

Irish Whiskey Society (“IWS”) Code of Conduct July 2015

Objectives

The principal objectives of the IWS are to preserve the history and heritage of Irish Whiskey and to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of Irish whiskeys by all, whilst also appreciating other whiskeys of the world in an independent manner, free of commercial influence or gain.

Scope

This code of conduct applies to all Members, Associate Members and Honorary Members, “Members”. Where any conflict or question of interpretation arises, the Executive Committee and Officers, “Committee” will be the sole and final arbitrator.

Principles of the Code

1. Responsible Drinking – IWS and its Members shall at all times represent the consumption of whiskey as a social activity that people may or may not choose to enjoy. Representations that challenge such choice or present the consumption of whiskey for purposes other than social enjoyment shall not be made.
2. Comply with Drinking Laws – The Members will maintain general awareness of drinking laws and no communications shall suggest or otherwise imply any activity not in support of and compliant with drinking laws.
3. General Conduct at Tasting and Meetings – Speakers conducting tastings shall encourage responsible consumption and discourage activities that could lead to excessive consumption. Attendees will at all times be courteous and respectful to speakers and other attendees, and responsibly enjoy any alcohol that is served. Attendees also have a duty of care to others and shall advise IWS Committee members of any consumption or behaviour not in conformance with this principle.
4. No Commercial Gain – Members are prohibited from accepting any gifts, commissions or any other form of personal remuneration resulting from or attributing to their membership in the Irish Whiskey Society. Any receipts of whiskey, or other donations shall be deemed to be donations to the Irish Whiskey Society and not any individual. Such items shall be given to the Committee.
5. Conflicts of Interest – Nothing prohibits Members from participation in multiple whiskey tasting societies. Members are expected to use good judgment to identify any other potential conflicts of interest, especially where questions of commercial gain arise, and discuss them with the Committee.
6. Relationships with Suppliers, Speakers and Industry Representatives – Members are encouraged to interact with suppliers, speakers and industry representatives. Members are expected to inform the Committee of substantive interactions. Only the IWS Committee is authorized to take decisions on engagements with third parties.

7. Privacy & Confidentiality – Each Member’s personal information will be treated as private and confidential. The IWS has no right of use of this data without explicit approval from the Member.
8. Conduct Unbecoming - When in fact representing, or a third party believes you are representing the IWS, public conduct by a Member that defames, damages or otherwise is disrespectful of the IWS, its suppliers, speakers or any other external relationships of the IWS may be considered by the Committee as a breach of this code of conduct.
9. Committee Duty of Care - Committee members shall not simultaneously serve as a Committee member on another whiskey society, without prior approval of the Committee. All Committee meetings, minutes, discussions and communications among the Committee related to the IWS shall be deemed as confidential information unless otherwise stated or such information is in the public domain.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct

1. If it should come to the attention of the Committee that any Member has materially and to the detriment of the IWS breached this code of conduct, the Committee shall have the power to expel or suspend such member. No resolution of the Committee for such expulsion or suspension shall be passed unless it is carried by the votes of at least two-thirds of those present at a valid meeting of the Committee.
2. If any Member shall be expelled, suspended or removed, the expulsion, suspension or removal shall be communicated either directly or by registered letter to their last known address. Any subscriptions paid shall be forfeited.