



NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE
FLYING ASSOCIATION

Code of Conduct

Revision 2
1/17/2026

NIFA Code of Conduct

Record of Revision		
Revision #	Date	Change Notes
1	5/1/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Original Publication
2	1/17/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated formatting• IAW Mid-Winter Council Meeting approval on 1/17/2026:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Addition of language to incorporate Resolution 11-2026 “Review Process and Disciplinary Action for Potential Violations of the NIFA Policy Manual and NIFA Code of Conduct” to p. 2

NIFA Code of Conduct

Potential violations of the NIFA Code of Conduct or NIFA Policy Manual shall be subject to review and possible disciplinary action based on procedures outlined in the Rules for Intercollegiate SAFECONs and/or NIFA Policy Manual, as applicable.



Coaches & Advisors



Responsibility to the NIFA SAFECON:

1. Coaches/Advisors are to place aviation safety as their first and highest priority.
2. Coaches/Advisors are role models. As such, they shall always conduct themselves so as to maintain the highest principles, integrity, and dignity of NIFA competition.
3. Coaches/Advisors are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following all rules of the SAFECON as established and directed by the NIFA Council.
4. Dissatisfaction with NIFA or its policies and rules may only be addressed through the proper channels established by the NIFA. It is never proper to express dissatisfaction through the media or any other source.
5. Both the letter and the spirit of all rules must be adhered to by the coaches/advisors.
6. It is the coach'/advisor's responsibility to make sure that all players understand the rules, their spirit, and the only legitimate processes by which to affect change.
7. Judges, NIFA Council and host school personnel- like coaches/advisors and players - are major participants in a NIFA SAFECON. The coach/advisor shall neither exhibit nor tolerate any behavior from others - verbal or otherwise - that might reflect poorly on an NIFA Judges, council member or host school personnel. This includes, but is not limited to, arguing a judging or scheduling decision in such a manner as to incite NIFA competitors against a NIFA Judge, NIFA Council member or host school personnel. There are approved methods by which a coach/advisor may comment on a judging or scheduling decision. Public displays of displeasure - before, during, or after a SAFECON - are not among these approved methods.
8. Coaches/Advisors shall exercise discretion in their consumption of alcoholic beverages, always bearing in mind the duty to uphold a positive image of NIFA and the responsibility to provide a positive role model for the contestants. At no time shall a coach/advisor, and no coach/advisor shall permit another, to perform any duties for NIFA while under the influence of alcohol.
9. No coach/advisor shall use any controlled substance, as defined by federal statute, while at an NIFA sanctioned event. This includes, but is not limited to marijuana, whether legal for recreational or medical use.

Coaches & Advisors



Responsibility to the NIFA Student Competitor:

1. Coaches/Advisors should never place the value of a win above the objective of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in their student competitors. The safety and welfare of the student competitors should always be uppermost in their mind and these values must never be sacrificed for personal prestige or personal gain.
2. Coaches/Advisors should never teach their student competitors tactics or skills designed to circumvent the intent of the NIFA rulebook and the standards of fair play. The rules exist to protect the student competitors and provide a common standard by which final results will be determined. Coaches/Advisors should not attempt to "beat the rules" or take any unfair advantage over an opponent.
3. Whenever student competitors exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior on their own, it is the responsibility of the coach to address that behavior and put an end to it. Coaches/Advisors are responsible for the conduct of their student competitors.
4. Coaches/Advisors should not knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of any student competitor due to ignorance of the NIFA rules and their application.
5. Coaches/Advisors should not make any demands on a student competitor that are inconsistent with NIFA rules or in any way compromise the student competitor's academic pursuits.
6. It shall be understood by coaches/advisors that their general responsibility to "the student competitor" and to "SAFECON" includes all student competitors, whether on his/her team or on an opponent's.

Responsibility to NIFA Officials:

1. All NIFA officials - including but not limited to NIFA judges, NIFA Council members, host school personnel - shall at all times be treated in a professional and courteous manner.
2. Coaches/Advisors wishing to express displeasure with an NIFA official's conduct must follow the proper procedure as established by NIFA.
3. At no time is it appropriate to use the media or social media as a vehicle in which to criticize an NIFA official, NIFA officials in general, or any NIFA policy.

Judges

The NIFA Judge's charge is to act in an ethical and responsible manner at all times. The integrity of NIFA rests in the integrity and conduct of its judges.

Accordingly, NIFA judges are expected to:

1. Place aviation safety as their first and highest priority at all times.
2. Be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of all NIFA competitions.
3. Hold and maintain the basic tenets of judging which include history, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity, professionalism, discretion, and tactfulness. NIFA Judges shall master both rules of the NIFA SAFECON necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm, and controlled manner.
4. Uphold the honor and dignity of NIFA in all interactions with student competitors, coaches, advisors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.
5. Display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non verbal.
6. Recognize that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a school or team that can compromise the perceived impartiality of judging must be avoided.
7. Not wear clothing articles with school names or monikers of any competing NIFA school to maintain the perception of impartiality.
8. Work with each other, the NIFA Senior Judging staff and the NIFA Council in a constructive and cooperative manner.
9. Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as a judge to benefit oneself.
10. Not make false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, rating, credentials, experience, training or competence.
11. NIFA Judges shall accept responsibility for all actions.
12. Judges shall exercise discretion in their consumption of alcoholic beverages, always bearing in mind the duty to uphold a positive image of NIFA and the responsibility to provide a positive role model for the contestants. At no time shall a judge, and no judge shall permit another, to perform any duties for NIFA while under the influence of alcohol.
13. No judge shall use any controlled substance, as defined by federal statute, while at an NIFA sanctioned event. This includes, but is not limited to marijuana, whether legal for recreational or medical use.

Student Competitors

NIFA believes that good character is necessary for aviation excellence.

Accordingly, Student Competitors are expected to:

1. Place aviation safety as their first and highest priority at all times.
2. Abide by all FAA regulations, NIFA rules, and host school policies.
3. Accept personal responsibility to exercise good judgment and self-discipline both during and away from the SAFECON.
4. Take seriously the duty of being a good role model and of exerting a positive influence on others – especially young people
5. Honorably represent oneself, one's team, and university by exhibiting pride in dress and behavior.
6. Present a positive demeanor at all times.
7. Show respect for all members of NIFA and the aviation community.
8. Treat people with civility and cooperate with people in authority.
9. Refrain from and be intolerant of physical abuse, harassment and intimidation.
10. Demonstrate responsible citizenship and good sportsmanship.

Student Competitors

SAFECON Responsibilities: Ambassadors of NIFA and aviation in general

Accordingly, Student Competitors are expected to:

1. Put aviation safety as their first and highest priority at all times.
2. Behave with dignity, respect and good sportsmanship.
3. Conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship during SAFECON competitions.
4. Reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in intercollegiate competition.
5. Conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on oneself and on the reputation of their university and NIFA both during and away for the SAFECON competition.
6. Maintain an attitude of respect toward opponents.
7. Look for ways to encourage and appreciate quality competition and effort, regardless of whether it's exhibited by a teammate or an opponent.
8. Comply with individual team rules, as established by the Coach/Advisor and their university.
9. Contestants shall not use any controlled substance, as defined by federal statute, while at an NIFA sanctioned event. This includes, but is not limited to marijuana, whether legal for recreational or medical use. This prohibition shall be in effect from the time of departure from the contestant's home airport until after the contestants return home. The only permitted exception shall be for prescribed medications permitted by the FAA.
10. While intensity and emotion is a part of intercollegiate competition, a student competitor should never demean the dignity and individuality of the opponent or the opposing teams. To this end, NIFA student competitors are expressly prohibited from engaging in the following behavior at any NIFA event:
 - Inappropriate behavior with the intent to demean opponents or NIFA officials.
 - Disrespectful attitude toward opponents or NIFA officials.
 - Vulgar language and/or gestures.



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RESOURCE HUB

