



Code of Ethics for Professional Bit Fitters

intended for the members of the International Association Bit Fitting France

- The primary objective of a bit fitter is to **advise** the client on equipment adapted to the horse's needs, and the bit fitter shall not represent a specific commercial brand. At the end of the consultation, the bit fitter must be in a position to advise the horse's owner in the best possible way, following the assessment and analysis of the observations made. To perfect their advice, they shall work with equipment (bits and bridles) of **several different brands**, and there shall be **no obligation to buy** at the end of the consultation.
- The Bit Fitter must show **respect** for his colleagues and takes care not to harm them;
- The Bit Fitter shall not poach or attempt to poach their colleagues' clientele for commercial purposes.

However, depending on the Bit Fitters' geographical constraints, although an **occasional request** by a client for a specific professional intervention can be followed by a "tour announcement" to make the trip more profitable, **intentional canvassing** by a bit fitter in an area where other bit fitters usually practice their occupation is not welcome.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings, members of the Association are advised to communicate with each other when canvassed in occasional sectors;

- The Bit Fitter works in a **multidisciplinary team**. Their training has provided them with the necessary knowledge to refer the client to another professional if necessary, during their observation of the horse: veterinary surgeon, equine dentist, osteopath, saddle fitter, etc.;
- The skill of Bit Fitting is based on **initial and continuous training**, recognized as relevant by the AIBFF. It is based on both theoretical and clinical knowledge, as well as on regular practice of Bit Fitting;
- The Bit Fitter makes choices/provides advice based on a long-term view of the **horse's well-being** and by taking into account the rider's choice, without being influenced by other parties;
- The Bit Fitter keeps themselves **informed** of new technologies and scientific studies in the field;

The objective of the association is to showcase **professionalism** in the bit fitting business as well as to allow the public and the official authorities to make a **distinction** between its **professional members** (who have followed practical and theoretical training) and other professionals who don't have any qualifications neither knowledge.

The association thus reminds its members of the importance of **complying** with this code of ethics, in order to **practise the business of bit fitting seriously and in agreement with their colleagues**.