National Youth Orchestra of Ireland
*Ceolfhoireann Náisiúnta Óige na hÉireann*

# PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

## Introduction

Participation in the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland is a big commitment for all involved. The aim of this code is to make the experience special for everyone concerned by setting some reasonable standards that are observed by all.
Once offered a place in the orchestra, every player is asked to read this form carefully, sign and return it to the NYOI office where it will be kept on file for 2 years under conditions of confidentiality.

## Age Limits / General Rules

**1. Eligibility**
To be eligible to participate in NYOI auditions in October 2023, musicians must:
(a) Have turned 13 years old by 1st September 2025
(b) Not have reached their 22nd birthday by 31st July 2026

Applicants must be resident in, studying in, or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

All players must re-apply and audition each year.

NYOI reserves the right of admission under all circumstances.

NYOI reserves the right to make exceptions in age limits and regulations.

**2. Auditions**
The deadline for participating in auditions is 12th September 2025. No special arrangements will be made for late entries for any reason.

Any attempt to influence the outcome of auditions will disqualify an applicant. This includes for example contacting the judging panel in advance, which will immediately exclude you from the process. Canvassing of any kind will not be tolerated.

Applicants may audition on any of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, tenor trombone, bass trombone, tuba, percussion, harp.

Wind instrument candidates are encouraged to also audition on their respective doubling instruments, e.g. piccolo, cor anglais, Eb clarinet, bass clarinet, contrabassoon.

**3. Availability**
Dates of the winter & summer courses will be advised before the audition closing date.

Players who are offered and accept a place must confirm their availability for both courses.

NYOI reserves the right to make changes to dates or repertoire if necessary.

Players must participate in all rehearsals/concerts and will not receive permission to be absent on any day or for any part of a course.

**4. Medical capacity/forms**
All players must return a signed Fees & Medical form which must also be signed by a primary carer.

These signatures confirm that the conditions of membership have been accepted. Conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes and eating disorders must be notified regardless of age.

A player who has been in hospital or who has attended a GP in the week prior to arrival must bring a doctor's letter stating his or her fitness to attend.

A player who is unable to rehearse for 24 hours will be asked to leave the course to seek medical attention at home. The decision of the management on this will be final.

Players who need glasses to read music must carry spare glasses.

Course fees are non-refundable except in cases of certified medical illness prior to the start of a course. In such cases 50% of the fee will be refunded. Any greater percentage refund is discretionary.

Doctors' bills incurred during a course will be billed to players. No refund can be given when players leave a course after arrival.

**5. Rehearsal and performance**
Players in the orchestra must accept rules concerning group discipline during rehearsals or performances or in residence. These are based on the Players' Code of Behaviour (part of the NYOI's Child Welfare Policy and Procedures), as well as common sense, safety, consideration for others, and on the requirements of performance.

Players perform in public as members of the orchestra at the discretion of NYOI. Where they are not able to meet the standard for public performance for any reason, the decision of NYOI will be final.

Mobile phones must be fully switched off during all rehearsals and performances. Members of the orchestra are expected to familiarise themselves with all works on the programme in advance of upcoming courses through recordings and by reading their parts.

Players must bring soft pencils for marking music and erasers to every rehearsal. The policy of NYOI is to conduct closed rehearsals. No-one is permitted to attend rehearsals without invitation. A person who attends without permission will be asked to leave.

All players are expected to be able to work during rehearsals and to perform to the highest level.

### In residence and on tour

Players may not leave rehearsal, residential or concert venues without permission.

Players are not allowed to change bedrooms without permission.

The National Youth Orchestra of Ireland makes contractual arrangements on behalf of the orchestra with the residential venue for each course. Primary carers/players may not contact these institutions directly to make special arrangements.

Any damage caused to property whether in residence, during rehearsal periods or on tour must be paid for by those responsible.

Players must check in with the staff member on duty at every meal and must be in their own bedroom at the designated time each evening.

Quiet must be observed in bedrooms after 11pm in public and private accommodation in order to allow others who are asleep or who wish to sleep to rest undisturbed. To support this, players are required to hand in their mobile phones at bed time, to be returned in the morning.

### General

Players participate in courses at their own **risk**. Primary carers and players must arrange that instruments are **insured** under all circumstances including travel. Players should not bring valuables on course and should label personal property.

Primary carers and players must ensure that instruments are packed in appropriate hard cases. Gig bags are not suitable.

NYOI provides **transport** for players from their arrival at the course venue until the conclusion of the course at the end of the final concert. Responsibility for players reverts back to the primary carer at the conclusion of the last concert on each residential course. All players must use transport provided by the NYOI.

Players may not purchase or consume **alcohol** at any time. No player may bring alcohol into buses, bedrooms, rehearsal, residential or concert venues. Likewise, players are not permitted to **smoke** on course.

**Penknives** may not be brought on course.

**Bullying** or any type of emotional or physical intimidation towards others will not be tolerated.

Any personal information/data that is submitted to the NYOI on this form will be kept for the sole purpose of registering and processing the applicant for audition. The personal information will not be forwarded, disclosed or used for any other purpose aside from anonymised analysis of the profile of orchestral participation (age, geographic location, number of years participation, gender).

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@nyoi.ie.

To apply, please sign to indicate you have read, and that you agree with, the code of conduct above.

Signed _____ Date _____

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