

The Code of Ethics of the International Draughts Federation (IDF) adopted by the IDF General Meeting in Kranevo, Bulgaria at August 29, 2016.

Amendments and additions adopted by the IDF General Meeting at August 30, 2018

In any unclear cases the priority is the English version of the document.

Each federation has to make a translation of the Code to its members.

1. General Provisions

1.1. The draughts game and the concept of draughts based on the assumption that all participants, referees, coaches and other stakeholders comply with existing rules and regulations, and attach great importance to fair play and sportsmanship.

1.2. It is impossible to determine in all cases the standards of behavior expected of all parties involved in competitions and events of the IDF, or a list of all the situations which constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics and will result in disciplinary action.

In most cases, common sense will tell the participants the necessary standards of behavior. In particular, the need to respect the principles of Olympism, friendship, solidarity and fair play. One of the purposes of this Code of Ethics is to strengthen the above principles.

1.3. The Code of Ethics applies to:

- Leaders of the IDF
- Members of the committees and commissions
- National organizations, delegates and advisers
- Affiliated organizations
- The organizers, sponsors
- Arbiters
- Players
- The participants of the competition and accompanying persons in official competitions and competitions under the auspices of the IDF
- Accredited persons
- Spectators
- Other persons having an indirect relation to the IDF and able to damage the image and reputation of the IDF.

This Code of Ethics may be applied to any person (individual or legal) who intentionally or negligently violate the rules and regulations of competitions or neglect observing principles of fair play.

1.4. This Code of Ethics does not apply to any powers that the IDF Board or General Meeting may have pursuant to provisions contained within the IDF Statutes or By-laws, including, in particular, the authority to suspend membership or exclude a National Federation from the IDF.

1.5. This Code of Ethics does not apply to anti-doping issues that are governed by the IDF Anti-Doping Rules and regulations.

2. Ethics Violations

The Code of Ethics can be broken by an individual or organization which directly or indirectly:

2.1. Offers, or tries to offer or receives any form of remuneration or commission, or any concealed benefit or service of any nature connected with the game of draughts or elections in the IDF.

2.2. In other cases, acts contrary to this Code.

2.2.1. Fraud in the management of the IDF office or any office of the National Federation that affects other federations. The same applies to cases where inaccurate information is provided for obtaining unjustified advantages or benefits.

2.2.2. Actions by officials that led to a loss of confidence.

2.2.3. Organizers, tournament directors, arbiters and other officials who fail to perform their duties impartially and responsibly.

2.2.4. Incorrect behavior:

Disputes arising during the competition shall be settled in accordance with the rules and regulations of the competition.

By abnormal behavior include (but are not limited to this list):

- Failure to comply with accepted standards of behavior and etiquette in draughts;
- Actions or behavior unbecoming status of participants, arbiters, organizers, coaches, etc.;
- Insults, acts of aggression, violence or intimidation;
- Use of alcoholic beverages in the competition venues or appearance in the competition venues in a state of intoxication;
- Unreasonable public comments or statements in the media and in the Internet, which may harm the reputation of the IDF, or harm to professional qualities of players, referees and tournament organizers;
- Behavior, act or omission that harms or may harm the IDF;
- Any other behavior that is not consistent with the principles of Olympism and sport behavior, including any form of discrimination on any grounds - race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or other status.

2.2.5. Violations by players:

- Skipping one game or round, refusal to continue the competition without a good reason, or without notice to a referee.
- Rude or repeated violations of the rules of the game and competition, or approved regulations.
- Fraudulent acts or cheating attempts during games and competitions, collusion on the outcome of games.
- In any official competition players, members of delegations, coaches and accompanying persons required to comply with the dress code in game rooms and public areas. Under the dress code is meant sports uniforms, or clothes, corresponding to the rank of the competition; as well as clothing for formal events (suit and light shirt for men, trouser suit or dress for women).
Delegations include representatives of its national federations which conduct business on behalf of the players. Players are responsible for the actions of acknowledged members of their delegations.
- Participants of a competition must be present at the opening and closing ceremonies in compliance with the dress code. The absence at the opening and closing is considered as improper behavior with sanctions in accordance with this Code of Ethics.
In the case of absence at the closing ceremony, participants will be deprived of all official awards and prizes, these awards and prizes are not sent or transmitted. At repeated violation a player loses his or her place in the final standings in favor of other players. Information about violation is supplied to the Ethics Committee for the application of sanctions.
- Participation in World or Continental Championships and other official competitions, unrecognized by the IDF, entails the imposition of sanctions, both on the players and the federation, conducting this competition.
- Players or members of their delegations must not make unjustified accusations against other players, referees, officials and sponsors. All protests must be sent directly to the referee or to the Jury of Appeal of the competition in accordance with the Regulations of the competition. After the period, fixed in the Regulations, protests will not be accepted or considered. Any protest after the deadline is considered as incorrect behavior with the use of sanctions in accordance with this Code of Ethics.

- 2.2.6. The use of illicit pharmacology (doping), as well as assistance or inducement in any form to its use entails the application of sanctions in accordance with the Anti-Doping Code of the IDF and this Code of Ethics.
- 2.2.7. Besides the fact that disciplinary action in accordance with this Code of Ethics will be taken against the irregularities during the games and draughts competitions, they will be used and out of competition, if the IDF will be exhibited in unduly unfavorable light, and thus, the IDF reputation will be harmed.
- 2.2.8. It will be subject to sanctions any behavior that is directed at discrediting the IDF, its events, organizers, participants, sponsors or that will not enhance the goodwill the IDF.

2.3. Cheating.

Cheating is using in the game of special technical equipment, specially designed or modified programs or equipment to obtain indisputable advantage over other players, to enhance the efficiency of game action or to facilitate the game.

- 2.3.1. Use of external information during the game is prohibited. In particular, during the game players may not use any sources of information or advice, or analyze any other game on the draughts board, including other people's games. The analysis of completed games in the playing area is prohibited.
- 2.3.2. During the game, players are not allowed to have electronic devices and / or other device capable of processing or transmitting of draughts analysis. If it is found that a player has brought such a device in the playing room, the player shall be imposed sanctions in accordance with this Code of Ethics.
- 2.3.3. It is forbidden to communicate with anyone during the game and during a break between sets of micro-match.
- 2.3.4. The organizers must clearly and carefully mark the area for the players (further – the "playing zone") and for the audience. Organizers and referees should avoid receiving any draughts information from outside the playing zone. The organizers have to prevent any contact between players and spectators during the tournament.
- 2.3.5. Recommendations for the referees:
 - A referee must not allow contact between the players and the audience, such as conversation and / or providing / receiving signals.
 - A referee should never allow the use of draughts programs in the playing zone. In a case of finding a player or spectator which using a draughts program in the playing zone, calls for immediate sanctions, in coordination with the Main Arbiter.
 - In case of suspicious behavior a referee should follow the player in each of his / her way out of the playing zone (in a bar, toilets, place for smoking, etc.), in order to prevent any contact with the player and any other persons or the use of external sources of information or communications.
 - In case of suspicion that a player have an electronic and / or other devices capable of processing or transmitting of draughts analysis, the referee may require the player's examination of his clothes, handbags and other items. The referee or a person authorized by the referee shall inspect the player, and it must be the same gender as the player. If a player refuses the inspection, the referee can take more stringent measures, including suspension from the game.

2.3.6. Equipment.

The following technical equipment is recommended to prevent cheating, according to the level of competition and local laws:

- Jammers for mobile phones;

- Hand-held metal detectors;
- Passing through the arched metal detectors;
- Automatic electromagnetic screening device for the metallic / non-metallic objects.

3. Sanctions

3.1. The sanctions provided for in this Code of Ethics, are aimed to suppress reprehensible and unethical behavior. Application of sanctions does not depend on whether intentionally or through negligence the Code of Ethics has been violated. Measure sanctions determined based on the type of violation and any previous infringements.

3.2. Violation of the Code of Ethics shall be punished by one or more of the following sanctions:

- Warning;
- Reprimand;
- Defeat in the game round;
- Exclusion from competition;
- Deprivation of official awards and prizes;
- Deprivation of titles;
- Penalty;
- Removal for a specified period from the competition, or any other kinds of draughts activities as a players, referees, organizer, office worker, etc.;
- Exclusion from the IDF members or suspension for a specified period from the IDF membership;
- Exclusion from the IDF governing bodies or office.

3.3. The sanction may be imposed, taking into account all relevant factors such as the age of the offender, assistance and cooperation in the investigation, the motive, the circumstances and the degree of guilt.

3.4. If it has been committed by more than one violation, the sanction to be applied, taking into account the more serious offense. In these cases, when determining the amount of the fine, the Ethics Committee is not obliged to adhere to the upper limit of the fine.

3.5. If a sanction was imposed, the Ethics Committee, in consideration of circumstances, can withdraw authorization, or partially suspend its execution, setting a probation period of six months to two years. If a person during the probation period commits another violation, the suspension is automatically stopped, the original sanction completely applied with the addition of the sanction imposed for the new offense.

3.6. Officials during a competition must take all necessary measures to ensure the proper conduct of the competition in accordance with the provisions and regulations.

For infringement of rules or provisions of the competition and the present Code of Ethics during the competition a player or a member of the delegation, by decision of the Jury of Appeal, can depending on infringement: get lose in a game round, and be eliminated from the competition, or be fined up **to 2,000 euros**. If a member of the delegation which a player belongs behaves aggressively, sanctions are applied to the player if such a member of the delegation refuses to leave the event. In any case, the verdict of the Jury of Appeal of the competition is final and not subject to further appeal to the Ethics Committee.

3.7. Any player who violates the Code of Ethics may be suspended from participation in all the competitions held by the IDF, or specific types of events for up to **3 years** or fined up to **2,000 euros**.

3.8. In the case of participation in World or Continental Championships and other official competitions, unrecognized by the IDF, the player can be suspended from participation in all competitions held by the IDF, or specific types of events for up to **10 years**.

3.9. During the suspension period the player loses all fulfilled norms for assigning titles.

- 3.10. Referees who are not acting in accordance with the Code of Ethics may be disqualified from judging for up to **3 years**. In this case, a new appointment to officiate after the end of the suspension period will be in accordance with the normal rules.
- 3.11. Competition organizers who violate the Code of Ethics can be removed from the organization of the IDF activities for up to **3 years**.
- 3.12. Federation and affiliated organizations that violate the Code of Ethics may be excluded from membership with all its consequences, or their membership may be suspended.
- 3.13. Officials of the IDF, its affiliates, federations and affiliated organizations may be excluded from the IDF governing bodies / office or participation in the IDF elections for up to **4 years**.
- 3.14. In cases of appeals or protests, sent on the IDF officials, or the IDF, or one of its affiliates, no direct financial compensation or penalty cannot be imposed.
- 3.15. The General Meeting may consider such compensation or penalties on the proposal of the Ethics Committee. Such compensation or penalty under any circumstances should not exceed **2,000 euros**.

4. Administrative procedures.

- 4.1. The complaint about the violation of the rules of this Code of Ethics by any person or organization should be directed by registered letter to the IDF office and by e-mail to the IDF General Secretary.
- 4.2. The complaint must be written in English or Russian.
- 4.3. The IDF General Secretary after registration sends a complaint to the Ethics Committee with an electronic copy to the IDF Board members.
- 4.4. Only National Federations that do not have financial debt to the IDF, their members and the members of the IDF Board can file a complaint for consideration by the Ethics Committee.
- 4.5. The complaint must be accompanied by a payment of 100 euros to the IDF account. If the complaint contains more than one protest, the payment of 100 euros must be made for each protest. The deposit will be refunded if the Ethics Committee will satisfy the appeal.
- 4.6. In the appeal must indicate against whom personally or against which federation / organization directed protest and must be specified article (s) of this Code of Ethics, which is (are) the basis for the protest.
- 4.7. The IDF Ethics Committee shall consider only the application lodged in full compliance with Articles 4.1-4.6.
- 4.8. All materials for the decision must be submitted in writing. The defendant should have enough time to defend themselves if necessary.
- 4.9. Any decisions made by the Ethics Committee may be subject to appeal at the IDF General Meeting. Any decision of the IDF General Meeting on this appeal may be can be appealed to the Bulgarian court.

4.10. Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee is composed from three persons nominated by the Board or the General Meeting and approved by the General Meeting. Members of the Ethics Committee shall not be members of the IDF Board.

4.11. Complaint handling.

- 4.11.1. The complaint should be directed by registered letter to the IDF office and by e-mail to the IDF General Secretary. The IDF General Secretary after registering a complaint forwards it to the Chairman of the Ethics Committee. The Chairman decides whether there are sufficient grounds

for the complaint, and checks whether the amount required for the consideration of complaints received. After checking all the formalities necessary for consideration of the complaint in accordance with Articles 4.1-4.6., the Chairman informs the other members and asks their opinion. The Chairman also requests an opinion of accused person and communicates it to the other members of the Ethics Committee. If necessary, the Chairman may send questions, relevant to the complaint, to persons, concerned to complaint: the referees, organizers, etc.

- 4.11.2. On the basis of all available information a decision is taken within **three months** after the Chairman has received the complaint. During the investigation on complaint the Chairman gives enough time for the accused person and other members of the Committee to express their views.
- 4.11.3. The decision must be signed by all members of the Ethics Committee, with the name, date and place, and shall be communicated to the Chairman and all parties of the conflict.
- 4.11.4. After receiving the decision, all the parties involved - the complainant, the accused and the Ethics Committee - have **one month** to lodge an appeal to the General Meeting for consideration at the next General Meeting. This must be done by registered letter and by e-mail sent to the IDF Office.
- 4.11.5. If the complainant or the accused party does not agree with the decision taken by the General Meeting, they have **one month** after receiving the decision to appeal the decision of the General Meeting to the Bulgarian court.

5. Entry into force

This version of IDF Code of Ethics is approved by the IDF General Meeting August 30, 2018 and entry into force immediately.