of four (4) years and may attract permanent revocation.

MATCH MANIPULATION — LIFETIME SANCTION

Established match manipulation, accepting any benefit in exchange for a particular outcome, or coordinating with athletes or others to predetermine a result of a bout shall result in lifetime ineligibility from WAF officiating, with potential consequences for any other WAF licence held by the person concerned.



PART VI

Final Provisions

Acceptance, amendments, and entry into force

**PART VI****Final Provisions**

Article 18 Acceptance and Acknowledgment

- 18.1.** Every Referee and Technical Official shall, on the issuance or renewal of a WAF licence, sign a written acknowledgment of acceptance of this Code. The acknowledgment shall be retained by the Examination Commission in accordance with the WAF Data Protection Policy Retention Schedule.

Article 19 Amendments

- 19.1.** This Code may be amended upon recommendation of the Examination Commission and the Board of Directors, with subsequent ratification by the General Assembly in accordance with WAF Statutes Article 11.5.

Article 20 Entry into Force

- 20.1.** This Code shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the WAF Board of Directors at the meeting held on 19 May 2026 in Baku, pursuant to Board Resolution WAF-BOD-2026-001; subject to ratification by the General Assembly in December 2026 under WAF Statutes Article 11.5., with subsequent ratification by the General Assembly at its next ordinary session.
- 20.2.** Within ninety (90) days of the entry into force, all currently licensed Referees and Technical Officials shall sign the acknowledgment under Article 18.1.

**OFFICIAL**

Adoption & Signatures

This WAF International Referee Code of Conduct has been adopted by the WAF Board of Directors at the meeting held on 19 May 2026 in Baku, pursuant to Board Resolution WAF-BOD-2026-001; subject to ratification by the General Assembly in December 2026 under WAF Statutes Article 11.5.. By signature below, the undersigned officers confirm the adoption of this Code on behalf of the Federation, and affirm WAF's commitment to the integrity of officiating and the welfare of athletes who entrust their competitive lives to the judgment of WAF referees.

Adopted by	WAF Board of Directors, with ratification by the General Assembly
Date of Adoption	19 May 2026
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SIGNATURES

Authorised Signatories

Vasif Namazov

Chairman of the Board

Signature

Date

**EMIL RAHIMOV****Interim President — BAŞAD**

World Alpaut Federation

Signature

Date

CHAIR, EXAMINATION COMMISSION*To be appointed at the General Assembly, December 2026*

Signature

Date



WORLD ALPAGUT FEDERATION

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Alpabut

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