



# SSOP Code of Conduct

## Introduction

This Code of Conduct applies to all members of the **Sector Special Operations Patrollers (SSOP)** and its substructures.

Its purpose is to maintain professionalism, integrity, discipline, and operational excellence while ensuring the safety and trust of the community we serve.

As representatives of SSOP, all members are expected to uphold this Code of Conduct in their actions, words, and decisions.

Violations of this Code may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the organisation.

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## 1. General Conduct

All SSOP members must:

- a. **Uphold Professionalism:**  
Conduct themselves with discipline, integrity, and respect in all interactions with the public, fellow members, and law enforcement partners.
- b. **Respect Authority:**  
Follow instructions issued by the Patrol Captain, Vice Patrol Captains, and other authorised leaders.
- c. **Promote Safety:**  
Prioritize the safety and well-being of the community, team members, and themselves in all operations.
- d. **Maintain Confidentiality:**  
Ensure that operational information is kept confidential and is not shared outside the SSOP without explicit authorization.
- e. **Avoid Discrimination:**  
Refrain from engaging in or promoting sexism, racism, or any form of abusive or derogatory behaviour.  
Members of SSOP and its structures shall not promote any party politics.

## 2. Communication

- a. **Operational Communication:**  
All communication during operations must be conducted through the designated radio network. Mobile phones may only be used in emergencies or with the Patrol Captain's permission.
- b. **Professional Language:**  
Use only professional language, avoiding slang, jokes, or casual remarks during active operations.
- c. **Phonetic Alphabet and Codes:**  
All members must use the standard phonetic alphabet and incident codes to ensure clarity and professionalism.

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<b>Author:</b>	F. Ismail	<b>Approval:</b>	L. Marinus
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d. **No Unauthorized Sharing:**

Members are prohibited from sharing operational information, videos, or images on social media or with unauthorized parties.

### 3. Confidentiality

a. **Operational Secrecy:**

All information regarding SSOP operations, strategies, or member details must remain confidential.

b. **Non-Disclosure:**

Members must sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) as a condition of their membership.

### 4. Appearance and Equipment

a. **Uniform Standards:**

Members must wear the approved SSOP uniform during operations and ensure it is clean and presentable at all times.

b. **Equipment Maintenance:**

Members are responsible for maintaining their equipment, including radios, reflective jackets, and other issued items.

c. **Vehicle Standards:**

Members must ensure their vehicles are in proper working order. Red/blue lights and sirens are prohibited unless the vehicle is registered as an emergency vehicle under South African law.

### 5. Responsibilities During Operations

a. **Attendance:**

Members must participate in assigned operations, including mandatory training sessions and briefings.

b. **Incident Reporting:**

Every incident must be documented using the designated electronic form. Incomplete or delayed reporting is unacceptable.

c. **Respect Protocols:**

Members must defer to law enforcement or emergency services when they take charge of a scene.

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## 6. Prohibited Conduct

a. **Unprofessional Behaviour:**

Gossiping, backstabbing, or badmouthing other members is strictly forbidden. Concerns must be addressed directly with the individual involved or the Patrol Captain.

b. **Alcohol and Drugs:**

Members must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances while on duty.

c. **Unauthorized Operations:**

Members may not conduct operations or patrols without prior approval from the Patrol Captain.

d. **Misuse of Resources:**

SSOP resources, including radios must only be used for official purposes.

e. **Conflict of Interest:**

Members must disclose any conflicts of interest and refrain from participating in related decisions or operations.

## 7. Training and Meetings

a. **Mandatory Training:**

All members must complete training in the following areas:

- Basic Emergency First Aid Responder
- Basic Firefighting
- Crime Scene Management
- Incident Command
- Tactical Training
- Investigative Techniques

b. **Attendance Requirements:**

Members must attend monthly meetings and training sessions. Missing more than two consecutive meetings without valid reasons will result in disciplinary action.

## 8. Reporting Misconduct

a. **Reporting Process:**

Any member witnessing misconduct must report it to the Patrol Captain or the Disciplinary Committee.

b. **Whistleblower Protection:**

Members reporting violations in good faith will be protected from retaliation.

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## 9. Complaints

- All SSOP Patrollers shall submit complaints in writing with his / hers preferred outcome or suggestions regarding the complaint to the SSOP Captain.
- The SSOP captain shall acknowledge the complaint received and review it with the SSOP Executive committee at the next scheduled meeting.
- The Executive Committee shall review the complaint and inform the complainant of the outcome after the EXCO meeting.
- Where required the necessary corrective action will be taken.
- If the complainant is not satisfied, he / she must appeal the decision taken by the committee whereby the committee will schedule a meeting with the complainant.
- No SSOP members are allowed to submit or discuss complaints to any external party or authority without following the SSOP internal complaints procedure.
- No external complaints will be considered, SSOP is not obligated to follow any third parties decisions on its internal members, policies, procedures or controls in place.

## 10. Disciplinary Procedures

- **Immediate Suspension:** The Patrol Captain may suspend any member without notice pending a disciplinary hearing if their actions compromise SSOP operations or reputation.
- **Hearing Process:** The Disciplinary Committee will review violations and decide on appropriate actions, which may include:
  - Verbal or written warnings
  - Suspension from duties
  - Expulsion from SSOP
  - Legal action, if warranted
- **Right to Appeal:** Members have the right to appeal disciplinary decisions within five (5) days of receiving notice.
- Refer to the SSOP Disciplinary Procedure for the complete process to be followed.

## 11. SSOP Policies & Procedures

- a. All SSOP Patrollers shall familiarise themselves with the SSOP Constitution, policies and procedures.
- b. SSOP Patrollers shall adhere to SSOP policies and procedures at all times.

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## 12. Legal Compliance

a. **Adherence to Laws:**

All members must comply with South African laws during SSOP operations.

b. **Firearm Compliance:**

Members with firearms must provide the make, model, and serial number of the weapon, along with a copy of their valid firearm license.

## 13. Review

This Code of Conduct may be reviewed and amended by EXCO with a 14-day notice to all members.

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## 14. Agreement to the Code of Conduct

By signing this document, I, the undersigned, confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the SSOP Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that any violation of this Code may result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or expulsion from the organisation.

**Date:**

**Place:**

**Name of Member:**

**Signature:**

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