



Code of Conduct & Ethics

Code of Conduct & Ethics Revisions		
Date	Revised By	Reason
27 th June 2020	Bob Black	Draft Copy issued for review
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Falkirk Camera Club – Code of Conduct and Ethics

Preamble

Falkirk Camera Club (FCC) is a large club with a diverse membership representing a range of ages and cultures. It is split between male and female club members and is active in many photographic undertakings.

Codes of Conduct and Ethics are adopted by organisations to assist members in understanding the difference between ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ and applying that understanding to their decisions. A Code of Conduct and Ethics will set out values and moral concepts that underpin how a collective group should behave.

The FCC Code of Conduct and Ethics provides behavioural standards for club members with which to comply or exceed. We have an obligation, both as a collective and as individual photographers, to manage ourselves in many situations, e.g. nature and wildlife photography, street photography and photojournalism, portraiture and the use of models.

We are all obliged to show respect for the environment, respect for public and private property, and the mental or physical welfare of others. We also have an obligation to ourselves in the terms of how we behave when using and presenting photographic content, with respect to plagiarism, copyright and the feeling or beliefs of others.

Personal integrity and acceptable standards cannot be created or preserved by written rules alone, but, depend on the understanding and judgement of individuals who aim to behave at all times with integrity, sensitivity and awareness in undertaking their photographic pursuits. The FCC Code of Conduct and Ethics is intended to raise awareness of relevant issues and promote responsible behaviour and photographic practices.

Club members are reminded that in all circumstances they must adhere to all laws and regulations applicable to the jurisdiction where they are photographing, and must comply with regulations, signs or notices presented by relevant authorities.

Where a breach of the FCC Code of Conduct & Ethics has been observed and reported, the constitution of Falkirk Camera Club sets out the disciplinary framework by which the committee can respond to the situation and take representations from all parties before deciding on an outcome aimed at protecting the best interests of FCC as a public organisation.



Falkirk Camera Club – Code of Conduct and Ethics

The FCC Committee reserves the right to amend the Code of Conduct & Ethics when required.

1. Reputation

It is the responsibility of every FCC member to ensure that his or her actions reflect positively on the club and upon the photographic leisure and professional industry.

- a. Members should not undertake any action that will bring the reputation of FCC into question or disrepute.
- b. Members should act in the best interests of Falkirk Camera Club.
- c. Members have the responsibility to understand this code as well as applicable laws and regulations affecting the photographic industry.
- d. All FCC members should strive to follow the spirit of the FCC Code of Conduct and Ethics. Payment of the annual subscription will be confirmation of their agreement to abide by the code. This code also applies to Honorary Life memberships and to guests participating in club events.
- e. The FCC Committee reserves the right to refuse membership to new applicants and to revoke membership of FCC to any person who is deemed by the Committee to have breached the code.

2. Falkirk Camera Club Members – General

All FCC members are entitled to be treated with dignity, respect and common courtesy in their contacts with others and need to act with integrity towards others at all times. All members are expected to adhere to this code of conduct.

- a. Members shall not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, creed, religion or political affiliation for their own personal or financial benefit.
- b. Members should ensure that their dealings with others exemplify and actively foster an environment of mutual trust and respect.
- c. Members shall not engage in sexual harassment or any behaviour which may be reasonably interpreted as demeaning or as an unwanted sexual advance.
- d. Members should actively support and where possible assist in the education of all interested persons on matters relating to photography.
- e. Members shall respect other people's property and possessions
- f. Prior consent from the relevant Committee Member must be sought when taking, using, or borrowing any FCC equipment. A Declaration For Responsibility For Loan Items form must be completed at the point of issue and the items signed back in when returned. A Club Member in possession of club property is responsible for its repair or replacement if damage

Falkirk Camera Club – Code of Conduct and Ethics

is incurred to the main item and for the replacement of any lost or damaged constituent accessories. Any such damage or loss should be reported immediately to the General Secretary plus one other committee member.

- g. Members should treat others with courtesy and seek permission before joining others already photographing in a specified area.
- h. Members shall treat all subjects and models with respect and dignity.
- i. Where a Club member is engaged to photograph a model(s) or member(s) of the public while representing FCC then the member should ensure completion of a model release form where applicable.
- j. Members shall not unfairly claim ownership or creative endeavour when using or incorporating another photographer's or artist's work or misrepresent their own involvement in creating the work or misrepresent it as entirely their own creative and intellectual property.
- k. Members must never deliberately exaggerate their qualifications nor misrepresent the authorship of work presented in self-promotion.
- l. Postings by members in social media such as the FCC website, Facebook etc, must not contain libellous or defamatory material.
- m. Submitting an image for photo review, critique, monthly challenge or endorsed interclub or national competitions grants FCC the right (revocable by members request) to display the image on the Club's website, to select the image as the front image of a gallery and to otherwise represent member's photographic endeavours in a manner that encourages others to join FCC. Such submissions do not grant FCC the right to use member's images for other purposes without permission.
- n. Members are requested to turn off mobile phones or switch them to silent mode during FCC meetings.
- o. All FCC members should avoid conflicts of interest if possible. In cases where a conflict of interest arises, they should declare the conflict. For example, an FCC member who also has membership of another club associated to the Scottish Photographic Federation (SPF) or Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) should record that other membership(s) on their FCC Membership Form. Any such member should also state whether or not their images will be available to FCC for use in all external competitions/events during the forthcoming season, e.g. Inter Club, SPF or PAGB competitions/events. If no indication is given, and to avoid confusion or embarrassment to either club, their images will not be considered.
- p. All contributions, either in writing or verbal to a FCC meeting, Social Media or Video Conferencing activity should always be courteous, positive and respectful to all individuals or organisations and without any criticism, whether direct or implied.

3. Wildlife Code of Ethics

The FCC Wildlife Code of Ethics is a guide for all members to follow in order to help protect and not cause harm to all nature and wildlife subjects, the environment, and also encourages actions that promote safety for the photographer and the subject.



Falkirk Camera Club – Code of Conduct and Ethics

Club members should regard the safety and well-being of their subjects **ABOVE** the importance of capturing their images. Members should acquaint themselves with and respect the behaviours and ecosystems of the wildlife encountered.

- a. Members must adhere to all laws and regulations applicable to the jurisdiction where they are photographing including being in possession of any required licenses and complying with signs and notices from relevant authorities.
- b. Members should view wildlife from a safe distance, for both the photographer and the wildlife. If the wildlife interrupts its behaviour (resting, feeding, caring for young, etc) then the photographer is probably too close and should endeavour to distance themselves.
- c. Members should learn patterns of animal behaviour (fieldcraft) and know when not to interfere with the life cycles of animals. First study the species to be photographed, particularly with regard to habitat and signs of stress. If there is any sign of stress....withdraw.
- d. Members should never force any action by startling the wildlife, throwing objects or otherwise trying to promote a response.
- e. Members should never crowd, pursue, prevent escape or make deliberate noises to distract, startle or harass wildlife.
- f. Members should never feed or leave food (baiting) for wildlife. Habituation due to food handouts can result in disease or even death of that animal and injury to humans.
- g. Members should avoid coming between a parent and its offspring.
- h. Members should never interfere with wildlife engaged in breeding, nesting, or caring for young.
- i. Members should never encroach on or disturb nests, burrows or dens as certain species abandon their young if this occurs.
- j. Members should learn to recognise wildlife alarm signals and never forget that these animals are not tame no matter how docile or cuddly they may appear.
- k. Members should acquaint themselves with the fragility of the ecosystem and wherever possible stay on trails that are intended to lessen impact
- l. Members should never leave any waste product onsite and should take it home for recycling or proper disposal.
- m. Members should not damage or remove any plant, life form or natural object

4. Photojournalist Code of Ethics

The FCC Photojournalist Code Of Conduct & Ethics is a guide for all Club members to understand what is, and what is not, acceptable when attempting to show editorial, truthful or factual images

- a. Members should photograph as honestly as possible and never intentionally distort the truth in editorial photographs.
- b. Members should avoid staged or setup photo opportunities.
- c. While photographing subjects, members should not intentionally contribute to, alter, or seek to influence events.
- d. Members should strive to be unobtrusive and humble in dealing with subjects, and should treat all subjects with respect and dignity.



Falkirk Camera Club – Code of Conduct and Ethics

- e. Any manipulation of the image that is likely to mislead should be avoided.

5. Exploitation

FCC does not support or condone exploitation of any form.

- a. It is not acceptable for Club members to deliberately take or capture opportunistic, candid, unsolicited, or non-consented photographs of a person(s) where such photos would be a violation of expected privacy on part of the person(s) being photographed.
- b. Any member found to be possessing or creating child pornography will be reported to the authorities. Any member convicted of child pornography will be expelled.
- c. Images of a pornographic nature are not permitted at any type of FCC meetings.

6. Copyright and Software

FCC Members shall adhere to Copyright and Trademark laws producing images or when using software or materials.

7. Disciplinary Procedure

Any disciplinary actions necessitated by a breach of the FCC Code of Conduct & Ethics will be actioned according to the Constitution of Falkirk Camera Club

27th June 2020