



United State Bocce Federation Code of Conduct and Procedures for Disciplinary Action

Preamble

To promote good sportsmanship and exemplary conduct among all of us who engage in the sport of bocce, the United State Bocce Federation adopts this revised Code of Conduct that shall apply to all members of the Federation and shall govern their conduct in connection with any bocce related event whether or not sanctioned by the Federation within the United States, its territories and possessions, including by way of example but without limitation tournaments, club sponsored competitions, informal games and official meetings of members

Article 1

Unacceptable Behavior and Conduct Contrary to the Precepts of Good Sportsmanship

Section 1. The following shall be deemed as examples of but not an inclusive list of unacceptable behavior and conduct under this Code of Conduct:

1. Behavior including words and gestures that reasonably offends others such as repeated swearing or using of foul language or epithets even if not directed at someone specific.
2. Slow play that is drawing out a game to gain advantage or to tire or influence opponents.
3. Stopping or moving a played ball or pallino before both captains and/or the referee if one is designated, have agreed that the point(s) have been determined and the frame is completed. This includes kicking the balls or stopping balls or the pallino as they approach close to the side boards or back boards but are not yet out of play.
4. Players who agree among themselves contrary to the various regulations in force such as time of scheduled games, number of points for a game, time limits, etc.
5. Cheating such as mismarking the position of balls, using tampered balls, recording invalid scores or changing valid scores.
6. Players who protest to or argue with their opponents or with the referee (certified or not) instead of allowing the team captain to handle the matter.
7. Team captains who argue with the referee instead of following the proper procedure for obtaining a ruling from the tournament director as the case maybe.
8. Players who leave the court without permission of the referee or if no referee of the opposing captain.
9. Players who arrange the results of a game or retire from competition without an acceptable excuse.
10. Irregularly formed teams (teams formed with non-roster players) unless preapproved by the tournament director.
11. Failure to produce a valid USBF card at a sanctioned competition or production of a false card or a card not belonging to the player
12. Other inappropriate behavior deemed to be adverse to the spirit of this Code including but not limited to displays of poor sportsmanship such as defaulting a game without valid excuse, moving about or otherwise disturbing a player during his or her turn to play or insisting on nonexistent rules.
13. With respect to members who are spectators including players who are not then playing, engaging in conduct that disturbs or disrupts the game in progress including yelling, shouting or making loud comments about the play or the decision of the referee. At the discretion of the tournament director, the person engaging in such inappropriate conduct may be given a warning, although a warning is not required, and subsequently may be expelled from the premises and a complaint may be made to the appropriate disciplinary committee.

Article 2

Authority of Tournament Officials

Section 1. Every tournament sanctioned by the USBF or its sectors, and every tournament that requires USBF card, shall have a tournament director or tournament committee in place at the outset of the tournament. The director or committee members



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shall be regarded as fair and judicious and shall have a good knowledge of the rules of bocce (open, raffa and/or volo) and this Code. They will have on hand copies of the applicable rules and this Code and will prominently display them.

Section 2. The decision of a certified referee assigned to the game or the tournament director or tournament committee if there is no certified referee, shall be final. A noncertified referee who is questioned about a decision shall call the tournament director or tournament committee for consultation and a final decision. In the absence of a referee the captain of the complaining team must call the tournament director or member of the tournament committee for consultation and a final decision.

Article 3 Disciplinary Committees and Investigation Procedures

Section 1. The president after consultation with the board of directors or executive committee shall establish a national disciplinary committee and each sector president shall establish a sector disciplinary committee to investigate and deal with alleged violations of this Code.

Section 2. In conducting investigations the committees shall provide the subjects of the alleged misconduct with a statement of allegations and an opportunity to appear and be heard, to present witnesses, written statements and any other evidence relevant to the case.

Section 3. Complaints of misconduct must be written, signed by the complainer and at least five (5) persons designated as witnesses. The complaint shall be submitted to the sector president who reviews it for probable cause. In so doing, the sector president may speak to witnesses and parties involved, and thereafter dismiss it or if the complaint has merit submit it to the Sector disciplinary committee which shall conduct an investigation to determine whether or not there has been a violation of this Code.

Section 4. If the sector disciplinary committee finds a violation, it shall recommend a penalty and forward the recommendation and record of the investigation to the disciplinary committee of another sector which committee shall review the recommendation and approve or modify it, or reject it and dismiss the underlying complaint. Such action shall be final.

Section 5. If the penalty recommendation is suspension or termination of membership, the matter shall be referred to the board of directors and national disciplinary committee for action under the Bylaws.

Article 4 Procedures for the International Code of Conduct

Section 1. Complaints of misconduct under the International Code of Conduct shall be made by the head of delegation and referred to the board of directors and national disciplinary committee for investigation and action. If the head of delegation is the subject of misconduct, the coach and team captain may make the complaint. In any case, the signatures of witnesses shall not be necessary.

Article 5 Penalties for Violations

Section 1. The tournament director or tournament committee may summarily penalize an offending player, team manager or coach, or spectator as the case maybe by one or more of the following actions:

- a. Giving a warning to the offending person (player, manager, coach, entire team or spectator).



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- b. Voiding one or more balls.
- c. Permitting the aggrieved team to re-play one or more balls.
- d. Temporarily stopping the game
- e. Excluding the offending player(s) and their balls from the remainder of the game or match
- f. Declaring the game or match forfeited by the offending team.
- g. Dismissing the player, team manager, coach, entire team or spectator from the game, match or tournament.

In lieu or in addition to issuing penalties, the tournament director or committee may submit a complaint to the appropriate sector disciplinary committee.

Section 2. Sector disciplinary committees may impose the following penalties:

- a. a warning: verbal or written
- b. a public letter of reprimand
- c. a monetary fine
- d. and/or in addition to the foregoing, prohibition from participation in one or more sector tournaments, but excluding any sector championship tournament or national championship tournament.

Section 3. The national disciplinary committee shall have the sole authority to suspend or terminate membership and to prohibit a member from participating in a sector championship tournament, national championship tournament or international competition. In addition, the committee may impose any other penalty it deems appropriate in the circumstances.

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