



SOFT ARMORED FIGHTING EUROPEAN FEDERATION

Ethics and Deontology Charters

- Edition April 2024 -

1. Preamble

Soft Armored Fighting (SAF) is characterized by high moral values, making it an exceptional means of education and an irreplaceable factor for personal development, education, social integration, and the promotion of individuals.

By choosing to be involved in SAF, whether as a beginner or experienced fighter, a member of national teams, a coach, a referee, a leader, a parent, a supporter, or a sponsor, individuals become custodians of the values that this sport embodies. They are individually and collectively responsible for upholding and promoting these values. As a result, each person is expected to adhere to the following charters and actively contribute to their promotion in all circumstances.

Distinction between ethics and deontology:

Deontology encompasses the set of duties imposed on certain categories of individuals in their behavior and actions towards others and their environment.

Ethics refers to the set of values and moral rules specific to a particular milieu or group.

Ethics and deontology, however, share a common preventive function: defining the fundamental values of a specific sector, establishing principles of good conduct that serve as a guide for those involved.

2. Charter of Ethics

The Charter of Ethics defines the sportsmanship and values of SAF as follows:

- 1. Courage and self-control:** *SAF is above all a personal commitment, a will to surpass oneself, and a pursuit of excellence. The desire to win and combativeness can only be virtuous when combined with self-control and respect for others.*
- 2. Friendship:** *SAF is a collective celebration. Sharing a common passion fosters a benevolent and secure atmosphere. Friendship is an important component of sportsmanship. The pursuit of individual performance should be aligned with collective interests.*
- 3. Sincerity:** *SAF and its practice are codified, defined by rules without which competition loses the authenticity that gives it purpose. Absolute respect for the rules is a prerequisite for equal opportunities among practitioners. It also ensures that results are based solely on the merit of each competitor. Knowledge of the rules and their fair and sincere application must be constantly sought, both in letter and in spirit.*
- 4. Honor:** *SAF should be synonymous with honor. It requires respect for the virtues of SAF and the pursuit of an ideal, ensuring a consistently dignified and respectable attitude. Behavior sets an example, and it must be impeccable.*
- 5. Modesty and humility:** *SAF requires modesty in victory and grace in defeat. Kindness and benevolence can only be expressed sincerely with moderation in self-assessment. Knowing how to be humble, free from pride and vanity, without pretense, is the only guarantee of modesty.*
- 6. Respect:** *SAF is respect for others, as well as self-respect and respect for one's body. Mutual respect in SAF elevates each participant, whether actor or spectator, providing dignity and moral significance..*
- 7. Politeness:** *SAF requires honesty to generate respect towards others and from others. Politeness is the expression of this respect due to others, regardless of their qualities, weaknesses, or social status.*
- 8. Tolerance:** *SAF brings people together in practice regardless of their origins, social status, opinions, beliefs, age, or gender. It is a school of tolerance, solidarity, and a factor of human connection. In a world where inequalities are increasingly evident, SAF is also a powerful tool for individual promotion and social integration.*

3. Charter of Deontology

The Charter of Deontology defines the duties of sports participants (athletes, practitioners, referees, leaders, etc.) as follows:

- 1. Comply with the rules:** *SAF involves the establishment of rules that define equal practice conditions for everyone and their application. Equality of opportunity is the essence of sports practice, and all these rules define the conditions of SAF practice.*
- 2. Respect others:** *SAF practice is above all a meeting where everyone comes together at the same place and time, where exchange must take place in mutual respect. Opponents, referees, the audience, coaches are essential partners. Competition involves opposition and combativeness, but such confrontation is a source of pleasure, exchange, and fulfillment only when it takes place in courtesy and mutual respect, without aggression.*
- 3. Respect oneself:** *Before respecting others and to achieve this, one must respect oneself. It involves seeking self-confidence, fidelity to one's convictions, maintaining freedom of choice and thought without harming others, and protecting one's body and mind.*
- 4. Eliminate violence, cheating, and discrimination:** *Physical and sports activities are essential factors for balance, health, and personal fulfillment. Physical (blows, injuries) or psychological (threats, intimidations, disparagement, discrimination) violence endangers health or mental balance and goes against the fulfillment of each individual. Cheating introduces a break in equal opportunities and harms fairness and the randomness of sports.*
Discriminatory behavior breaks with the principles of equality of the European Convention on Human Rights. Doping is both the ultimate cheating, violence against oneself, and an attack on one's health and dignity. The instigation of doping, like doping itself, is a criminal offense.
All SAF actors must combat the scourge of doping and any other form of cheating. At all levels of practice, such deviations lead to making the sport unfit for the fulfillment of its social and educational virtues and harm its image and development, especially among the younger generation.
- 5. Be in control of oneself:** *SAF is passion and emotion. But this passion, essential for performance and a factor of self-transcendence, must be controlled. Passion, even the emotion aroused in practice, leads to self-transcendence and generosity, which should not result in excessive behavior. Emotion should not make one forget reality. Sport must remain sport.*
While the desire for victory and the desire to surpass oneself can sometimes lead to taking risks, the physical integrity of the opponent and respect for one's own body should not suffer.
While it is legitimate to support one's colors, one must equally respect those of others. Participants, coaches, educators, and leaders must remain measured in their attitude, control their words, reactions, and emotions on all occasions and regardless of the stakes.
- 6. Be loyal and fair-play:** *It is impossible to codify everything. Adopting a loyal and fair-play behavior in the practice of an activity avoids codifying everything and harming the harmony of the game. Respect for the rule involves both the letter and the spirit. The fundamental value of any sports practice lies in sociability and the desire to live together. This sociability is built by the practitioners themselves within an associative institution, making this practice a school of citizenship. Having sportsmanship means respecting the rules but also remaining modest in victory, without resentment in defeat.*
- 7. Set an example:** *Practicing SAF is not an obligation. It is the will of each individual, for their pleasure and/or fulfillment. This practice is part of the values of associative life. It is up to each individual to be the bearer of these values and to express them through exemplary behavior, for the benefit of the image of SAF.*