Eurovision Song Contest

Code of Conduct

For All Accredited Individuals

United by Music

Foreword

Welcome to the Code of Conduct for the Eurovision Song Contest.

The code contained within these pages has largely existed for some time, written through the Rules of the Contest and associated handbooks and contracts.

For the first time, we have drawn them together in one easy-to-read and easy-to-access place. That said, this document has been consulted on with all our Members and draws from their significant experience. For their hard work we remain truly thankful.

We are also integrating the Code into our accreditation system, so that agreeing to abide by the Code becomes a condition of accessing the event as an artist, member of staff, sponsor or stakeholder. We hope the language here is straightforward and highlights the relevant points. This is so that everyone can see that it is serious and meaningful.

The Code of Conduct only has one aim: that the Eurovision Song Contest remains a space to show the world as it could be: a celebration of diversity and community where everyone involved shares a common desire to respect one another, look out for each other, and affirm that our differences are far outstripped by our commonalities.

Of course, the Code respects and protects the rights of us all to personal opinion and freedom of speech. It also recognises that when we gather on the Eurovision Song Contest stage - when we take part in the world's greatest music show - we do so acknowledging that, for a moment, we can truly be United by Music.



Ana Maria Bordas
Chair of the Reference Group



Martin Green CBE
ESC Director

Introduction

The Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) is a non-political, international entertainment event co-produced by broadcasters who are Members of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

Its slogan is **United By Music**, rooted in its values of universality, equality, inclusivity and its proud tradition of celebrating diversity through music (the ESC Values).

To preserve this tradition and mission, the ESC must remain an inclusive platform where artists can showcase their talents free from political influence, and within a joyful atmosphere of celebration and unity.

To ensure a safe, respectful, and enjoyable experience for all, the EBU has established this Code of Conduct which outlines the expectations and guidelines for all individuals involved in the planning, execution, management, and attendance of the ESC, including staff, artists, performers, contributors, suppliers, sponsors, and delegation members, regardless of accreditation status.

It applies to all actions, activities, and endeavours related to the ESC, both within official ESC venues, when accessing the Online Media Centre and in any other context connected to the ESC.

No accreditation will be given to any individual without their agreement to be bound by the requirements of this Code of Conduct.

By taking part in the ESC - whether accredited or not - you agree to uphold the following principles.

1 Protect the Integrity of the Eurovision Song Contest

You are expected to safeguard the integrity, interests, and image of the ESC and its participants. Behaving positively enhances our shared experience and fosters a sense of community.

Respect ESC Values

The ESC embraces and promotes the values of universality, diversity, equality, and inclusivity. Everyone is expected to contribute to a welcoming environment free from intolerance, hate speech, harassment and discriminatory behaviour at all event locations and at all stages of the ESC, including before the event takes place.

Respect Political Neutrality

The ESC is a joyful, non-political event dedicated to celebrating music and culture. You are required to respect this mission by refraining from political promotion or related conduct, including actions, statements, or symbols during - or in relation to - the event.

- The ESC respects freedom of expression as a fundamental right. While participants retain their right to free speech outside the Contest, they are bound by the ESC's rules within the context of their performance and official activities related to the Event

- Participants can express themselves freely in a personal capacity but must avoid linking political views to their ESC participation. They must not instrumentalise the ESC or use the ESC as leverage by making political statements or causing controversies, thereby shifting focus away from the Event's purpose, which is celebrating music and promoting unity

Fair Play and Ethical Competition

- Fair Competition: Adhering to ESC Rules is essential to ensure a level playing field for everyone. We promote a spirit of healthy competition and kindly remind participants that any unethical behaviour or sabotage is strictly prohibited and will lead to sanctions.

- Respect for Voting: Maintaining the integrity of the voting process is vital. We appreciate everyone's commitment to upholding this integrity. Any manipulation, or attempt to influence the results or the outcome of the ESC is not permitted and will be severely sanctioned in accordance with this Code of Conduct and the ESC Rules.

2 Behave Responsibly

Do not behave in a way that could diminish the experience for others; or limit, hinder or interfere with their ability to perform their duties effectively or work professionally.

Professional Behaviour

The ESC is a professional workplace. You must maintain a respectful, courteous and professional attitude at all times while performing duties in relation to the ESC. Everyone must be treated with kindness, respect, fairness, courtesy and on an equal basis. A non-exhaustive list of prohibited behaviours is attached to this Code of Conduct.

Positive Interactions

We stand firmly against any kind of harassment, bullying, hate speech, and any form of discrimination. You are expected to avoid any actions or behaviours that put others at risk. Treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or other protected characteristics.

Adherence to Local Law, Instructions, Rules & Protocols

You must comply with all applicable local laws, health, safety, security and emergency protocols to maintain a safe environment for all attendees. In particular, you must comply fully with the security checks and access controls established at the official ESC Venues. Adherence to these measures is mandatory to ensure the safety and integrity of all participants and staff.

Accreditation Cards

Accreditation Cards are personal and non-transferable. You must not lend your Cards to others, even if they are accredited. The Cards remain the property of the Host Broadcaster.

All holders must visibly wear their Cards at all times within ESC venues and premises, including official locations requiring accreditation access. Performing artists may remove their cards as directed by the production crew.

Cards must be returned to the Host Broadcaster or the EBU immediately upon request.

Cards must not be reproduced.

Do not share pictures of your Accreditation Cards on social media.

3 Communicate Responsibly

We support and respect open expression and freedom of speech.

You are expected to maintain a positive and respectful tone in all forms of communication, including during interviews and on social media in the context of your participation in the ESC.

In particular, bear in mind that some of the participants and many of the ESC audience are young people.

4 Engage Actively

Artists are expected to actively participate in rehearsals and performances, and all individuals must respect these commitments.

Adhering to schedules and supporting the smooth operation of activities is essential for the success of the collective effort. This dedication not only ensures a seamless experience but also respects the efforts of everyone involved.

5 Respect Performances and Collaboration

We encourage all attendees to appreciate every performance and the talent involved.

Disruptive behaviour is to be avoided at all times, particularly during live performances and ongoing production activities, to ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants and the audience.

Mutual respect between artists and technical and creative staff is essential. By collaborating and following approved staging directions and instructions, we ensure the smooth execution of performances and of the event, benefiting everyone involved.

6 Protect Youth Participants

All individuals involved in the ESC have a duty of care to ensure that the safety of young people (under-18s) participating in the ESC is a priority.

Everyone must adhere to the ESC Protection & Safeguarding Policy for Youth Participants and the ESC Code of Behaviour with Young Persons Aged Under 18 to ensure the protection of children and young people.

7 Be Mindful when Making Content

Respect the privacy of others while capturing photos or videos and adhere to onsite instructions and signage regarding photography and filming.

Adhere to the ESC Filming Rules to maintain a respectful and enjoyable environment for all.

8 Prohibited Items and Activities

Prohibited Items

Certain items, behaviours and activities are banned from the event premises, including, but not limited to:

- Weapons or dangerous objects
- Fireworks or pyrotechnic devices
- Professional recording devices, unless explicitly authorised in view of your accreditation category
- Wireless equipment (e.g. microphones and cameras)
- Offensive banners or symbols, which are not in line with the ESC values and the provisions of this Code of Conduct

Inappropriate Behaviours

- Illegal substances: Using or being under the influence of illegal drugs is prohibited
- As with any workplace, we recommend refraining from alcohol consumption while working. It is essential to exercise particular care when working to maintain safe and productive environment in line with applicable Health and Safety Guidelines in the workplace
- Intoxicated behaviour around under-18s, or that threatens the safety or experience of others, will not be tolerated
- Abusive language, verbal or physical aggression or sexual harassment will not be tolerated
- Any of the behaviours described in Appendix I will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the event

Prohibited Materials

Promoting, carrying into, or wearing on any event premises any political, religious (other than personal religious objects), racist, or promotional material, signs, objects, or messages is prohibited.

Prohibited Commercial Activities

Selling, offering to sell, or possessing goods or services with the intent to sell, whether online or offline, is strictly prohibited within the event premises. This includes the sale or promotion of materials through any platform, unless expressly authorised by the EBU and/or the Host Broadcaster.

Reporting Violations

If you witness or experience any inappropriate behaviour or violations of this Code of Conduct, please report it to the ESC Code of Conduct Manager.

All concerns will be taken seriously and handled in a professional manner, according to established protocols.

Contacts are named in the Media Handbook, ESC Production App, and the Delegation Handbook.

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Consequences of Misconduct

The duty to follow this Code of Conduct is included in the Terms and Conditions for Accreditation at the ESC and under the Rules of the ESC. Any violation of this Code of Conduct will be addressed by the Code of Conduct Committee (COCC) .

The COCC is composed of one Representative from the Host Broadcaster, the ESC Director, the ESC Executive Producer, the Chair of the Reference Group and an elected member of the Reference Group. Decisions will be taken according to applicable protocols.

To ensure that everyone is protected and can enjoy the event in a safe and respective environment, we have adopted a zero-tolerance policy. Any serious misconduct will lead to immediate removal from the event and withdrawal of accreditation.

Depending on the severity of the misconduct, legal action may also be pursued, and individuals may be reported to local authorities.

By following the Code of Conduct, you contribute to a positive, respectful, and safe experience for everyone.

Let's all work together to ensure that the Eurovision Song Contest continues to be a joyful and inclusive event that showcases the best of our diverse cultures.

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Appendix

Examples of Prohibited Behaviours during the Eurovision Song Contest

Harassment and Bullying

- Verbal Abuse: Mocking accents, insulting appearance, belittling achievements, or using discriminatory language against individuals based on race, nationality, gender, or other personal traits
- Physical Intimidation: Threatening gestures, blocking someone's path, or using aggressive body language to create an uncomfortable or hostile environment
- Cyberbullying: Posting derogatory comments, spreading rumours, or encouraging online harassment of other participants
- Unwelcome Physical Contact: Unwanted touching, pulling someone by the arm, shoulder or clothing, or other non-consensual physical interactions that invade personal space

Sexual Harassment

- Inappropriate Remarks: Making sexually suggestive comments or jokes that make others uncomfortable
- Unwanted Advances: Persistently pursuing romantic or physical interactions in a manner that is inappropriate or unwelcome. This includes any behaviour that creates discomfort, pressure or a hostile environment
- Inappropriate Relations in ESC Workspaces: Engaging in sexual relations in workspaces or production areas, even if consensual, as this can create discomfort or unprofessional environments

Disruptive and Disrespectful Conduct

- Interruption of Events: Yelling, loud critiques, or distracting actions that interfere with rehearsals, performances, or other official ESC functions
- Non-Compliance with Event Protocols: Ignoring official guidelines or security instructions, or engaging in prolonged disruptive behaviour that could impact event flow and others' participation

- Refusal to Follow Safety Guidelines: Disregarding safety protocols established by the EBU, the Host Broadcaster, security, or venue staff, potentially endangering the safety of all attendees

Hate Speech

- Targeted Harassment: Using slurs, derogatory remarks, or promoting stereotypes based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or other protected characteristics
- Incitement of Hostility or Violence: Advocating harm or displaying hostile language toward a group or individual
- Disrespectful Religious or Cultural Mockery: Making offensive remarks about someone's religious beliefs, cultural practices, or personal identity

Abusive & Aggressive Behaviour

- Verbal Aggression: Shouting insults, using offensive language, or making threatening remarks that create an unsafe atmosphere
- Physical Altercations: Any form of aggressive physical interaction with participants, staff, or attendees
- Hostile or Intimidating Body Language: Displaying threatening gestures, such as pointing fingers aggressively, raising a fist or a hand aggressively or inappropriately, or standing too close in a menacing way

Online & Social Media Misconduct

- Defamatory Posts: Sharing harmful or untrue content about ESC participants or the EBU, the Host Broadcaster or the Participating Broadcasters
- Doxxing and Threats: Posting personal information or sending threatening messages with the intent to incite hostility
- Encouraging Public Harassment: Sharing information that promotes targeted harassment or hate campaigns online

Risky or Dangerous Behaviours

- Endangering Others' Safety: Tampering with safety equipment, blocking emergency exits, or failing to report hazards, which could put others at risk
- Violating Safety Protocols: Attempting to enter restricted areas, ignoring evacuation procedures, or bypassing security checkpoints, creating potential risks for others

Alcohol & Substance Abuse

- Intoxicated Behaviour: Excessive drinking or substance use that leads to unsafe or disruptive actions, especially in professional ESC settings
- Illegal Substances: Consuming and/or being under the influence of prohibited drugs or other controlled substances in ESC venues

Privacy Violations & Unauthorised Filming

- Filming without Consent: Recording individuals in private areas or designated no-filming zones
- Filming in breach of ESC Publication Rules: Filming or recording where filming/recording is prohibited by ESC Rules (such as during rehearsals).
- Distributing Private Information: Sharing personal details of participants or staff without permission, violating their privacy

Damage to Property

- Vandalism: Defacing or tampering with any property, decorations, equipment, or areas at the venue or in any official locations
- Creating Safety Hazards: Engaging in reckless or destructive behaviour that could result in unsafe conditions, such as breaking equipment or tampering with safety setups

Prohibited Commercial Activities

- Unauthorised Sales or Promotions: Selling merchandise or distributing promotional materials without prior consent
- Soliciting Donations: Requesting money or promoting personal services in event areas without permission
- Prohibition on Monetisation of Event Attendance: Monetising directly or indirectly any content related to your attendance at the ESC, whether in the Media Centre or any other area of the venue, via instant revenue streaming features such as YouTube's Super Thanks, TikTok's LIVE Gifts, or similar methods

Any other behaviour that could be considered criminal or anti-social.