

BEHAVIOUR AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Appropriate behaviour is expected by and within CISV, at every level of the organization, in order to realize:

- CISV's objects as outlined in the *Memorandum & Articles of Incorporation and Constitutional Rules of CISV International Ltd*;
- CISV's educational goals and methods as approved by the Board of Trustees; and
- the personal expectations of participants and volunteers.

For most people appropriate behaviour is inherent within the concepts of common sense, good manners, or being a good host / guest / friend. Given the great cultural diversity within CISV, the Board finds it helpful to stress certain qualities in CISV participants' behaviour -- especially in adults and juniors acting as "role models" for youth in an international educational programme stressing peace and cross-cultural friendship. Equally, participants who are guests of the host CISV Chapter, family or resident site are expected to conform to agreed upon concepts of behaviour. No list of norms can anticipate every situation; there is no substitute for proper selection (or de-selection prior to participation, if necessary), and appropriate training / orientation.

Behaviour expected of all adults and youth in CISV programmes / administration falls within three categories: (1) Standards; (2) Guidelines: and, (3) Recommendations. Sanctions & procedures are set by Board policy.

STANDARDS relate to a class / type of FORBIDDEN behaviour, violation or reasonable suspicion of which may invoke the most severe sanctions (including notification, exclusion, early return home or loss of membership).

Forbidden behaviour includes:

- intimacy / sexual relations between children or youth and ANY adult or older youth acting in a position of trust or as a role model within CISV (whether locally legal or not);
- use of narcotic / hallucinogenic drugs or chemicals (whether locally legal or not);
- criminal / illegal acts or failure to take action if legally required;
- use of or access to firearms / ammunition or other weapons (within host family home or at CISV site); and
- xenophobic behaviour, discrimination, intolerance or lack of cultural flexibility / openness.
- physical / psychological abuse and corporal punishment.

GUIDELINES relate to a class / type of UNACCEPTABLE behaviour, violation or reasonable suspicion of which may invoke serious sanctions (including notification, temporary exclusion or loss of membership).

Unacceptable behaviour includes:

- abuse of alcohol -- especially in situations where youth are present in an educational context;
- nudity within CISV programmes or activities (games, swimming etc) or within CISV's community living arrangements (Villages, camps or family stay) which violate concepts of privacy or modesty, whether defined by the cultural norms of the host or guest;
- sexual intimacy -- or the appearance of sexual intimacy in programme activities or between consenting adults, while "off duty" or between youth participants while taking part in an official CISV program or activity;
- violation of public health standards which jeopardize the health or safety of the participant or others; and,

RECOMMENDATIONS relate to a class / type of INAPPROPRIATE behaviour, violation of which may invoke a less serious sanction / reprimand (including notification, restricted participation or ban on being officer / staff).

Inappropriate behaviour includes:

- failure to respect / provide reasonable dietary, health, security and comfort requirements for participants (e.g. vegetarians, asthmatics, non-smokers, bathing privacy, adequate sleep, emergency communication);
- failure to respect the privacy of participants, host family members or site staff (including their personal luggage or effects), except in cases of suspected illegal activity, violation of CISV standards / guidelines, or medical confidences when the participant's behaviour is a threat to the health / safety of the participant or others (NB: standards of confidentiality regarding patient's medical information / treatment vary widely);
- failure to respect "house rules" of host families or sites hosting the CISV programme / activity (including insensitivity in observing known "local" customs or courtesies);
- failure to respect differing personal and cultural standards of appropriate educational activities & discipline or sanctions; and,
- failure to use appropriate methods to resolve personal / group conflict in intercultural living / activities.

Respect for appropriate behaviour is considered so universally important within CISV that the content of this document must be observed and incorporated into CISV's programmes, activities and administration at every level of the organization. CISV National and Promotional Associations may supplement these declarations, but they may not contradict the wording or effect of official CISV International policy.