

Code of honour

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1. GENERAL REMARKS

1.1. The code of honour of the IFMGA is a set of rules about good behaviour. It promotes the good image of the mountain guides in the public, in front of their guests, different institutions and a good, loyal relationship among the guides.

1.2. The female and male mountain guides and aspirants (called mountain guides in this paper) respect these rules of behaviour.

2. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MG

2.1. The field of activity of the mountain guide includes the following activities:

Activities in the mountains such as mountaineering, climbing, hiking, tours and activities with snow sports equipment, for example ski touring and variant skiing / off-pist skiing. With the corresponding supplementary training, also included is canyoning, activities in education through practical experience in the sectors of mountaineering or rope techniques.

2.2. The mountain guide teaches the sporting activities which are mentioned under point 2.1., for this he uses the most appropriate teaching methods. He gives his participants an appropriate learning situation as they become more independent.

He can let them climb either as leaders or as an independent roped party, as long as they don't take any unnecessary risk.

The number of the students that he has to take care of may not exceed his capacity of supervision.

2.3. The mountain guide leads or accompanies a person or a group. He decides about the number of participants according to the local customs and/or rules, according to the abilities of his guests, to the degree of difficulty, to the risk, the length of the route and to the climatic conditions of the mountain.

2.4. The mountain guide can also work as a coach in all the sporting activities which are mentioned under point 2.1.

2.5. The mountain guide can function as a technical adviser for his participants, for municipalities and other private and public collectives, in their field of competences, especially with regard to the organization of courses, expeditions, teaching sessions etc.

2.6. The field of work of the mountain guide applies to:

- Mountains and high-mountains, adventure areas, rock, snow and ice

- All the artificial and natural structures which allow the mountain guide to execute his technical skills in activities held on structures

such as cliffs, boulders, artificial facilities..

Snow-covered areas incorporating: variant skiing / off-pist skiing, steep-wall-skiing, winter ascents using all kinds of aids.

2.7. The mountain guide is allowed to practise his activities in all countries.

While doing this he has to make himself aware of and understand and respect the local facts, customs and rules.

The mountain guide respects the limits of the fields of activities of other

professional groups and follows the current legal requirements.

3. THE POSITION OF THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE

3.1. The mountain guide can work as a director of a mountaineering school, as a freelancer or as an employee.

3.2. He can work freelance for an institution. His position allows him to keep

his autonomy concerning the organization of his work.

3.3. Independent of his position the mountain guide is responsible for all his

decisions and has to reject any project which is too risky for him or which

seems ethically doubtful.

In case of a problem that concerns security he informs the responsible organizations. He can refer to the code of honour of the IFMGA and/or to the

local rules and customs.

As an employee he is subject to the instructions of his employer as long as

they don't go against point 3.3.

4. GENERAL PROFESSIONAL DUTIES

4.1. All activities require caution, awareness and a certain respect concerning

the assessment of the conditions and the skills of the participants. A certain

inherent risk is unavoidable in the field of activities of the mountain guide.

The mountain guide can neither preview the precise risk, nor is allowed to

guarantee an absolute security to his participants.

4.2. The mountain guide must make himself aware of the current conditions and

uses the appropriate and up to date equipment according to the current situation.

4.3. When he is working, the mountain guide always carries along first-aid material or has immediate access to it. The same is valid for all the material that is necessary for a responsible undertaking of the corresponding activity.

4.4. He constantly keeps his knowledge and his technical skills up to date, especially in the sector of security, rescue and orientation.

4.5. In the mountains he answers questions of other mountaineers. He informs his colleagues and the appropriate organizations, about risks and abnormal dangers that he has discovered during his tour.

4.6. In case of an accident the mountain guide informs the nearest rescue centre or is to engage somebody else to do so. He should wherever possible help persons who have had an accident in a reasonable way, providing this does not make the situation dangerous for his own guests.

4.7. With his behaviour the mountain guide contributes to conservation of nature.

4.8. The mountain guides should behave in a loyal and helpful way towards each other. The mountain guides should especially avoid „competitions“ among each other and mutual pushing of the risk level caused by competitive thinking.

4.9. Within the bounds of his professional activities the mountain guide identifies himself through wearing visibly the mountain guides badge. He should

also carry his mountain guide's licence on his person.

4.10. The points 4.2. to 4.8. are also valid for sporting alpine activities

which do not take place during times of professional work.

4.11. The mountain guide endeavours to have and maintain good relations with the

people associated with his profession.

5. THE RELATION TO THE GUESTS

5.1. The mountain guide owes his guests a duty of care and esteem.

5.2. The guests have to be made aware of the fact that there is inherent risks

involved with activities that are undertaken with mountain guides.

Particular

dangers should be identified.

5.3. The primary goal of the mountain guide should be to offer a rewarding

experience for the guests. Because the mountain guide in the first instance

takes care of the security of his clients, the expectations and the skills of

the guests have to be balanced with the real conditions encountered.

5.4. The mountain guide especially takes care of the security of minors and specifically of the different stages of their development.

5.5. The mountain guide must always pay attention and ensure that there are

clear agreements set up with the guest, for example: aim of the tour, guiding

fee (even if the route is changed or stopped), additional costs etc.

5.6. He teaches his guests responsible behaviour according to the conditions and

develops their ability for self-control and self-responsibility. He verifies the

technical, physical standard and the equipment of his clients before, during and

after the activity.

5.7. If the mountain guide has for example, to help or to organize a rescue or

if special guiding techniques are demanded, he is allowed to leave his guests

alone in the mountains. A responsible assessment of the situation is the precondition for this.

5.8. The decision to stop a tour or to change a route should be done in dialogue

with the guests. The mountain guide has the right to make a decision for security reasons on his own. He should however explain the reasons of this

decision as soon as possible to his guests.