

WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS



CODE OF PRACTICE ON DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Tenth revised edition



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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Note: This is the tenth revised edition of this document

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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.

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.

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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 }

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 tenth revision has been updated with the amendments to definitions in the WDF Bye-Laws that were adopted during the WDF General Meeting held in Castle Bar, County Mayo, Republic of Ireland on Tuesday 20th September 2011.

In Appendix One – Item 1.00

The definition of a Playing Member amended in line with revised WDF Bye-Law No 2.00

In Appendix One – Item 3.00

The definition of Player's Eligibility amended in line with revised WDF Bye-Law No 7.05

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 Two.

WORLD DARTS FEDERATION ~ DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

APPENDIX ONE

1.00 WDF Definition of a Playing Member ~ WDF Bye-Law No 2.00

- (a) A Playing Member is a player who is currently registered as a member in a darts body which is a full member of the World Darts Federation.
- (b) A Playing Member is a player who agrees to abide by the Constitution, Playing Rules, and Bye-Laws of the World Darts Federation.
- (c) No person can be a 'playing member' of more than one WDF Member Darts Body.
- (d) 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.

Reciprocal support requirements in regard to Disciplinary Suspensions by WDF Member Darts Bodies are set out in detail in Clause 11.00 of the current WDF Code of Practice on Disciplinary Proceedings.

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.

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APPENDIX ONE

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 ONE

3.00 WDF Definition on Eligibility of Players and Officials ~ WDF Bye-Law No 7.05

WDF World Cup and Area Cups

In addition to complying with the terms of Clause 2.01 to establish themselves as playing members' all participants must also meet the following conditions;

1. To play for a WDF Member Darts Body in an official WDF Cup, a person must have resided within the national entity represented by that WDF Member Darts Body for at least three (3) years immediately prior to the date of the Cup in question.
2. In the case where two or more WDF Member Darts Bodies are situated within one national entity, the above requirement shall be interpreted as residence in the national entity.
3. A WDF Member Darts Body may impose additional eligibility requirements for its players.
4. A person, eligible to play for a WDF Member Darts Body, who moves from the country represented by that WDF Member Darts Body, shall remain eligible to play for that WDF Member Darts Body until such time as he or she meets the Eligibility requirements of another WDF Member Darts Body.
5. Any person who has played for a Member Darts Body in an official WDF Cup shall not play for another Member Darts Body in an official WDF Cup earlier than the third calendar year after the last year in which he or she played for the former Member Darts Body.
6. In the course of the twelve months prior to the scheduled date of a WDF World Cup or Area Cup a WDF Playing Member must have played at least 65% of their International Singles Events in tournaments which are recognised in the WDF World Ranking Systems as well as International singles events promoted/organized between Member Darts Bodies and also recognised by the World Darts Federation.

IE: Events such as, but not limited to, the 6 Nations Cup, Baltic Cup, Celtic Cup, Nordic Cup, Mediterranean Cup, and the Spring Cup.

NOTE: This rule shall not apply to Youth players.

CLARIFICATION:

An international Event is an event which is open to WDF Playing Members from more than one country. An international event may be promoted or organised by a WDF Member Darts Body or an organisation which is not affiliated to the WDF.

Soft Tip darts events are not included, as they are considered to be a game, not a recognised sport.

It is not a requirement that a player must play in International events in order to be eligible to play in a WDF World Cup or WDF Area Cup.

Players who do participate in international events must meet the following requirement to be eligible to play in a WDF Cup.

*During the twelve months prior to the scheduled date of a WDF Cup the WDF requires that a player must have played in at least twice as many international single events which are **sanctioned by the WDF** (e.g. events recognised in the WDF Ranking System and International singles events between Member Darts Bodies which are recognised by the World Darts Federation [i.e. events such as, but not limited to, the 6 Nations Cup, Baltic Cup, Celtic Cup, Mediterranean Cup, Nordic Cup, the Spring Cup etc.]) when compared with international events organised, sanctioned or promoted by darts bodies which are not affiliated to the WDF.*

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3.00 WDF Definition on Eligibility of Players and Officials continued

7. It is the responsibility of the officials of a player's respective WDF Member Darts Body to check and properly verify the eligibility of a player to represent that darts body in a WDF World Cup or Area Cup.
8. In the instance of a dispute arising in regard to Clause 7.05, the context shall be put to The WDF Executive for a ruling which shall be final and binding.

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APPENDIX TWO - 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.