

World ParaVolley Discipline Regulations

(Accepted by the WOVD General Assembly 23 September 2004, adapted for the 2014 Constitution)

1. Introduction

These regulations define how disciplinary matters are to be handled within World ParaVolley and its zones. They set out: the bodies within World ParaVolley which may impose disciplinary sanctions; the duties and obligations of zones, member nations, teams, groups, delegations and individuals; definitions of the kinds of offences which lead to disciplinary sanctions; definitions of the sanctions which may be imposed, and which bodies may impose them; the procedures for disciplinary hearings, the application of sanctions, and appeals.

2. Bodies with disciplinary powers

The following bodies have powers to hear cases and to impose disciplinary sanctions. (See section 6 below for explanation of which sanctions each body may impose.)

- The Technical Committee and Jury of Appeal of any World ParaVolley, Zonal competition or other World ParaVolley sanctioned event
- The World ParaVolley Referee Commission (and Zonal Referee Commissions)
- A Zonal Committee
- The World ParaVolley Board of Directors
- The World ParaVolley Judicial Commission
- The World ParaVolley General Assembly

3. The duties and obligations of zones, member nations, teams and individuals

In general, all member nations, teams, groups and individuals associated with World ParaVolley have a duty and obligation to act with honesty, responsibility and integrity, and in a manner which respects the dignity of others and is loyal to World ParaVolley and their zone.

- 3.1 *Zones of World ParaVolley* have a duty and obligation to follow strictly the World ParaVolley Constitution, Zonal Regulations, and all other regulations of World ParaVolley and their zone, including the Classification, Medical and Anti-Doping Codes as required by IPC and WADA. The zone may be held responsible, even on the basis of presumed responsibility, for the actions of the Zonal Assembly, Zonal Committee/Board, any sub-committee or Commission of the Zonal Committee/Board, or any individual or group acting on behalf of the zone.
- 3.2 *Member nations of World ParaVolley* have a duty and obligation to follow strictly the World ParaVolley Constitution and all other regulations of World ParaVolley and their zone. The national federation which is a member of World ParaVolley may be held responsible, even on the basis of presumed responsibility, for the actions of member clubs and national teams (including their players, coaches and delegation members), referees, spectators, the organisers of national or international competitions held in the member nation, and any individual or group acting on behalf of the national federation.
- 3.3 *National and club teams, and members of delegations to official World ParaVolley or Zonal events* (e.g. tournaments, championships, assemblies) have

a duty and obligation to follow strictly the World ParaVolley Constitution and all other regulations of World ParaVolley and their zone. A club or national team may be held responsible, even on the basis of presumed responsibility, for the actions of any individual or group acting on behalf of the team, club or delegation, including spectators.

- 3.4 *World ParaVolley officials (including members of the Board of Directors, World ParaVolley Commissions or Committees, International and Candidate International referees, International Classifiers, and any other individuals or groups acting on behalf of World ParaVolley), have a duty and obligation to follow strictly the World ParaVolley Constitution and all other regulations of World ParaVolley and their zone, including the Classification, Medical and Anti-Doping Codes as required by IPC and WADA, and any relevant Code of Conduct.*

4. Definitions of the kinds of offences which lead to disciplinary sanctions

4.1 Sports offences

Sports offences are in general any improper actions or words which occur in match play or immediately surrounding a match or competition. They include the following (but this list should not be considered exhaustive):

- (i) dishonesty or cheating in order to benefit an individual or team;
- (ii) use of forbidden substances (doping) (for fuller definition, see the relevant World ParaVolley and WADA Anti-doping regulations);
- (iii) use of unauthorised or unqualified team members;
- (iv) active or passive obstruction of the normal playing of a match or competition, including: refusal to play, delaying a match or matches, obstructing competition officials in the organisation of the competition;
- (v) improper, abusive or violent words or actions, or any form of harassment towards match or competition officials;
- (vi) biased officiating by referees, scorers, line judges or any other match officials.

4.2 Administrative offences

Administrative offences are in general any improper actions or words which occur outside the immediate match context. They include the following (but this list should not be seen as exhaustive):

- (i) dishonesty or cheating, including financial impropriety, in order to benefit an individual, group, team, member nation or zone;
- (ii) failure to provide information reasonably required in time (e.g. registration details of players, officials);
- (iii) neglect or abuse of the duties and responsibilities of a zonal or World ParaVolley office;
- (iv) failure to pay fees (e.g. World ParaVolley membership fees, competition entry fees, etc.);
- (v) failure to pay a fine or serve any other form of disciplinary action;

- (vi) failure by a zone or national federation to enforce disciplinary action taken against an individual, group, team or member nation;
- (vii) withdrawing from a competition without adequate reason;
- (viii) failure to provide facilities for a competition as agreed in the competition contract between World ParaVolley or the zone and the organiser.

4.3 Bringing the sport into disrepute

Bringing the sport into disrepute means in general any actions or words, including electronic communication, which are likely to harm the reputation of World ParaVolley, a zone, or the sport's disciplines of Standing and Sitting volleyball, and Standing and Sitting Beach Volleyball. They include the following (but this list should not be seen as exhaustive):

- (i) dishonesty or cheating, including financial impropriety, in order to benefit an individual, group, team, member nation or zone;
- (ii) improper, abusive or violent words or actions, or any form of harassment towards officials of World ParaVolley or the zone;
- (iii) discrimination on the basis of race, sex, ethnic origin, religious, philosophical or political beliefs, marital status or other grounds;
- (iv) failure to maintain confidentiality;
- (v) receiving or giving personal gifts in order to obtain privileges or position within World ParaVolley, a zone or a member nation;
- (vi) actions or words, in a public forum or in writing (including by electronic means), which are likely to damage the relationships of World ParaVolley or a zone with a member nation, international sports governing body, or national or regional government;
- (vii) failure to declare a conflict of interest affecting World ParaVolley, a zone or activities within World ParaVolley or a zone.

5. Disciplinary sanctions

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on individuals, groups, member nations or zones:

- 5.1 Warning letter which admonishes the individual, group, member nation or zone concerning its conduct, and warns against any future misconduct.
- 5.2 Fine.
- 5.3 Suspension of an individual player, team official or referee from matches in a competition.
- 5.4 Reversal or amendment of match results, or penalising of a team's position in a competition.
- 5.5 Suspension of an individual, team, club, group or member nation from membership or activity within World ParaVolley, or a Zone for a specified period or from specified competition(s). A suspended individual, team, club or member nation is not permitted to take any part in World ParaVolley or Zonal competitions, Commissions, meetings or assemblies during the period of suspension.

5.6 Expulsion of an individual, group or member nation from World ParaVolley.

6. Powers of disciplinary bodies

- 6.1 A competition Technical Committee may impose the following disciplinary sanctions against teams and team members (including delegation members): warning letter; fine up to €250 (for an individual) or €500 (for a group, club or team); suspension of an individual player or team official from matches in that competition; reversal or amendment of match results, or penalising of a team's position in that competition. A competition Technical Committee may also recommend a further suspension to the relevant Zonal Committee/Board (if it is a zonal competition) or the World ParaVolley Sport Director, or Board of Directors (if it is a World ParaVolley competition).
- 6.2 A competition Jury of Appeal may impose the same sanctions as a competition Technical Committee and, in the case of an appeal, has the further power to cancel, reduce or increase the disciplinary sanctions imposed by the Technical Committee. A competition Jury of Appeal may also recommend a further suspension to the relevant Zonal Committee/Board (if it is a Zonal competition) or the World ParaVolley Sport Director, or Board of Directors (if it is a World ParaVolley competition).
- 6.3 The World ParaVolley Referee Commission and a properly constituted Zonal Referee Commission may impose the following disciplinary sanctions on Referee Delegates, Referee Observers and Referees: warning letter; fine up to €250; suspension from activity within World ParaVolley and its zones for up to three years. A Zonal Referee Commission or the World ParaVolley Referee Commission may also recommend a further suspension, or expulsion, to the World ParaVolley Sport Director or Board of Directors.
- 6.4 A Zonal Committee/Board may impose the following disciplinary sanctions on individuals, groups, teams, clubs and member nations: warning letter; fine up to €500 (for an individual) or €1000 (for a group, team, club or member nation); suspension of an individual, group, team, club or member nation for up to three years. A Zonal Committee/Board may also recommend a further suspension, or expulsion, to the World ParaVolley Sport Director or Board of Directors.
- 6.5 If a meeting of the Board of Directors is to take place within the 30 days following an event/action which requires further investigation, the Board of Directors shall normally decide about any further disciplinary sanctions required. The Sport Department has power to decide disciplinary cases at other times within the limits of its powers (see 6.6).
- 6.6 The Sport Department may impose the following disciplinary sanctions on individuals, groups, teams, clubs and member nations: warning letter, fine up to €500 (for an individual) or €1000 (for a group, club, team or member nation); suspension of an individual, group, team, club, team or member nation for up to five years.
- 6.7 The World ParaVolley Board of Directors may impose the following disciplinary sanctions on individuals, groups, teams, clubs and member nations: warning letter; fine up to €500 (for an individual) or €1000 (for a group, team, club or member nation); suspension of an individual, group, club, national team or member nation for up to five years; expulsion from World ParaVolley.

- 6.8 The World ParaVolley Judicial Commission may impose the following disciplinary sanctions on individuals, groups, teams, clubs and member nations: warning letter; fine up to €500 (for an individual) or €1000 (for a group, team, club or member nation); suspension of an individual, group, club, team or member nation for up to five years; expulsion from World ParaVolley. The Judicial Commission may cancel, reduce or increase any disciplinary sanction imposed previously concerning the particular case, in its absolute discretion
- 6.9 The World ParaVolley General Assembly has unlimited power to sanction individuals, groups, teams, clubs, member nations and Zones. Such sanctions must be agreed by simple majority vote of the member nations voting on the sanctions.

7. Disciplinary procedures

- 7.1 World ParaVolley and Zonal disciplinary procedures are designed to be fair and in tune with the principles of natural justice. An individual, team, group, club, member nation or other body accused of an offence should be given opportunity to explain their actions, orally or in writing. Reasonable time must be given to allow this to happen. Decisions must be communicated clearly and promptly by the disciplinary body concerned.
- 7.2 A disciplinary hearing shall be convened by the relevant body on the basis of information from a team member, match report, match referee, Jury member or Referee Observer, Technical Delegate or Referee Delegate, Chief Classifier, Zonal or World ParaVolley official.
- 7.3 If the matter concerns an event or issue within a competition, the competition Technical Committee shall convene a hearing within 24 hours of the information being received. The Technical Committee may announce its decision orally at the close of its meeting. The Technical Committee must announce its decision in writing, in English, to the parties concerned, within 6 hours of the close of its meeting. A party receiving a disciplinary sanction from a competition Technical Committee has up to one hour from receiving the decision in writing to appeal against the decision. Any appeal must be in writing, in English, stating the grounds for the appeal, and must include the relevant fee.
- 7.4 A competition Jury of Appeal shall convene a hearing within 24 hours of an appeal being received. The Jury of Appeal may announce its decision orally at the close of its meeting. The Jury of Appeal must announce its decision in writing, in English, to the parties concerned, within 6 hours of the close of its meeting.
- 7.5 If the matter concerns an event or issue outside a competition, or a recommendation from a competition Technical Committee or Jury of Appeal, the relevant disciplinary body (see 6.3-8 above) shall arrange a disciplinary hearing within 30 days of the information being received. This hearing may be 'virtual' (electronic) or may take place by telephone. The disciplinary body shall announce its decision in writing, in English, to the parties concerned, within 48 hours of the close of its meeting.
- 7.6 If any member of the disciplinary body is a party to the matter under consideration, they must exclude themselves from taking part in the hearing.

- 7.7 Parties to the matter may submit evidence to the hearing. An individual, group, team or member nation which is accused of improper conduct is entitled to a copy of any evidence submitted which is relevant to the hearing, in enough time so that they may take it into account in their evidence.
- 7.8 If the hearing takes place during a competition or assembly, the parties may request an oral hearing, which must take place in English. Otherwise, the parties' evidence must be submitted in writing in English by the deadline set by the disciplinary body.
- 7.9 After receiving the evidence from the parties, whether orally or in writing, the relevant disciplinary body shall come to a decision. This decision shall be announced in writing in English to the parties concerned, and may be sent in writing to others, at the discretion of the disciplinary body.

8. Application of sanctions

- 8.1 All disciplinary decisions made shall be regarded as executed and in force from their publication in writing by the disciplinary body concerned.
- 8.2 A fine shall be paid within 30 days of the notification of the disciplinary body's decision. If a fine is not paid within that period, 10% is added to the fine. If the fine remains unpaid after 40 days, the case is subject to further disciplinary action by the relevant body (see 4.2.iv), which may include immediate suspension until the fine + 10% is paid.
- 8.3 Failure to pay other fees within the period specified when the fees are requested (see 4.2.iv) may be penalised by a Zonal Committee or the Board of Directors or Sport Department by an immediate suspension of an individual, group, team, club or member nation until the fees are paid.
- 8.4 A suspension's nature, length, start and end date and time, shall be notified in writing to the individual, team, group or member nation concerned, and also to their national federation. In the case of an individual, team or club, the national federation, or its relevant Commission in the case of an individual, shall be responsible for ensuring that the suspension is served. In the case of a member nation, the Zonal Committee/Board, World ParaVolley Sport Department and the Board of Board of Directors shall be responsible for ensuring that the suspension is served. Failure to serve a suspension is subject to further disciplinary action by the relevant body (see 4.2.iv).
- 8.5 Expulsion means that the individual, group, team, club or member nation is excluded permanently from membership of World ParaVolley and its zones. This is a severe sanction, only to be used in very serious cases.

9. Appeal procedures

- 9.1 For disciplinary decisions taken by a competition Technical Committee, there is a right of appeal to the competition Jury of Appeal. The appeal must be handed in writing in English to an officer of the Jury of Appeal within one hour of the decision being received by the appellant, accompanied by the appeal fee of €600 Euros. If the appeal is successful, the appeal fee is returned to the appellant. (See 7.4 for the Jury of Appeal's procedure.)
- 9.2 There is no appeal within a competition above the decision of the Jury of Appeal.

- 9.3 An appeal against a decision made by a Zonal body or a World ParaVolley Commission or officer may be made to the Board of Directors or World ParaVolley Sport Department where relevant. This appeal must be received in writing in English within 30 days of the decision being received by the appellant, accompanied by the appeal fee of €200. If the appeal is successful, the appeal fee is returned to the appellant. The appeal body shall hold a hearing within 30 days of the appeal being received, and shall notify parties to the original hearing of the nature of the appeal and invite them to submit any relevant further evidence. The appeal body shall announce its decision in writing in English to the parties concerned within 48 hours of the close of its meeting.
- 9.4 For any other decision made by a World ParaVolley disciplinary body, including those appealed unsuccessfully under 9.2, an individual, group, team, club or member nation has the final right of appeal to the Judicial Commission. This appeal must be received in writing in English within 30 days of the decision being received by the appellant, accompanied by the appeal fee of €200. If the appeal is successful, the appeal fee is returned to the appellant. (See the Judicial Commission regulations for the procedures for such an appeal.)

10. Conclusion and entering into force

- 10.1 In cases not covered by these regulations, the Judicial Commission shall have the power to give a ruling which is binding on all parties concerned.