



Code of Civility and Sportsmanship

Shared Values

All members of the Bulldog Club of Greater Seattle (“BCGS”) are expected to embody and uphold the organization’s core values at all times, both within club activities and in their conduct outside the club. These values serve as the foundation for a positive and welcoming environment where everyone can thrive, and the integrity of the sport is preserved.

- Lead by example with humility, kindness, and ethical conduct. Inspire others to uphold these standards consistently in all interactions and activities.
- Foster an inclusive and respectful atmosphere where diversity is not only accepted but valued, ensuring that every member feels welcome and supported.
- Preserve the sport for future generations by maintaining its integrity, honoring its traditions, and protecting its positive reputation in the broader community.

Responsibility to the Community

Each member has a duty to support the growth and health of the club community. This involves being proactive in helping others, encouraging participation, and ensuring the club’s standards are upheld.

- Support newcomers by offering mentorship, sharing education, and providing encouragement. This approach helps foster a culture of growth and inclusivity.
- Encourage both membership and active participation in club events and activities to strengthen connections and build a vibrant community.
- Uphold AKC rules, club bylaws, and breed standards with diligence, maintaining fairness and consistency in all aspects of club life.
- Avoid actions that could jeopardize the club’s integrity or legal standing by always acting with transparency and accountability.

Ethical Conduct and Civility

Ethical behavior and civility are essential to nurturing a positive and trusting environment. Members are expected to communicate honestly and respectfully, whether in person or online, and to act with dignity and humility in all interactions.

- Engage in honest, respectful, and courteous communication in all settings to foster a welcoming and positive environment.
- Avoid gossip, disparagement, bullying, or misleading statements that could harm individuals or the reputation of the sport.
- Accept constructive criticism graciously and approach every aspect of competition with humility and grace.

Communication Expectations

Effective and responsible communication is vital for maintaining the integrity of the club and the sport. Members should use all forms of communication thoughtfully and ensure that concerns are addressed appropriately.

- Use social media and written communications responsibly, focusing on sharing positive and accurate information that reflects well on the club and the sport.
- Avoid spreading rumors, innuendo, hostility, or misrepresentation that could damage reputations or the sport's standing.
- Direct any concerns or issues to the appropriate club leadership rather than public forums, so that matters can be resolved constructively and respectfully.

Commitment to Dogs and the Sport

The welfare of dogs and the preservation of the sport are at the heart of BCGS. Members are entrusted with upholding the highest standards for dog care and for the legacy of purebred dog sports.

- Prioritize the welfare, health, and well-being of dogs and their breeds, ensuring they lead happy, healthy lives.
- Maintain high standards of care, cleanliness, and responsible breeding practices to support the longevity and quality of the breeds.
- Respect the history, traditions, and integrity of purebred dog sports, honoring those who have contributed to the sport's legacy.
- Always conduct oneself in a manner that reflects positively on the sport and related organizations, acting as ambassadors for the community.

Sportsmanship in Competition

Sportsmanship is a cornerstone of the club's values. Members are expected to approach competition with fairness, professionalism, and respect for all participants.

- Treat exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, club members, and spectators with dignity and respect, acknowledging and appreciating their contributions.
- Compete honestly and fairly, judging and exhibiting dogs based solely on their merits without bias or favoritism.
- Understand and accept that reasonable minds may differ regarding competition outcomes and always respect differing opinions with professionalism.
- Show appreciation for competitors and recognize the effort they invest, fostering camaraderie and mutual respect among all participants.
- Decline to exhibit under judges where a conflict of interest may exist, in order to maintain impartiality and trust within the sport.

Accountability and Discipline

Accountability is essential to upholding the values and standards of BCGS. Members must understand the consequences of violating ethical expectations and the club's commitment to protecting the community from misconduct.

- Recognize that violations of ethical expectations may result in disciplinary action, which can include reprimands, suspension, or permanent removal from membership.
- Acknowledge that the club may take additional action in cases involving legal or ethical misconduct to ensure the safety and integrity of the community.