



**The United Kingdom Backgammon Federation**

**Code of Conduct**

**Edition 1.0 – October 2020**

**Comments, queries or suggestions may be submitted via [contact@ukbgf.com](mailto:contact@ukbgf.com)**

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# 1. Scope and Application

- (i) The UKBGF is the national federation responsible for the governance of the game of backgammon in the UK, and this Code of Conduct is adopted and implemented as part of the UKBGF's continuing efforts to maintain the public image, popularity and integrity of backgammon by providing: (a) an effective means to deter any participant from conducting themselves improperly at or away from the board or in a manner that is contrary to the spirit of the game; and (b) a robust and proportionate disciplinary procedure pursuant to which all matters of improper conduct can be dealt with fairly, with certainty and in an expeditious manner.
- (ii) This Code of Conduct applies to:
  - a. any person, irrespective of UKBGF membership, participating in, or organising:
    - i. any game or event recognised by the UKBGF for rating purposes; or
    - ii. any other game or event conducted by or for the UKBGF; or
    - iii. any other game or event otherwise endorsed by or affiliated with the UKBGF.
  - b. any UKBGF member in conducting themselves publicly.
  - c. any backgammon player who is not a UKBGF member, engaged in activities not covered by section a. above, insofar as this Code of Conduct can be reasonably applied.
- (iii) The UKBGF recognise that private games or events do not necessarily fall within the scope of paragraph 1(ii) above (the "Scope"), and while the UKBGF encourages the ethos of this Code of Conduct to be taken up by all players, it does not claim to have any jurisdiction over games, events or conduct outside those covered by the Scope.
- (iv) It is not possible in this Code of Conduct to precisely define each and every circumstance or standard of conduct expected of players, tournament directors and spectators involved in a game or event or to list everything that would amount to a breach of this Code of Conduct and lead to disciplinary action. Persons otherwise uncertain of the conduct expected of them or who require advice on conduct observed should contact the official or organisers of the event or contact the UKBGF.
- (v) By becoming a UKBGF member and/or by their participation in any game or event in the Scope, the player, official or spectator shall be deemed to have agreed:
  - a. to be bound by and comply with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct; and
  - b. that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct, including what conduct constitutes an offence under the Code of Conduct.
- (vi) The UKBGF will be responsible for promoting Code of Conduct awareness and education amongst all players, event organisers, and officials.

## 2. Code of Conduct Offences

- (i) Backgammon owes much of its appeal and enjoyment to the fact that it should be played not only according to the rules, but also within the *spirit of the game*. There follows a non-exclusive list of behaviours and attitudes which the Code of Conduct expects:
  - a. Showing your opponent respect and playing by the rules;
  - b. Respecting the rights, dignity, and worthiness of all people irrespective of age, gender, race, disability, or any other protected characteristic;
  - c. Refraining from verbal, emotional or physical abuse toward any other player, tournament official or spectator.
- (ii) There follows a non-exclusive list describing conduct which breaches the *spirit of the game* and therefore, if committed by a UKBGF member, player, official, organiser, or spectator, shall amount to an offence under the Code of Conduct:
  - a. Repeatedly or grossly violating the rules of backgammon, or generally accepted backgammon etiquette, or the rules or conditions applicable to a particular event;
  - b. Cheating, or attempting to cheat, in relation to a game or event;
  - c. Failing to comply with normally accepted standards of courtesy, behaviour and respect for all people both at and away from the board;
  - d. Engaging in violent, threatening or other unseemly behaviour in relation to a game or event;
  - e. Making unjustified accusations towards other players, officials, organisers, or sponsors of an event;
  - f. Engaging in conduct likely to injure the reputation of the UKBGF, its events, officials, organisers, participants or sponsors;
  - g. While holding the position of an organiser, tournament director or other official of an event: failing to perform the functions in relation to that event in an impartial and responsible manner or failing to honour financial commitments relating to the event;
  - h. While representing the UKBGF in a team or delegation, as a player, official or accompanying person, behaving in any manner likely to disrupt either (i) the organisation of the event concerned or (ii) the performance or preparation of fellow or opposition team or delegation members.

## 3. Reporting an Alleged Offence Under the Code of Conduct

- (i) Offences under the Code of Conduct can take place:
  - a. during or in connection with a game or event:
    - i. Any alleged offence under the Code of Conduct during a game or event should in the first instance be brought to the attention of the tournament director or other authorised official of the event, who may impose an

appropriate penalty in line with the rules or conditions applicable to that particular event.

1. Where a penalty is imposed upon a player during any game or event, the tournament director must report it to the UKBGF Board as soon as practicably possible thereafter. This report must be by email and must include a full report of the incident and action taken.
- ii. Once an event has been completed, and where the tournament director or other authorised official of the event has no further action to take, or is unable to take proportionate action, there may remain an unresolved issue or grievance.
  1. In such a case any player, organiser, or official of the event may report an alleged offence under the Code of Conduct by petition to the UKBGF Board.
- b. unrelated to a game or event:
  - i. Where an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct has taken place outside of a formal game or event setting, then any directly involved person may report an alleged offence under the Code of Conduct by petition to the UKBGF Board.
  - (ii) A petition to the UKBGF Board should be by email to [contact@ukbGF.com](mailto:contact@ukbGF.com) and must include a full report of the incident, identifying the alleged offender and including as much proof and evidence of the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct as is reasonably possible.
  - (iii) Any petition to the UKBGF Board must be made within 14 days of the discovery of the alleged offence having taken place. Only under exceptional circumstances will petitions received after this duration be considered.

## 4. Standards of Proof and Evidence

- (i) The standard of proof in all cases brought under the Code of Conduct shall be whether the UKBGF Board is comfortably satisfied, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation that is made, that the alleged offence has been committed. This standard of proof in all cases shall be determined on a sliding scale from, at a minimum, a mere balance of probability (for the least serious offences) up to proof beyond a reasonable doubt (for the most serious offences).
- (ii) The UKBGF Board shall not be bound by judicial rules governing the admissibility of evidence. Instead, facts relating to an offence committed under the Code of Conduct may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.
- (iii) The UKBGF Board may draw an inference adverse to the person who is asserted to have committed an offence under the Code of Conduct based on his/her refusal, without compelling justification, after a request made in a reasonable time, to present their case in reply to the allegation, and/or to answer any relevant questions.
- (iv) For the avoidance of doubt, the UKBGF Board will not act or be expected to act in an investigative capacity to obtain additional evidence not already presented but will only consider the evidence presented and make what additional enquiries in relation to such

evidence as it believes is reasonably necessary to consider the matter. The alleged offender shall be given the right to make their representations on the matter in all cases.

## **5. Disciplinary Process, Penalties and Sanctions**

- (i) Upon due consideration of a petition to the UKBGF Board, where the UKBGF Board determines that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred, it may impose a penalty, further penalty, or sanction against an offender.
- (ii) Penalties or sanctions that the UKBGF Board may impose include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Suspension from playing in games or events to which this Code of Conduct applies for an appropriate period;
  - b. Suspension from performing the functions of a tournament director or official in, or in relation to, any event to which this Code of Conduct applies for an appropriate period;
  - c. Revocation of UKBGF membership, or rejection of a membership application;
  - d. Removal of a player's historical data from the UKBGF ratings sites (select matches or in full);
  - e. Withholding permission to represent a UKBGF national team;
  - f. Issuance of a warning by email, identifying the offence under the Code of Conduct. This warning will last 12 months. Issuance of further warnings within the duration of any existing warning may lead to the UKBGF Board considering further penalties or sanctions.
- (iii) Once a decision has been reached, the UKBGF Board shall notify the applicant and the offender by email detailing the penalty or sanction and shall notify the WBGF (World Backgammon Federation) if deemed appropriate.

## **6. Recognition of Decisions**

- (i) Any decisions or adjudications under the Code of Conduct must be recognised and upheld where appropriate and necessary by any UKBGF recognised club, tournament or otherwise UKBGF sanctioned or affiliated event subject to this Code of Conduct.
- (ii) Details of penalties or sanctions imposed by the UKBGF Board on any UKBGF member, player, organiser, or official, may be made available by the Board upon request.
- (iii) Tournament directors registered with the UKBGF will be notified whenever penalties or sanctions are imposed by the UKBGF Board on any UKBGF member, player, organiser, or official.

## **7. Appeals Against a Decision of the UKBGF Board**

- (i) Appeals shall be on the basis that there was a material error or omission in the making of the decision that has disadvantaged the applicant or disproportionately affected the offender, or that the original decision was perverse.
- (ii) An appeal must be made within 7 days of the applicant and the offender receiving notification of the UKBGF Board's original decision.
- (iii) The UKBGF Board shall review the appeal and within 7 days determine and notify all relevant parties whether the original decision:
  - a. stands; or
  - b. is revoked; or
  - c. is amended.

## **8. Amendment and Interpretation of the Code of Conduct**

- (i) The Code of Conduct may be amended from time to time by the UKBGF Board. Such amendments shall come into effect on the date specified by the UKBGF Board, but this date should not be retrospective.
- (ii) Where any part of the Code of Conduct is subject to interpretation then the UKBGF Board shall have the final say.