



Certified Trading Card Association, Inc. (CTCA)

Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct

Adopted: January 1, 2026

Required Annual Member Acknowledgment

1. Purpose of This Code

The Certified Trading Card Association, Inc. (CTCA) Code of Ethics establishes the professional, ethical, and integrity standards expected of all CTCA members. This Code protects consumers, strengthens the trading card industry, and ensures that CTCA membership is a mark of trust and professionalism.

All members must review and sign this Code annually as a condition of membership.

2. Core Ethical Principles

2.1 Integrity & Honesty

Members must conduct all business dealings truthfully, transparently, and without deception.

2.2 Professionalism

Members must uphold the highest standards of professionalism in all interactions with customers, partners, and fellow CTCA members.

2.3 Transparency

Members must disclose material information that affects the value, authenticity, or condition of trading cards or services.

2.4 Accountability

Members accept responsibility for their actions and agree to cooperate with CTCA's standards, audits, and enforcement processes.

2.5 Consumer Protection

Members must prioritize consumer safety, fairness, and confidence in all business practices.

2.6 Compliance with Laws & Regulations

Members must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, including consumer protection, advertising, privacy, and financial regulations.



3. Ethical Business Practices

3.1 Accurate Representation

- Accurately describe products, conditions, and services
- Avoid misleading claims or exaggerated valuations
- Provide clear terms for sales, breaks, grading, or consignment

3.2 Fair Dealing

- Treat customers and partners with respect
- Honor commitments and agreements
- Avoid predatory or exploitative practices

3.3 Authenticity & Counterfeit Prevention

- Take reasonable steps to verify authenticity
- Disclose known or suspected alterations
- Never knowingly sell counterfeit or fraudulent items

3.4 Responsible Breaking Practices

- Conduct breaks transparently and on camera
- Randomize teams fairly
- Ship cards promptly and securely
- Maintain accurate records of all breaks

3.5 Data Privacy

Members must protect customer data and use it only for legitimate business purposes.

4. Conflicts of Interest

4.1 Disclosure

Members must disclose any personal or financial interests that could influence their professional judgment.

4.2 Recusal

Members must remove themselves from decisions where a conflict exists.

4.3 Prohibited Conduct

- Use CTCA membership to secure improper personal gain
- Misrepresent CTCA endorsement or certification
- Engage in self-dealing or undisclosed partnerships



5. Marketing & Public Representation

5.1 Truthful Advertising

Members must ensure all marketing materials are accurate, non-deceptive, and compliant with CTCA standards.

5.2 Use of CTCA Branding

Members may use CTCA logos, badges, and certifications only as permitted and must remove them immediately upon suspension or termination.

5.3 Public Conduct

Members must not engage in public behavior that harms CTCA's reputation or the integrity of the industry.

6. Compliance With CTCA Standards

6.1 Standards Adherence

- Industry Standards v1.0
- Certified Breaker Program requirements
- Marketplace and shop best practices

6.2 Cooperation

Members must cooperate with CTCA investigations, audits, and compliance reviews.

6.3 Reporting Misconduct

Members are encouraged to report unethical behavior or violations of this Code.

7. Enforcement & Disciplinary Actions

Violations of this Code may result in:

- Written warnings
- Required corrective action
- Suspension of membership
- Revocation of membership
- Public notice (for severe violations)

All enforcement actions follow CTCA's published Enforcement & Disciplinary Process.

8. Annual Member Acknowledgment

All members must sign the following statement each year:

CTCA Code of Ethics Annual Acknowledgment

I, _____, as a member of the Certified Trading Card Association, Inc., hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide



by the CTCA Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct. I affirm my commitment to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and transparency in the trading card industry.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Business Name: _____