

# WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS



## CODE OF PRACTICE ON DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Ninth edition February 2009



**A Full Member of SPORTACCORD and committed to compliance with the WADA Code on Anti-Doping.**

**'Random drug testing can occur at any event as required by WADA'**

# **WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

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# **WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

## **PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS**

In the 7th WDF General Meeting held on 22nd October 1989 three main principles for the implementation of Disciplinary Action were laid down by the WDF Executive as follows;

- (1) The WDF Executive reserves the right to exercise its discretion in regard to proceedings with Disciplinary Action in respect of incidents involving Playing Members and Officials in WDF Cup events.
- (2) The WDF Executive accepts in principle that a "host" Member Darts Body shall reserve the right to proceed with Disciplinary Action in respect of incidents involving Playing Members and Officials in WDF events in which that "host" Member Darts Body has been duly appointed as the Organisers.
- (3) The WDF Executive recognises the principle that offending Playing Members and Officials shall have the Right of Appeal to Member Darts Bodies, or a Member of the WDF Executive present at a WDF Cup event in which a "host" Member Darts Body has exercised its right to proceed with Disciplinary Action.

In the 7th WDF Conference held on 3rd December 1990 the following Code of Practice was adopted for the guidance of WDF Member Darts Bodies and is recommended for use when dealing with Disciplinary Proceedings against Playing Members, or Officials, that have been involved in incidents that are considered by Member Darts Body Officials to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute.

### **1.00 INCIDENT**

- 1.01 If a Playing Member, or an Official, is involved in an incident that is considered to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute, then that Playing Member, or Official, shall be subject to Disciplinary Proceedings being brought against that person.

### **2.00 COMPLAINT**

- 2.01 A complaint about an offending Player, or an Official, shall be made verbally on the spot, or in writing after the incident.
- 2.02 If the respective Member Darts Body Officials consider it necessary to proceed, then Disciplinary Proceedings shall be initiated by an Official of that respective Darts Body, who has been charged with that responsibility.

### **3.00 PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION**

- 3.01 A Preliminary Discussion between the respective Member Darts Bodies Officials at the scene of the incident, shall determine whether any action should be taken on the spot, or whether the complaint should be referred to a Disciplinary Hearing which shall be convened at a later date.
- 3.02 The Preliminary Discussion shall determine the necessity of inviting that Playing Member, or an Official, plus possible witnesses to the incident, into the Disciplinary Hearing, bearing in mind that such witnesses may wish to corroborate the evidence supplied by a complainant, or the defendant.

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## **4.00 CONVENING A DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

- 4.01 An offending Playing Member, or an Official, shall be informed by letter, by a Member Darts Body Official, that the person has been suspended, and shall be subject to Disciplinary Proceedings being brought against that person.
- 4.02 The offending Playing Member, or Official, shall be invited to attend the Disciplinary Hearing in which that person shall be given the opportunity to put forward any information, and ask any questions, relating to the Disciplinary Proceedings being brought against that person.

The person shall also be informed that if he, or she, does not attend the Disciplinary Hearing then the matter will be decided in that persons absence.

- 4.03 A Member Darts Body shall appoint persons, 3 or 5 in number, as a Disciplinary Committee preferably from the members of the Darts Body's Executive Council.
- 4.04 No person directly involved in the incident shall be allowed to serve on the Disciplinary Committee, or on any subsequent Appeal Committee.
- 4.05 As well as being informed verbally, at the end of the Disciplinary Hearing, the Playing Member, or Official, shall also be informed officially, in writing, of the details of the decisions reached in a Disciplinary Hearing together with advice on the effect of the decisions on that person's future involvement in the Sport of Darts under the jurisdiction of that Member Darts Body.
- 4.06 The letter shall also indicate the person's Right of Appeal against any decision, and shall indicate a reasonable time limit in which to lodge an Appeal.

## **5.00 RIGHT TO APPEAL**

- 5.01 An offending Playing Member, or Official, has the Right to Appeal against any decision or action taken as a result of a Preliminary Discussion, or a Disciplinary Hearing.
- 5.02 Such Right of Appeal shall be afforded to a Playing Member, or an Official, within a specified time limit. EG: A minimum of '14' days.
- 5.03 In the instance of lodging an Appeal the offending Playing Member, or Official, must outline the grounds for the Appeal and provide any additional evidence, or other eye witnesses to substantiate those grounds.
- 5.04 An Appeal may require the convening of a further Meeting, and the appellant may be required to lodge a sum of money to be used to defray the costs of the persons attending the further Meeting, such sum of money may be refunded as a result of the decisions made in the Appeal Hearing.

## **6.00 CONVENING AN APPEAL HEARING**

- 6.01 An Appeal Hearing shall be convened in the same manner as a Disciplinary Hearing, with all the relevant persons being informed in writing.
- 6.02 A Member Darts Body shall appoint a number of persons as an Appeal Committee preferably from the Members of the Member Darts Body's Executive Council.

The numbers of persons serving on an Appeal Committee shall be greater than the number serving on a Disciplinary Committee.

# **WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

## **CONVENING AN APPEAL HEARING - continued ....**

- 6.03 No person directly involved in the incident, or those persons that served on the Disciplinary Committee, shall be allowed to serve on the Appeal Committee.
- 6.04 As well as being informed verbally, at the end of an Appeal Hearing, the Playing member, or Official, shall be informed officially, in writing, of the details of the decision reached in an Appeal Hearing together with any further advice necessary in relation to that person's future involvement in the Sport of Darts under the jurisdiction of that Member Darts Body.

## **7.00 WRITTEN RECORD**

- 7.01 A Member Darts Body shall ensure that a written record, and a file, shall be kept, which shall include all relevant letters, minutes of meetings, and all other relevant notes and information.
- 7.02 The person required to take Minutes of the Proceedings must be independent of the Committees involved and therefore eligible to attend all meetings, but that person shall not take part in any of the discussions involved.
- 7.03 In the instance of any legal proceedings ensuing as a result of any actions taken, or decisions reached, the written record, and file, can be made readily available for consideration and reference.

## **8.00 PRESS STATEMENTS**

- 8.01 The issuing of any statements on behalf of a Member Darts Body shall be made through an appointed person, such as the President, Chairman, or Press Officer.
- 8.02 Such statements should only be made after the person involved has been informed of any action taken, or decision reached.

## **9.00 DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR DECISION**

- 9.01 A Disciplinary Hearing, or an Appeal Hearing, having made a decision, after discussing any relevant points may impose a Fine; or Suspension; or a Suspended Sentence; or even expel a Playing Member, or an Official, found to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute.

### **FINE**

Sums of money which are compatible with the seriousness of the incident.  
(Recommended maximum = 2,000 \$ US)

### **SUSPENSION**

To be suspended from taking part in any darts event, or function under the jurisdiction of the respective Member Darts Body, or for a stated period of time.

**IE : 1 event, or function; or for a period of 6 months, or 1 year, etc..**

### **SUSPENDED SENTENCE**

To be suspended for a period of time, which sentence shall only be imposed should the offending person be involved in a further incident during that period of time.

### **EXPULSION**

Should an incident warrant the barring of an offending Playing Member, or Official, then that person shall be barred from all darts events and functions under the jurisdiction of that respective Member Darts Body.

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## **10.00 ARBITRATION**

The WDF recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport {CAS} and undertakes to present unresolved disputes concerning the Sport of Darts to the Court for arbitration. {CAS – [www.tas-cas.org](http://www.tas-cas.org) }

## **11.00 RECIPROCAL SUPPORT**

- 11.01 Any Member Darts Body that has taken Disciplinary Action against a Playing Member, or an Official, and has completed any Appeal Proceedings related to that action, may seek Reciprocal Support from any other Member Darts Body, providing that all relevant information concerning the incident, and the action taken, is supplied for due consideration by that other Member Darts Body.
- 11.02 Reciprocal Support is subject to that Playing Member's, or Official's Right of Appeal to the Darts Body implementing the Disciplinary Action, and providing that such action does not contravene another WDF Member Darts Body's existing Rules.
- 11.03 Any person that has been suspended by a parent WDF Member Darts Body, under the WDF Disciplinary Code of Practice, shall not be permitted, during the period of the suspension, to enter, or play in any WDF ranked darts event.
- 11.04 All WDF Member Darts Bodies that have received proper and timely notice of such suspension, shall refuse entry to such person to their WDF Ranked darts events throughout the period of the suspension.
- 11.05 If after such notice, a WDF Member darts Body permits such a person to participate in a WDF Ranked darts event under its jurisdiction then that WDF Member Darts Body shall lose the WDF Ranking status for that darts event for that year.
- 11.06 The implementation of any action by a WDF Member Darts Body in the form of Reciprocal Support to the Disciplinary Action taken by another WDF Member Darts Body shall be subject to the law of the land in relation to that WDF Member Darts Body, or Country.
- 11.07 The WDF Executive shall distribute a quarterly list of all players/officials suspended under the Disciplinary Code of Practice based upon information submitted by WDF Member Darts Bodies.

## **12.00 REVISION NOTES**

The ninth revision has been updated with the addition of the GAISF logo and the revised WDF Logo on the frontispiece.

Reference to the Court of Arbitration introduced as new Clause 10.00

Existing Clause numbers 10.00 and 11.00 renumbered 11.00 and 12.00.

Definition of Player's Eligibility amended in line with revised WDF Bye-Law 7.05

'Regional' references amended to read 'Area Council'

At the time of writing no information on the identity of the members forming the Disciplinary Committees for any Area Council has been submitted.

At the time of writing no information on disciplined persons has been submitted for inclusion on the list in Appendix II.

# WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

## APPENDIX I

### 1.00 WDF Definition of a Playing Member

1.01 The term 'playing member' as used in the official WDF documentation shall be defined as meaning a person who is affiliated with the WDF Member Darts Body that represents the country of his or her residence by being;

(a) a registered member of that WDF Member Darts Body.

(b) a registered member of a darts group which is a member association of that WDF Member Darts Body.

OR, if the WDF Member Darts Body does not require such form of membership for its players, by being;

(c) a regular player in the darts leagues or tournaments of that WDF Member Darts Body.

1.02 No person can be a 'playing member' of more than one WDF Member Darts Body.

1.03 A player that has been given a disciplinary suspension by the WDF Member Darts Body of his or her country of residence shall not be considered to be a 'playing member' of that WDF Member Darts Body during the term of the suspension.

### 2.00 WDF Area Council Disciplinary Committees

The WDF Area Council Disciplinary Committees shall be empowered to enforce the WDF Rules, Regulations, Constitution, and Bye-Laws as laid down, or amended from time to time.

They shall also be empowered to pronounce sanctions, or punishments on persons or Bodies found to be in breach of any WDF legislation.

They shall be set up in principle to cover the WDF Areas defined below;

1. **AFRICA** - all countries on the African continent.
2. **AMERICAS** - all countries in North, South and Central America including all the Caribbean Islands, and islands adjacent to the area.
3. **ASIA-PACIFIC** - all countries in the existing Asia-Pacific Area Darts Council.
4. **EUROPE** - all countries in the existing European Area Darts Council.
5. **MIDDLE EAST** - all countries in the Middle East area.

# **WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

## **APPENDIX I**

### **2.00 WDF Area Council Disciplinary Committees**

The actual WDF Member Darts Bodies included within the jurisdiction of a WDF Disciplinary Committee will be identified at a later date.

Pronouncements by the Area Council Disciplinary Committees would normally be the confirmation, where it is considered to be justified, of the sanctions, or punishments imposed by individual Member Darts Bodies.

The issuing of such confirmation would signify a sanction, or punishment to be effective in, and binding upon, all other WDF Member Darts Bodies.

Where a Member Darts Body has not set up a Disciplinary Committee of its own to enable the proper handling of breaches of WDF legislation then the Area Council Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to act as advisors to such a Member Darts Body, always conditional upon the receipt of a properly authorised written request from that Member Darts Body.

The WDF Area Council Disciplinary Committee shall act as an Appeal Committee to handle Appeals against sanctions, or punishments imposed by WDF Member Darts Bodies in those cases where breaches of WDF legislation have occurred during WDF darts events and WDF Ranked darts events.

Any Appeals concerning internal matters shall be outside the terms of reference of WDF Disciplinary Committees.

Any appeals against the pronouncements by WDF Area Council Disciplinary Committees shall be dealt with by the WDF Executive Council whose decisions shall be final.

### **AFRICAN Area Council Disciplinary Committee**

No information at the time of writing.

### **AMERICAS Area Council Disciplinary Committee**

No information at the time of writing.

### **ASIA-PACIFIC Area Council Disciplinary Committee**

No information at the time of writing.

### **EUROPEAN Area Council Disciplinary Committee**

No information at the time of writing.

### **MIDDLE EAST Area Council Disciplinary Committee**

No information at the time of writing.



# **WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **3.00 WDF Definition on Eligibility of Players and Officials**

1. To play for a Member Darts Body in an official WDF Tournament, a person must have resided for at least three (3) years immediately prior to the date of the tournament being played in the country represented by that Member Darts Body.
2. In the case where two or more Member Darts Bodies are situated within one national entity, the above requirement shall be interpreted as residence in the national entity.
3. These shall be considered the minimum requirements for Eligibility and a Member Darts Body may impose additional eligibility requirements for its players and officials.
4. A person, eligible to play for a Member Darts Body, who moves from the country represented by that Member Darts Body, shall remain eligible to play for that Member Darts Body until such time as he or she meets the Eligibility requirements of another Member Darts Body.
5. Any person who has played for a Member Darts Body in an official WDF Tournament shall not play for another Member Darts Body in an official WDF Tournament earlier than the third calendar year after the last year in which he or she played for the former Member Darts Body.
6. Participation in the WDF World Cup and WDF Area Cups is restricted to players who are registered playing members of a WDF Member Darts Body. Players selected for a WDF World or Area Cup must be regular participants in events sanctioned and approved by their National Darts Body or other WDF Member Darts Bodies. They must also actively play the majority of their competitive darts within the systems created and approved by WDF Member Darts Bodies.
7. In the instance of a dispute arising, the context shall be put to the WDF Executive for a ruling which shall be final and binding. This procedure shall apply to all darts Tournaments promoted under the jurisdiction of the WDF.

# WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

## APPENDIX II - List of Disciplined Players and Officials

Disciplined Person	Country	Imposed	Term	Completion

### **Notes**

1. The list shall only include persons that have been disciplined under the WDF Code of Practice on Disciplinary Proceedings by the World Darts Federation, a WDF Area Council Disciplinary Committee, or by a Member Darts Body of the World Darts Federation.
2. The list shall only include the names of persons where it has been confirmed that all stages of the Disciplinary Proceedings have been completed.
3. For further details of the Disciplinary Action interested parties must contact the Member Darts Body responsible for imposing the Disciplinary Action.