

C03 – Umpire Code of Conduct

Effective date	Thursday October 8th 2026
Version	1.0
Approved by	Sydney Outfielders Committee on Wednesday October 7th 2026.
Next review by	August 2027
Document status	Approved

Sydney Outfielders is built on a community-before-competition ethos. Guided by our principle of All Genders. All Abilities. All Welcome., we aim to provide a safe, inclusive and social environment where everyone can participate, learn, connect and enjoy softball.

Umpires play a vital role in upholding these values by ensuring games are conducted safely, fairly, consistently and in the spirit of good sportsmanship. This Code applies to all umpires officiating at Sydney Outfielders games and activities, including Association-appointed, volunteer, trainee and substitute umpires. Umpires are expected to act impartially, exercise sound judgement, communicate respectfully and uphold the Competition Rules, Codes of Conduct and Association policies while supporting a positive and inclusive experience for all participants.

UMPIRE CODE OF CONDUCT

As a volunteer umpire for Sydney Outfielders, you are expected to comply with this Code of Conduct, applicable Association policies and procedures, and relevant venue requirements and directions. You must also:

1. **Fairness and impartiality:** Apply the Rules fairly, consistently and impartially, without favouritism, and declare any actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest that could reasonably affect their impartiality, following directions for managing the conflict or reassignment.
2. **Safety and welfare:** Prioritise participant safety and welfare over results or game continuation, taking appropriate action where conditions, equipment, conduct or play become unsafe.
3. **Respectful conduct:** Treat all players, captains, fellow umpires, scorers, volunteers, Committee members and spectators with dignity, courtesy and respect.
4. **Inclusion and accessibility:** Respect all genders, identities, abilities, backgrounds and experience levels, accommodate accessibility needs and personal boundaries, and support reasonable adjustments permitted under the Competition Rules.
5. **Professionalism:** Be punctual, prepared, attentive and professional in presentation, language, behaviour and decision-making.
6. **Communication and decisions:** Make clear, confident calls, communicate calmly, and provide reasonable Rules clarification when appropriately requested by a co-captain. Acknowledge and correct errors honestly where permitted by the Rules.
7. **Disagreements and disputes:** Allow respectful discussion without permitting prolonged argument, intimidation or pressure to influence decisions. Refer unresolved matters through the Competition Rules process.
8. **Behaviour management:** Address inappropriate, aggressive, intimidating or dangerous conduct promptly, calmly and proportionately, exercising only the powers authorised by the umpire's role.
9. **Prohibited conduct:** Never bully, discriminate, harass, sexually harass, abuse, threaten, intimidate, vilify, deliberately endanger, ridicule, humiliate, provoke or retaliate against another person.
10. **Privacy and confidentiality:** Respect personal privacy and protect confidential, medical, complaint, incident and other sensitive information, disclosing it only through authorised Association processes or where otherwise required by law.
11. **Fitness to officiate:** Not officiate when alcohol, illicit substances, medication, fatigue or another condition materially impairs their ability to officiate safely, fairly and effectively.
12. **Incident reporting:** Promptly and factually report serious injuries, safety incidents, formal warnings, removals and significant conduct concerns through the appropriate Association procedures.
13. **Training and development:** Maintain any required training or accreditation, support trainee and volunteer umpires through constructive feedback and mentoring, and participate respectfully and honestly in reviews, Rules clarification and Association processes.
14. **Competition integrity:** Never deliberately miscall, manipulate or improperly influence a game for sporting, financial, betting or other improper purposes. Report any attempted inducement or improper influence.
15. **Improper use of information:** Never use or disclose non-public Association or competition information for betting, financial speculation or other improper advantage.

Umpires are expected to uphold Sydney Outfielders' **community-before-competition ethos**, helping ensure every game is safe, fair, inclusive, social and welcoming.

Breaches of this Code may be managed under the Competition Rules or the Association's complaints and disciplinary processes.

VERSION CONTROL

This version history records substantive changes to this document. Minor editorial corrections need not create a new approved version unless they alter meaning.

Version history

Version	Effective date	Change description	Author	Approval
1.0	8th October 2026	First Issue	Sydney Outfielders Committee	8th October 2026