

COBIS Student Events Code of Conduct

The COBIS network is made up of a global community, and it is of utmost importance to COBIS that each and every person who participates in a COBIS Student Event, whether virtual or in-person, has a positive and rewarding experience. To that end, we invite all attendees and participants to help us realise a safe, respectful, and positive experience for everyone.

COBIS believes that children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind. We have an unfaltering commitment to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults to keep them safe. We are committed to reducing risk connected to all safeguarding and child protection matters.

We recognise that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount in the work we do and the decisions we take, and we are dedicated to providing a harassment-free and inclusive experience for everyone, regardless of gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disabilities, neurodiversity, physical appearance, body size, ethnicity, nationality, race, age, religion, or other protected category.

By participating in a COBIS Student Event, individuals agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as outlined below. Participating schools must ensure that all students, teachers, accompanying staff, and spectators have read and acknowledged the relevant code. Participants who exhibit any behaviour that contravenes this may be immediately removed from the event in question and may be suspended from future COBIS events.

If you experience or witness any unacceptable behaviour, or behaviour that contravenes this Code of Conduct, you must inform your teacher, a member of the COBIS team, or an event official as soon as possible.

COBIS Code of Conduct

Students

By participating in a COBIS Student Event, individuals agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as outlined below. Participants who exhibit any behaviour that contravenes this may be immediately removed from the event in question and may be suspended from future COBIS events.

- Demonstrate empathy, tolerance, respect, and kindness towards others.
- Be respectful of differing opinions, viewpoints, experiences, and cultural sensitivities.
- Be considerate and respectful to all participants, attendees, hosts, officials and COBIS staff.
- Do not engage in unacceptable behaviour, including but not limited to demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour, materials, or speech, whether in-person or online.
- Adhere to digital etiquette during online events including appropriate use of chat, breakout rooms, and screen sharing. The expectation will be for cameras to be turned on when requested (where this impacts bandwidth or connectivity, participants can ask permission to turn cameras back off once the event has begun).
- Take part for enjoyment and strive for personal excellence.
- Graciously accept constructive feedback
- Compete by the competition conditions and rules.
- Accept responsibility and apologising to those affected by our mistakes, and learning from the experience

In partnership with:

- Learn to value honest effort, skilled performance and improvement.
- Cooperate with the officials, teachers, and teammates (if applicable).
- Do not argue with the officials' decisions.

In the case of team events:

- Work hard for the team as well as for yourself.
- Treat all teammates and opponents with kindness and respect.

In the case of in-person events:

- Develop and demonstrate awareness and respect for local customs, laws, expectations and cultural context.
- Respect the venues, hotels and transport vehicles.
- Keep living spaces tidy.
- Do not disturb others in the hotel.

School Staff: Teachers, Coaches, and Chaperones

- Demonstrate empathy, tolerance, respect, and kindness towards others.
- Be respectful of differing opinions, viewpoints, experiences, and cultural sensitivities.
- Be considerate and respectful to all participants, attendees, hosts, officials and COBIS staff.
- Do not engage in unacceptable behaviour, including but not limited to demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour, materials, or speech, whether in-person or online.
- Follow the rules with regards to event participation.
- Develop respect among your students for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of officials.
- Encourage your students to engage with and respect the global COBIS network.
- Compliment participants on their efforts.
- Condemn behaviour that contravenes the Code of Conduct.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the Code of Conduct.
- Do not criticise, or argue with, the officials' judgments and decisions.

For in-person events:

- Maintain a standard of dress appropriate to the representation of your school.
- Ensure your students are adequately supervised at all times.
- Develop and demonstrate awareness and respect for local customs, laws, expectations and cultural context
- Refrain from smoking and/or vaping when supervising students.
- Refrain from consuming alcohol at any time.

Spectators of in-person events

- Demonstrate empathy, tolerance, respect, and kindness towards others.
- Be respectful of differing opinions, viewpoints, experiences, and cultural sensitivities.
- Be considerate and respectful to all participants, attendees, hosts, officials and COBIS staff.
- Do not engage in unacceptable behaviour, including but not limited to demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour, materials, or speech, whether in-person or online.

In partnership with:

- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour. Remember children are taking part for enjoyment. Do not let your behaviour detract from their enjoyment.
- Develop and demonstrate awareness and respect for local customs, laws, expectations and cultural context.
- Let officials conduct events without interference. Do not argue with the officials.
- Support skilled performances, positive engagement, and team play with generous applause. Demonstrate respect for opposing schools' students, staff, and spectators.
- Respect the officials and team leaders; if they ask you to do something, please do so.
- Encourage participation by your (and all) students.
- Be courteous in your communication with all students, school staff, event officials, event administrators and other spectators.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

- Intimidating, harassing, abusive, discriminatory, derogatory, or demeaning speech, materials, or conduct by any participant or spectator
- Violence, threats of violence, or violent language directed against another person
- Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, or otherwise discriminatory jokes and language
- Personal insults, particularly those related to gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, nationality, or disability
- The use of sexualised language or imagery, and sexual attention or advances of any kind
- Trolling, insulting or derogatory comments, and personal or political attacks, whether verbal, written, or electronic.
- Sharing inappropriate content online or via event platforms
- Any boisterous, lewd, or offensive behaviour or language, including but not limited to using sexually explicit or offensive language, materials or conduct, or any language, behaviour, or content that contains profanity, obscene gestures, or racial, religious, or ethnic slurs
- Public or private harassment
- Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in a school setting

Breach of the Code of Conduct

Team Members – Students and School Staff

A breach of this Code of Conduct, in the opinion of Event and/or COBIS officials, may result in the student or staff member being banned from the remainder of the event. In the case of in-person events, it may also result in the student or staff member being sent home by the first available transport. The school will be notified, and the school will have responsibility for notifying the parents (where relevant). Any additional expense incurred will be the responsibility of the school. Further disciplinary action may be considered depending on the seriousness of the breach.

Spectators

A breach of this Code of Conduct, in the opinion of Event and/or COBIS officials, may result in the individual being banned from the remainder of the event and future COBIS events. Any additional expense incurred will be the responsibility of the individual concerned. Further action may be considered against the school and by the school depending on the seriousness of the breach.

Last updated January 2026

In partnership with: