



IMechE Formula Student

The Formula Student competition cycle is a trademark of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Formula Student Code of Conduct - summary

Before you read the full Code, here's what matters most.

At Formula Student, we expect everyone to behave safely, respectfully and professionally at all times: on site, in the campsite, and in anything related to the event.

Safety comes first

- Always follow safety rules and instructions immediately.

Respect everyone

- Treat all participants, staff and volunteers with dignity.

Be professional

- Communicate respectfully and accept decisions appropriately.

No drugs

- Illegal drugs are strictly prohibited at all times.

Drink responsibly

- No alcohol in garages or before driving. Always act responsibly.

Follow instructions

- Event staff and volunteers are there to keep everyone safe - listen and act when asked.

Raise issues properly

- If something is wrong, report it through the correct channels - not on social media.

If you don't follow this Code

You may be:

- Removed from site
- Have your access or accommodation withdrawn
- Prevented from taking part in the event

Remember

You represent:

- Your team
- Your university
- The Formula Student community

Your behaviour matters

Code of Conduct (Effective 2026)

1. Purpose

At the heart of Formula Student is a commitment to delivering a safe, fair, educational and professional environment. All students and Faculty Advisors are expected to uphold the following principles at all times.

This Code of Conduct (hereafter referred to as code) sets out the behaviour expected of everyone attending or participating in all Formula Student events or when representing Formula Student or the IMechE in any capacity (including but not limited to Formula Student, Sim Racing, Learn to Win, speaking on behalf of Formula student at events and FSAI Test days.)

Our aim is to create a safe, fair, respectful and professional environment where all participants can learn and perform at their best.

This Code applies alongside the Formula Student Rules and official guidance. All participants must follow both at all times.

This document must be read alongside the Formula Student Rules and official guidance published on the Formula Student website, which must be adhered to at all times.

It:

- Provides clear expectations for conduct onsite including adherence to Safety Protocols, Equity Diversity and Respect expectations, General Behaviour and in event-related communications
- Establishes a structured process for raising and managing concerns
- Establishes that the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), as Event Organiser, has the authority to take immediate action where required
- Supports a safe, respectful, educational and professionally delivered competition environment

This Code forms part of the governance framework of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and operates alongside:

- IMechE Code of Conduct
- IMechE Disciplinary policy and procedures
- IMechE Serious Concerns and Complaints Policy

- Safeguarding policies
- Motorsport UK Race with Respect Code
- Formula Student Supplementary Regulations and Formula Student AI Competition Rules

Where multiple policies apply, the higher standard shall prevail.

2. Scope

This Code applies to:

- Students
- Observers
- Faculty Advisers
- University staff onsite

It applies:

- Anytime during Formula student events where people are representing the event or associated with it
 - Competition site
 - Campsite and accommodation (including hotels)
 - Travel to and from the event
 - Third party events where teams are representing Formula Student
- With respect to any communication relating to the competition cycle and any associated events (including WhatsApp and social media)
- In any event-provided accommodation – including the campsite
- In any public or online communication relating to Formula Student

3. Core Principles

All individuals covered by this Code must:

1. Prioritise safety above all else
2. Act with integrity and professionalism
3. Support the educational ethos of Formula Student
4. Treat all individuals with dignity and respect
5. Protect the reputation of IMechE and the Formula Student competition and it's sponsors and partners

4. Expected Standards of Conduct

4.1 Safety Comes First

Safety is the top priority at all times.

You must:

- Follow all safety rules, briefings and instructions
- Act immediately if you identify a risk
- Never compromise safety for convenience, time or competition results
- Follow instructions from staff and volunteers without delay

Critical Safety Rules:

- No welding, grinding or carbon fibre work outside designated areas
- Use safety whistles when instructed
- Respond immediately to emergency instructions
- Anyone with a driver wristband must not consume alcohol before driving

4.2 Act with Integrity & Professionalism

All behaviour must reflect honesty, respect and accountability. You are expected to behave professionally at all times.

This includes:

- Communicating respectfully with officials, volunteers and other teams
- Accepting decisions without confrontation
- Raising concerns through the correct channels
- Following official processes for protests and appeals within the stated time limits

If you wish to make use of the Points & Disputes/appeals windows then the following applies:

- Must be raised within defined time limits
- Must follow official processes in the rules and handbook
- Must be communicated politely and professionally

4.3 Equality, Diversity and Respect

Formula Student has zero tolerance for harassment, discrimination or bullying.

You must:

- Treat everyone fairly and with respect
- Avoid offensive language, behaviour or gestures
- Not discriminate based on age, disability, gender, gender identity, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation
- Report any inappropriate behaviour

Behaviour that goes against the Motorsport UK *Race with Respect* Code will be treated as a serious breach.

4.4 Support the Educational Ethos

Formula Student is an educational competition.

You are expected to:

- Focus on learning and development
- Engage positively with judges and feedback
- Faculty Advisors must support and guide students but not carry out the work on their behalf.

4.4 Social Media and Public Conduct

When using social media or speaking publicly, you must:

- Act respectfully and responsibly
- Not share confidential judging discussions or internal decisions
- Not post content that damages the integrity or reputation of the event
- Concerns or complaints must be raised through official channels, not on social media.

4.5 Alcohol, Drugs and Personal Conduct

The following are not allowed:

- Use of illegal drugs at any time
- Drinking alcohol in garages or while operating equipment
- Drinking alcohol before driving or participating in driving activities
- Alcohol must be consumed responsibly at all times.
- Behaviour in accommodation/ campsite that damages property, creates risk, or causes reputational harm.
- Smoking or vaping outside designated areas.

You must also:

- Respect accommodation and campsite rules
- Not behave in a way that causes damage, risk or disruption
- Only smoke or vape in designated areas

The IMechE operate a zero tolerance policy to this and serious breaches may result in immediate removal from the event and being reported to the appropriate authorities if the breach is deemed serious enough.

4.6 Campsite Rules

All competition rules apply in the campsite.

You must:

- Not carry out mechanical or metal work in the campsite
- Follow all campsite staff instructions
- Respect other participants
- A strict 11:00pm quiet time applies.

Failure to follow campsite rules may result in removal from the site. No refunds or alternative accommodation will be provided.

Where individuals cannot be identified, action may be taken at team level.

4.7 Unacceptable Behaviour (Non-Exhaustive)

- Examples of unacceptable behaviour include:
- Aggressive, abusive or threatening behaviour
- Bullying, harassment or discrimination
- Ignoring safety instructions
- Intimidating or pressuring others
- Retaliating against someone who raises a concern
- Making false or malicious allegations

This list is not exhaustive. IMechE reserves the right to determine whether behaviour falls below acceptable standards. We ask all participants promote an inclusive environment.

5. Raising Concerns and Escalation

5.1 Immediate Reporting

If something is wrong, report it as soon as possible.

- Immediate danger or emergency: seek support from the safety and medical team onsite (in high viz jackets) or emergency services
- Safety issue: inform event staff or the Info Point immediately
- Safeguarding or serious concern: speak to the Safeguarding Lead or MSUK representative
- Competition or rules issue: follow the official protest or reporting process

You can also speak to your Faculty Advisor.

No one will be treated unfairly for raising a genuine concern.

6.2 Responsibility of Faculty Advisors

We ask that all Faculty Advisors support the event through the following:

- Ensuring compliance with rules and conduct
- Promoting safe and professional behaviour
- Taking responsibility for team conduct

6.3 IMechE Investigation Process - Depending on severity:

If a concern is raised:

- Immediate action may be taken to manage risk
- Information may be collected from those involved
- Senior event staff will review the situation

Serious matters may be referred to:

- IMechE disciplinary processes
- Motorsport UK
- External authorities where required

Where safeguarding concerns arise, appropriate safeguarding procedures will take precedence.

7. Authority to Suspend or Remove from Site

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, as event Organiser, reserves the right to take action where this code is breached. The IMechE will designate a Senior IMechE representative onsite who will action these steps as outlined in the Code of Conduct:

This may include:

- Removing individuals from site
- Suspending access or accreditation
- Removing access to accommodation
- Preventing future participation

In serious cases, individuals may be asked to leave immediately.

Failure to comply may result in escalation to venue management or authorities.

Suspension may occur:

- Where there is credible evidence of serious misconduct
- Where safety may be compromised
- Where continued presence may prejudice an investigation
- Where behaviour poses reputational risk

Suspension is a neutral act pending investigation and does not imply guilt.

Failure to comply with an instruction to leave site may result in escalation to venue management or external authorities. In the event you are asked to leave the site no refunds will be offered.

8. Post-Event Action

After review, outcomes may include:

- No further action
- A formal warning
- Removal from the event
- Exclusion from future events
- Referral to disciplinary or legal processes
 1. A criminal act will be referred to the police and all matters arising will then be led by the police process and CPS in accordance with UK law

9. Acknowledgement

By attending Formula Student, all students and Faculty Advisors confirm that they:

- Have read and understood this Code
- Agree to follow it
- Accept that IMechE may take action if it is not followed
- Have read the rules and handbook

Failure to agree to this Code will result in withdrawal of event accreditation.

10. Review and Amendment

This Code may be updated at any time. The most recent version will be published on the IMechE Formula Student website and will supersede previous versions.