

# WORLD DARTS FEDERATION

## Code of Practice on Disciplinary Proceedings

Twelfth revised edition



A Full Member of GAISF and AIMS



Committed to compliance with the WADA World Anti-Doping Code

Sample collection could occur at any time as required by WDF

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## 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.

In the 25th WDF General Meeting held on 7th October 2019 the WDF has adopted changes to establish a two-instance legal procedure making sure that the WDF operates a transparent and fair dispute resolution mechanism for disputes between WDF area councils, member federations, officials, athletes and any other individual related to the Sport of Darts.

Notwithstanding the principles as stated under points (2) and (3) above being unchanged the WDF Executive will execute its right to initiate disciplinary proceedings from WDF side if a WDF area council, member federation, official, athlete, athlete support personnel or any other individual or organisation acting in the sport of Darts under WDF's jurisdiction is involved in an incident that is considered to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute.

Then the WDF area council, member federation, official, athlete, athlete support personnel or any other person or organisation shall be subject to Disciplinary Proceedings being brought against them.

The WDF Executive shall investigate in such case and any of an accusation of the following:

- (1) Acting in a manner that is contrary to the best interests of the WDF.
- (2) Contravening any of the provisions of the Constitution or Bye-Laws.
- (3) Contravening any of the rules or regulations governing the accepted behaviour of the WDF area council, member federation, official, athlete, athlete support personnel or any other person or organisation under the jurisdiction of the WDF.
- (4) Breaching of any part, principles or values of the WDF Code of Ethics.

Following such investigation, the respective instance in charge may impose an appropriate penalty e.g. but not limited to fine, suspension and ban from participation in WDF events or ban from staging WDF events.

The following the rules on disciplinary procedures are valid for proceedings initiated by the WDF Executive in analogue form.

Disciplinary proceedings related to anti-doping rule violations are described in the WDF Anti-Doping Rules.

## **1.00 INCIDENT**

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.

## **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 person's 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, i.e. 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 eyewitnesses 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.
- 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 USD)

### **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, i.e. 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.

## **10.00 ARBITRATION**

- 10.01 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, applying the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration. All internal legal remedies must be exhausted before referring a matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. (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.

## REVISION NOTES

Revision 12

The following amendments/additions were approved by the 2019 WDF General Meeting:

- Principles and rights

'In the 25th WDF General Meeting held on 7th October 2019 the WDF has adopted changes to establish a two-instance legal procedure making sure that the WDF operates a transparent and fair dispute resolution mechanism for disputes between WDF area councils, member federations, officials, athletes and any other individual related to the Sport of Darts.

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- (3) Contravening any of the rules or regulations governing the accepted behaviour of the WDF area council, member federation, official, athlete, athlete support personnel or any other person or organisation under the jurisdiction of the WDF.
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Following such investigation, the respective instance in charge may impose an appropriate penalty e.g. but not limited to fine, suspension and ban from participation in WDF events or ban from staging WDF events.

The following the rules on disciplinary procedures are valid for proceedings initiated by the WDF Executive in analogue form.' added.

- 10.00 Arbitration - 10.01

'applying the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration. All internal legal remedies must be exhausted before referring a matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sport' added.



## APPENDIX ONE - List of Disciplined Players and Officials

<b>Player / Official</b>	<b>Disciplined Person</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Imposed by</b>	<b>Term</b>

### **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, 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.