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## **Code of Conduct - UKDA National League Players/Officials/Members**

### **1. CODE OF CONDUCT**

**1.1** No person bound by the UKDA Rules shall make or cause to be made any statement or commit or cause to be committed any act which in the reasonable view of the UKDA is likely to or can bring into disrepute the sport of darts.

**1.2** No person bound by the UKDA Rules shall act in a manner which may reasonably be prejudicial to the interests or standing of the UKDA or which could reasonably be considered to injure or discredit the UKDA.

**1.3** No person bound by the UKDA Rules shall do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the grounds of disability, religion, race, colour or national or ethnic origin, sex, or sexual orientation.

**1.4** Each person bound by the UKDA Rules shall participate in all Darts Events in a fair and sporting manner and shall co-operate with the Darts Regulatory Authority at designated UKDA Events and any other Affiliated Organisation or Promoter to promote and develop the sport of darts.

**1.5** Tournaments, all persons bound by the UKDA Rules will comply with and act in accordance with all reasonable instructions of the Tournament Director or any other Event Tournament Official.

**1.6** All persons bound by the UKDA Rules must comply with the entry terms and conditions of each darts event in which they have entered and where applicable those rules of the DRA in UKDA/DRA stated events.

**1.7** All persons bound by the UKDA/DRA Rules will desist from any behaviour which may reasonably be construed as gamesmanship before, during or after any Match at any Darts Event.

**1.8** During Match play players must not use offensive language or “mouth” any offensive language or be seen to be making offensive gestures.

**1.9** Players must not recklessly throw their darts at any time.

**1.10** Where the behaviour of a Player or Official who is taking part in a Darts Event breaches the Tournament Rules or is disruptive to the running of a Darts Event, the Tournament Director may instruct the person to immediately vacate the premises and may advise the person when and if they might return. The Tournament Director’s decision will have immediate effect. In such circumstances the Player will be referred to the UKDA or DRA.

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(If DRA Event) for consideration as to any disciplinary action. Any Player, Member or Guest who is asked by the Tournament Director or UKDA official or other Promoter's representative to leave a Venue at which a Darts Event is taking place under the UKDA or DRA Rules, or carry out any other instruction relating to the Darts Event, must do so immediately.

**1.11** All Players and Members will steadfastly adhere to the UKDA/DRA Rules where applicable. Any breaches will invite disciplinary action in accordance with the said organisation Rules.

## **2. PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITIES**

**2.1** Each Player shall co-operate with the UKDA or DRA in any investigation carried out by or on behalf of the UKDA or DRA under the provisions of this code including (but not limited to):

**2.2** Attending to answer questions and provide such information at a time and place determined by the UKDA or DRA.

**2.3** Providing to the UKDA or DRA upon its request any documents, information or any other material of any nature whatsoever held by the Player.

**2.4** Procuring and providing to the UKDA or DRA upon its request any documents, information or any other material of any nature whatsoever not held by the Player which the Player has the power to obtain.

**2.5** When a darts competition is under the jurisdiction of another Body I.E the DRA the DRA rules will apply. The event MUST be stipulated as a DRA Event. Any incidents referred to the DRA by the UKDA body or including ANY National League player whereby a disciplinary panel is necessary the UKDA will have a representative on that said panel.

## **3. DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF THE UKDA.**

**3.1** The Board of the UKDA has the following powers to discipline Members or Players for any breach of the UKDA Rules.

**3.2** To charge a Member or a Player with a breach of the UKDA Rules.

**3.3** To hear complaints from another Member, a Player, or any person with responsibility under the Regulations for any matter referred to in the UKDA Rules that a Member or a Player has breached the UKDA Rules.

**3.4** To hear the charges or complaints and to determine whether a Member or a Player has breached the UKDA Rules.

**3.5** To immediately suspend a Player from UKDA/DRA sanctioned events.

**3.6** Discipline a Member or a Player for a breach of the UKDA rules including without limitation by way of expulsion (whether from membership of the UKDA or from the physical area at which a UKDA Event is taking place), public reprimand, written warning, final written warning and/or Suspension as the UKDA Board may think fit including without limitation the power to suspend the operation of any disciplinary measure.

**3.7** To hear appeals from any decision on a charge or complaint or disciplinary action.

**3.8** To refer charges, complaints or appeals for resolution by any means of alternative dispute resolution which complies with the rules of natural justice; and

**3.9** To make regulations with respect to the procedures for exercising any of the powers of the UKDA Board under this rule, subject to the prescribed procedures in the UKDA Rules, including without limitation the regulation of the exercise of powers to cancel, modify or suspend Members' or Players' rights and privileges by the Disciplinary Committee.

**3.10** In certain serious cases where deemed necessary **(by the UKDA)** the UKDA may seek the advice of the DRA and the member shall be instructed accordingly as to the outcome of the sanction determined.

#### **4. MISCONDUCT**

**4.1** The sanctions set out in Section 12, below, may be imposed on any Player or any person who was at the time of the relevant incident subject to or bound by the UKDA Rules who is found to have committed an act or acts of Misconduct as non-exclusively defined in 4.2 below.

**4.2** For the purpose of these Disciplinary Rules the following shall amount to "Misconduct":

**4.3** A breach of the UKDA 's Rules and Regulations, including and in addition (without limitation) any rule stipulated by the DRA at a Named DRA Event.

**(i)** The Anti-Doping Rules;

**(ii)** The unauthorised use by a Player of Beta-Blockers [in or out of competition] for incidents occurring on or after 31<sup>ST</sup> December 2020.

**(iii)** Other act or default of a Player or member that in the reasonable opinion of the Disciplinary Committee or its Chairman is capable of bringing the Player /member and/or the sport of Darts into disrepute.

#### 4.4 A failure:

**(i)** To provide full or true information or evidence to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee pursuant to these Rules; or

**(ii)** To respect, recognise, abide by and/or comply with any decision made hereunder.

## 5. APPEALS IN CASES OF MINOR MISCONDUCT

**5.1** For Super League (where the issue has been referred to the UKDA) and National League, any appeals should be made in writing to the local UKDA panel within 14 days of a discipline result. The local UKDA panel will review the evidence and appeal and a written outcome shall be made to the appellant within 28 days upon receipt.

**5.2** If the decision of the local UKDA panel is to be appealed then the UKDA Chief Disciplinary Officer must be informed within 14 days of such an appeal and the appeal shall be considered by the Chairman of a UKDA Appeals Committee. The appeal will be conducted by way of a review taking account also of the players' representations made for the purpose of the appeal in writing. Other than where the Chairman of the Appeals Committee deems that there are exceptional circumstances the appeal will be conducted based on paper without a hearing. The decision of the Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.

**5.3** Pursuant to this section, on an appeal the Chairman of the Appeals Committee can impose a greater sanction than that originally imposed by any prior presiding disciplinary committee/panel.

## 6. SUSPENSION PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION OR HEARING

**6.1** A Disciplinary Committee/Panel will normally consider a complaint made against a Player before it exercises the right to impose a Suspension on the Player concerned, but upon learning of an incident or complaint and they consider it deemed to be of a serious or potentially serious nature, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel or in their absence an alternate Disciplinary Committee Member, may immediately suspend a Player from UKDA sanctioned events if he considers the alleged complaint to be so serious that immediate Suspension is necessary prior to any Hearing date.

**6.2** In such circumstances the Player will be informed in writing by the person making the decision to suspend the Player, of the determination and the reasons for it.

**6.3** Any Player upon whom Suspension has been imposed in this manner may appeal by notice in writing to the UKDA Chief Disciplinary Officer within 14 days of being informed of their Suspension, setting out the grounds of the appeal. The appeal will be considered on paper by the Chairman of the Appeals Committee. Their decision shall be final and binding.

**6.4** Notwithstanding 5.1 any National Team Executive or Superleague Team Captain or Secretary who deliberately fails to report within a reasonable time scale an incident of a serious or potentially serious nature, including but not limited to: any event where the Police or Ambulance services were called; any event involving the mis-use of drugs (performance enhancing and or recreational); an assault against a person(s); match fixing or issues of safeguarding, may be considered in breach of their obligations under this Code and individually subject to disciplinary proceedings.

## **7. THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE/PANEL**

**7.1** A Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the UKDA Board. It shall consist of the UKDA National League Director, the UKDA Players Director, and Chaired by the UKDA Chief Disciplinary Officer.

**7.2.** A local Disciplinary Panel can be made of one Regional manager, one Divisional Administrator and one independent National League organisation delegate from a team in a different region and division.

**7.3** The UKDA Board shall also appoint an alternate Disciplinary Committee Chairperson to act when the Disciplinary Committee/Panel Chairperson is unable to act.

**7.4** Where the Disciplinary Committee/Panel sits to hear a matter, the quorum shall be two.

**7.5** There shall be an Appeals Committee to deal with appeals under **section 10** of this code. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the UKDA Board and will be responsible for the provision of Appeal Committee Members as and when required and to deal with all aspects of any appeals against findings by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel or the Disciplinary Committee/Panel.

## **8. INITIAL PROCEDURE**

For incidents occurring at Events or Leagues under the control of an individual UKDA National Team, the incident shall be referred to the relevant National Team Executive in accordance with local disciplinary/complaints procedures. Within 14 days of confirming the determination of the hearing the National Team are to provide their UKDA Regional Manager with written confirmation of the determination of any disciplinary hearing (formal or informal) and or subsequent appeal and are to make available all evidence, written and or other, presented to

such a hearing or appeal. In the event the Player, Member or victim of a complaint chooses to appeal a determination the following shall apply:

**8.1** Where the UKDA receive a complaint in writing or is of the opinion that a Member or a Player or other person bound by the UKDA Rules [and where the DRA rules apply] may have breached the UKDA Rules, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, or the equivalent person in an Affiliated Organisation, shall consider the matter and may:

**8.2** Determine not to proceed with the matter.

**8.3** Write to the person or persons concerned, seeking their views on the substance of the complaint or matter that has arisen; and/or

**8.4** Charge the Member or a Player with the breach and refer the matter for hearing by a Disciplinary Committee/Panel.

**8.5** Deal with the complaint under the section.

**8.6** Refer the matter for hearing by the Disciplinary Committee/Panel; or

**8.7** Refer the matter for alternative dispute resolution.

**8.8** Where a Player or member is charged with an offence the notification will be considered served where an e-mail is sent to their registered e-mail address or where the Player does not have access to e-mail by a letter to their registered address. The registered address is that registered by the Player or other person bound by the UKDA rules or appropriated affiliated organisation The Player's/Member's registered National League Team General Secretary will also be notified at the same time by letter and or e-mail.

**8.9** It is the responsibility of the Player or other person bound by the UKDA Rules to ensure that their contact details are up to date and accurately recorded with the organisation.

**8.10** The Player or other person will be notified of the complaint in writing and given 14 days in which to respond to it prior to any hearing or other resolution.

**8.11** Before reaching a conclusion on how to proceed with the complaint, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel, or the equivalent person in an Affiliated Organisation, shall be entitled to make all appropriate enquiries, and to seek such advice as they deem appropriate, and if he/she thinks fit, to seek external expert advice, including legal advice.

## **9. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

**9.1** The disciplinary procedure shall be governed by the UKDA unless an event is stated that the DRA Rules will apply.

**9.2** The **Disciplinary Committee** shall consist of one UKDA National League Director, the UKDA Players' Director, and chaired by the UKDA Chief Disciplinary Officer.

**9.3** A local **Disciplinary Panel** can be made of one Regional manager, one Divisional Administrator and one independent National League organisation delegate from a team in a different region and division.

**9.4** If the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel or the equivalent person decides that there should be a disciplinary hearing he shall write to the player or other person concerned notifying him that there will be a disciplinary hearing and specifying the charge [s].

At least 14 days prior to the hearing the player will be notified of:

**9.4 (A)** The time date and venue of the hearing and

**9.4 (B)** The particulars of all charges and complaints to be heard and the grounds upon which they are based and that the Member or Player may do one or more of the following:

**(i)** Attend and speak at the hearing;

**(ii)** Submit to the Disciplinary Committee at or prior to the hearing written representations relating to the matter;

**(iii)** Procure representation at the hearing by any person.

**9.5** In the event that a Player or other person concerned does not wish to attend or to have anyone attend on their behalf the Disciplinary Committee/Panel at its discretion may hold the hearing by audio or video conference. In such an event the Player or other person concerned, or person representing them may take part in all or part of the hearing.

**9.5 (A)** In exercising its functions under these Disciplinary Rules, the Disciplinary Committee/Panel shall have broad discretion to regulate its own procedure. Without prejudice to the generality of this power, the Disciplinary Committee/Panel may do any of the following;

**9.5 (B)** Order the parties to attend a case management hearing in advance of the substantive hearing where matters of evidence and procedure may be decided;

**9.5 (C)** Extend or vary any time limit set out in these Disciplinary Rules;

**9.5 (D)** Adjourn the proceedings, whether prior to a scheduled hearing date or during the hearing, to allow time for the submission of further evidence or for any other reason;

**9.5 (E)** Ask questions directly of any party or witness.

**9.5 (F)** Exclude evidence on grounds of inadmissibility, lack of relevance or failure to comply with directions;

**9.5 (G)** Make appropriate directions (whether in advance of the hearing or at the start or during the hearing) with respect to the conduct of proceedings;

**9.5 (H)** Require that any party or other person subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the UKDA disclose documents or other material relevant to the case to another party or to the Disciplinary Committee/Panel.

## **10. DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

**10.1** The burden of proof in respect of any allegation shall be on the UKDA and the standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities (that is, whether it is more likely than not that the Misconduct occurred).

**10.2** Every person giving evidence before the appropriately convened disciplinary committee/panel is under a duty to give full and truthful evidence.

**10.3** The disciplinary committee/panel shall not be obliged to follow the strict rules of evidence. It may admit such evidence as it thinks fit and accord such evidence such weight as it thinks appropriate in all the circumstances.

**10.4** At any disciplinary Hearing to deal with a charge or complaint, the committee/panel must:

**10.4 (A)** Give the Member or Player or other person concerned their permitted representatives an opportunity to make oral representations.

**10.4 (B)** Consider any written representations submitted to the committee/panel by the Member or the Player or other person concerned or on their behalf.

**10.4 (C)** Make a determination whether the UKDA Rules have been breached by the Member or the Player or other person concerned; and

**10.4 (D)** Make a determination of the sanction or sanctions to be imposed on the Member or the Player or other person concerned.

**10.4 (E)** Having reached its final decision, the disciplinary committee/panel shall communicate that decision either at the time of the hearing or as soon as possible thereafter in writing to the person affected.

**10.4 (F)** A decision of the disciplinary committee/panel, subject to the right of appeal set out in **section 11**, shall be deemed to be a decision of the UKDA and shall be final and binding on all and, without prejudice to any other provision of the Rules.



## **11. APPEALS AGAINST FINDINGS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE/PANEL**

**11.1** Any Player found by a disciplinary committee/panel to be guilty of Misconduct or to have committed a breach of these Rules shall have the right to appeal in accordance with this Section.

**11.2** An appeal further to Section **11.1** shall be referred to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee for each individual case shall consist of the Chairman of the Appeals Committee alone or of one or two others co-opted to sit as members of the Appeals Committee.

**11.3** A Player or other person concerned shall have 14 days to submit a Notice of Appeal from the date the relevant written decision is sent to the person affected. The written Notice of Appeal shall be sent, along with copies of all relevant documents, to the UKDA so as to be received by it within the 14 days deadline. The Notice of Appeal shall set out the specific aspect(s) of the decision being challenged on appeal, clearly stating whether the appeal is against the finding of guilt or the sanctions imposed (or both) and the grounds upon which the appeal is made. If the case has been referred to the DRA and an appeal is made to them, the DRA appeal procedure will be adhered to and a deposit in the amount of £250 (subject to review by the DRA from time to time), as an initial security for the costs of the appeal. If the Case is subject of a UKDA Hearing only, then the appeal will be submitted with a £100 deposit which will be non-refundable and used for such costs as travel expenses to enable the appeal to be heard.

**11.4** The UKDA may in certain circumstances as they seem necessary pass the appeal onto the DRA for review. This however will only be cases deemed serious enough by the UKDA for such a review and not those of a minor nature. An example of such a case would be whereby a member or player is involved in a serious assault.

**11.5** Notice of Appeal submitted late, or which otherwise fails to comply with **10.3** shall, in the absence of good cause shown, be rejected without the need for further consideration. In the event that a party shall fail to comply with directions given by the Appeals Committee in the course of an appeal, the Appeals Committee may on the application of either party or of its own motion {with or without a hearing} order that the party in default take no further part in the proceedings or that the appeal be dismissed on such terms as to costs as may be reasonable.

**11.6** As soon as possible following receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall convene an Appeals Committee and shall advise the parties of its composition and in the case of a hearing, of the date, time, and venue of it.

**11.7** The Appeals Committee shall have broad discretion to regulate its own procedure.

**11.8** The Appeals Committee will consider and review all of the documents and evidence submitted to the Disciplinary Committee/Panel in the proceedings and will consider the appeal on paper. The Appeals Committee shall have absolute discretion to admit or refuse any new

evidence tendered by any party and also to adjourn the proceedings for the purpose of taking any new evidence if it comes to light.

**11.9** If the Chairman of the Appeals Committee deems that there are exceptional circumstances, he may convene a hearing. In the case of such a hearing the Appeals Committee may require the attendance of any witnesses heard by the Disciplinary Committee/Panel.

**11.10** In a case where the appeal is solely against the sanction imposed, it will be considered by the Appeals Committee by way of review, taking account the representations of the person concerned in writing. Other than where the Appeals Committee deems that there are exceptional circumstances the appeal will be conducted on paper without a hearing.

**11.11** Having considered all of the evidence tendered to it, and having allowed the parties to the appeal sufficient opportunity to make submissions on paper or in person at a hearing, the Appeals Committee will consider its decision.

**11.12** A decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

**11.13** The Appeals Committee may:

**11.13 (A)** Affirm the decision appealed against.

**11.13 (B)** Set aside the decision appealed against and quash any finding made or sanction imposed.

**11.13 (C)** Set aside only part of the decision appealed against.

**11.13 (D)** Substitute for the findings of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel (as the case may be) its own decision on 'liability' (e.g., finding a Player culpable of a lesser or greater offence) and/or substitute for the sanction imposed below its own sanction; and/or

**11.13 (E)** Take any other step that it considers necessary to deal justly with the appeal.

**11.13 (F)** Pursuant to this Section, following an appeal, the Appeals Committee can impose a greater sanction than that which was imposed by the Disciplinary Committee/Panel.

**11.13 (G)** In the event of a DRA hearing. The Appeals Committee may order the affected party to pay all or part of the costs of the hearing.

**11.13 (H)** In its decision, the Appeals Committee shall include a direction as to the treatment of the deposit made further to Section **11.5** above.

## 12. SANCTIONS

**12.1** Where a Player or other person concerned is found guilty of Misconduct or otherwise in breach of the rules, the appropriate Disciplinary Committee/Panel, or the Appeals Committee (as the case may be) may impose upon that person one or more of the following sanctions:

**12.1 (A)** A National League team can be deducted points whereby it is deemed they have failed to report any incident to which the rules are to have likely been not adhered to I.E.ANY misconduct incidents.

**12.1 (B)** The amount of points deducted shall be proportionate in nature to the offence not reported and indeed how many occasions the team has failed to previously report.

**12.1 (C)** An individual may receive words of advice or a written warning for minor offences.

**12.1 (D)** A suspended ban may be issued for a period fixed in time decided upon by the UKDA Committee.

**12.1 (E)** A ban may be given with immediate effect pending the disciplinary hearing. Examples of the offence to which this would apply would be any offence involving safeguarding issues or involvement of illegal substances.

**12.1 (F)** The UKDA Disciplinary Committee may impose an immediate ban for a permanent suspension with or without the possibility of reinstatement for example a lifetime ban this will incorporate any UKDA governed events, this will include Super League National League and ANY UKDA or DRA governed UKDA events.

**12.1 (G)** Where the Disciplinary Committee/Panel imposes any period of suspension that period shall run from the date of the written decision even if a notice of appeal is submitted.

**12.1 (H)** Where a player is already subject to a suspension imposed under section 8 the period shall run from the date of the players' original suspension.

**12.1 (I)** In appropriate cases, the Disciplinary Committee/Panel or the Appeals Committee may recommend that a complete dossier of the evidence submitted in the course of the proceedings be prepared and sent to the relevant public authorities with a view to an investigation being undertaken by such authorities to establish whether a criminal offence has been committed.

In such an event the Disciplinary Committee/Panel or the Appeals Committee [as the case may be] may at its sole discretion determine that the disciplinary proceedings against the person be stayed pending the outcome of criminal proceedings and or the results of any investigation undertaken by such authorities.

**12.1 (J)** The UKDA may withhold all or a proportion or any prize money earned from a darts event.

**12.1 (K)** Any sanction under section 5.1 may apply.

### **13. WAIVER OF MINOR PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITIES**

**13.1** Without prejudice to the right of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel and the Appeals Committee to regulate their own procedures, where at any time in the course of any disciplinary proceedings carried out under the UKDA Rules there has been a breach of procedure or failure to follow any direction given, this shall not invalidate the proceedings unless such breaches have been such as to seriously and irremediably prejudice the position of the person concerned. No person who has a penalty of any kind imposed upon him by a determination of any UKDA Committee shall have any claim against the UKDA, any Directors, Committee Members or any Officer, Employee, Contractor or Agent of the UKDA even if the determination is subsequently found to be invalid or is overturned on appeal.

### **14. DRA REGULATIONS**

**14.1** The UKDA Shall name events that the DRA Rules and Code will come into effect. At this time the National singles and Pairs (Ladies and Men) along with any other stated open competition shall come under the jurisdiction of the DRA.

### **15. ANTI DOPING**

**15.1** All registered National League players will adhere to the DRA Anti-Doping policy.

### **16. CONFIDENTIALITY**

**16.1** Save where the Disciplinary Committee/Panel or the Appeals Committee (as applicable) orders otherwise, all disciplinary proceeding in accordance with these Rules shall take place in private and the public and the media shall have no right of access to the room where the hearing is taking place.

**16.2** The Disciplinary Committee/Panel and the Appeals Committee shall not issue any press statement or conduct and press conferences. All media announcements in relation to any decision of the Appeals Committee shall be made or approved by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee/Panel. There shall be no obligation on the UKDA to make public the sanctions imposed by them or the DRA in the course of any hearing.

**The player/official is also to not publish findings including on social media, a breach may result in further disciplinary action.**

**The UKDA has the right to amend any section of this policy at any time.**