



# Highlands Astronomical Society — Code of Conduct

The Highlands Astronomical Society (HAS) is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, safe, and enjoyable environment for everyone. This Code of Conduct applies to all members, guests, and volunteers participating in our events, meetings, and observing sessions.

## 1. Respect and Inclusivity

- - Treat everyone with respect, kindness, and courtesy, regardless of age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or experience in astronomy.
- - Foster an environment where everyone feels valued, heard, and included.
- - Discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.

## 2. Enjoyment and Engagement

- HAS exists to promote the enjoyment of astronomy — be welcoming, encouraging, and supportive of others' interests and curiosity.
- Help create an atmosphere where newcomers feel comfortable and returning members continue to enjoy participating.
- Respect that people engage in different ways — whether through hands-on observing, talks, helping out, or simply learning quietly.

## 3. Observing Site Etiquette

- Preserve night vision: use red lights when observing and avoid bright screens or white lights.
- Park respectfully. When arriving/leaving sites, keep vehicle headlights to a minimum.
- Respect others' equipment: never touch another person's telescope or gear without permission.
- Be mindful of noise and behaviour to avoid disrupting others' observations.
- Follow any guidance from observing session coordinators regarding setup, safety, and pack-down.
- Take your litter and belongings with you — leave sites as we found them or better.

## 4. Safety and Responsibility

- Prioritise the safety of yourself and others. Report any concerns to a Committee member promptly.
- Take care of HAS equipment, resources, and venues — whether at the Observatory or other locations.



- Ensure children and vulnerable adults are supervised by a responsible adult unless prior arrangements have been made with the Committee.

## 5. Communication and Privacy

- Communicate respectfully in all society settings, including meetings, emails, social media, and online forums.
- Avoid offensive or inappropriate language. Assume good intentions, but address concerns with sensitivity.
- - Personal information shared within the Society must be kept confidential, in line with GDPR and our safeguarding commitments.

## 6. Security and Supervision

- All attendees should sign in and out at meetings and events when required.
- Help newcomers feel welcome. Politely challenge unknown individuals if appropriate or alert a Committee member.
- Keep personal belongings secure and report suspicious activity or hazards to the Committee.

## 7. Breaches of Conduct

- Any concerns or breaches of this Code should be reported to a Committee member or the Chair.
- Issues will be handled fairly and confidentially in accordance with our disciplinary and safeguarding procedures.

Let's enjoy the night sky — together, safely, and respectfully.

Approved by Committee: July 2025

Next Review Date: July 2027

Chair's Signature: 