



Members' Code of Conduct

Tribes Beekeepers Association (*the Association*) aims to promote and advance apiculture within the Republic of Ireland and to encourage the competency and professional conduct of its members in their beekeeping activities. The Association expects its members to maintain a competent and professional approach in all aspects of their beekeeping activities.

Compliance with Statutory Regulations

All members who keep bees whether for recreational use, commercial use or for any reason relating to the production and harvesting of honey-bee products must comply with the statutory laws of the Republic of Ireland.

All members who keep bees, must be registered with the Federation of Irish Beekeepers Association (FIBKA), and must hold a valid registration number issued by that body.

Insurance Cover

All members are covered by FIBKA's insurance policy for Public Liability.

Conduct of Members

All members of the Association are expected to:

- adhere to the Association's Constitution;
- practice proven and ethical standards in working and managing their bees or any activity associated with apiculture, including the removal of feral swarms and any aspect of research and development in apiculture;
- behave in a proper, lawful and responsible manner in all activities associated with beekeeping;
- behave in a responsible manner in all dealings with the general public on beekeeping matters;
- acknowledge and respect the views of fellow beekeepers without derogatory or disparaging comment whilst maintaining their right to express their own views in any forum of the Association.

Commercial Activity

Tribes Beekeepers in a non-profit organisation and therefore members shall not use the name of Tribes Beekeepers for the advancement of any private commercial activity, in line with the Association's Constitution.

As Tribes Beekeepers does not undertake any of its community activities for financial gain, members using the name of Tribes Beekeepers for the furtherment of private commercial activity will be deemed as conducting themselves in an unethical way, bringing the name of the Association into disrepute and will be dealt with under the rules of misconduct.

Landowners and the General Public

Any member who keeps bees on property which is not their own must have the permission of the landowner to keep bees on that property.

Members shall, at all times, act in an environmentally and socially responsible manner whilst working with bees on any site.

Members must work safely and responsibly at all times especially with regards to the use of smoke and be aware at all times of the hazards relating to the negligent use of fire.

Members should, at all times, keep the area in which bees are kept in a tidy and clean and avoid any damage to other landowner's property.

Members should maintain regular contact with the landowner and adhere to reasonable requests made by the landowner regarding the keeping of bees on the property.

Members must ensure that the interests of the general public are observed when working with bees or transporting bees in any vehicle.

Conduct in Respect of Bee Removals

Any member of the Association who carries out the removal of swarms or established colonies must be trained and competent to do so - at a minimum having passed the FIBKA's beginners beekeeping program.

The bee remover must know their limitations and not endanger the safety of themselves, other people, livestock and other animals or damage property.

The primary responsibility of the bee remover should be to preserve the colony as a unitary community colony in order to re-hive it in its entirety rather than creating hybrid colonies.

Where this is impractical the beekeeper should be experienced in combining colonies in order to preserve the majority of the bees removed.

No swarms/colonies which are accessible and can be re-hived should be destroyed. Members should decline a bee removal job if they believe they are not capable of, or is constrained in any way from, completing a successful bee removal.

Where members of the public request that the bees should not be destroyed, members must decline the work if they cannot remove the bees for relocation.

Where requests are made for bees to be destroyed, members of the opinion that the bees can be relocated, should endeavour to persuade for the removal of the colony where safe and practical to do so.

Members should be prepared to refer a removal to another member without due favour, where they are not able to remove the swarm or colony.

Bee removal jobs should be accepted on a rotational basis to allow all competent members the opportunity to gain experience in this type of activity, with no single member accepting more than their fair share of assignments.

Members who undertake an assignment to remove bees, must commit to their arrangements in respect to date and time, or communicate where they are unable to honour commitments made.

No fees may be charged by members for bee removal services.

The Association reserves the right to act in terms of its Constitution against any member with respect to any irresponsible action or conduct caused by members who may bring the aims and objectives of the Association or the beekeeping fraternity in general into disrepute in respect of any activity associated with the removal of bees or their destruction.

Field Days and Outings

All members who attend Field Days, Field Trips or any Outing held under the auspices of the Association do so at the invitation of the Association and the hosts where the activity is held.

Members and their guests and family attending such functions are required to respect the requests as made by such hosts regarding access to their premises.

Members conducting themselves in an irresponsible or unacceptable manner at any function or outing organised by the Association may be requested to leave such function by any member of the Committee.

WhatsApp and Facebook

Comments to group chats, Facebook Pages and WhatsApp Groups should add valuable input to the discussion, be friendly, respectful, non-confrontational and fair.

Discussions should be related to beekeeping or Tribes and FIBKA matters.

No religious comment, hate speech, racism, politics, vulgar language or off topic posts are allowed on these groups.

Social media administrators reserve the right to remove members who do not adhere to these guidelines.

Misconduct

In the event that a member brings the name of the Association into disrepute or conducts themselves in any manner deemed irresponsible or unethical the Committee of the Association may act under the terms of the Constitution in dealing with the matter.

Notes

Should we be destroying bees under any circumstances?