



M. T. A. D. L.

MTADL Discipline and Protest

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE	2
3. DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS	3
4. EXAMPLES OF INFRACTIONS	3
5. PROTESTS	5

1. INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared as a guideline to members and captains in order to better inform you of the views of the Board of Directors. The following should not be perceived as rules per se; however, these points will be foremost in the minds of the Board concerning protests and disciplinary issues.

The desire of the majority of MTADL members is to be able to enjoy an entertaining evening of organized, competitive darts among friends. The task of ensuring this environment and maintaining the reputation of MTADL falls upon the members of its board of directors among future players and sponsors. To that end, the board will take steps to discipline or suspend members whose behavior conflicts with that task.

In addition to the violation of members' rights, disciplinary problems result in a dramatic shift in the time spent by the Board of Directors, whose primary function is to oversee the positive aspects of the League (statistics, events, tournaments, *etc.*), towards dealing with protests and dealing with unruly players. This may seriously impair the ability of the Board to fulfill its primary duties and responsibilities and demand a significant commitment of additional time and effort – for which the members of the Board are in no way recompensed.

2. THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary committee is a body to which the Board of Directors may refer any protest or discipline-related issue for review.

- The Board of Directors will appoint a Disciplinary Committee which MAY be made up of members as follows:
 - The Chair of the Committee, who will be a voting member of the Board of Directors.
 - One member from each division from within the M.T.A.D.L.
 - The President is an ex-officio member of all committees (see *By-Law No. 1, sec. 16*)
- The Disciplinary Committee is empowered only to make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Its primary function is as an information collection and review body and its decisions are in no way binding on the Board of Directors.
- The Disciplinary Committee shall, at the direction of the Board, or in absence of such direction, at their discretion:
 - Review any protest or disciplinary issue referred to the Committee by the Board of Directors
 - Use a best effort approach to meet within 14 days of a protest

- Interview all members involved in the incident
- Interview the captains and/or co-captains of the teams involved
- Interview any other persons as the committee deems necessary to obtain as complete and unbiased a view as possible
- Deliberate on the information obtained
- Present a summary of the information and recommend a course of action to the Board of Directors
- Review the existing rules and by-laws that relate to game play and, if necessary, make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding possible changes.
- Captains, co-captains, and members of both teams must supply any information as requested by the Board of Directors and/or the members of the Disciplinary Committee.

3. DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS

Disciplinary actions are called for in one of two circumstances:

- A direct breach of the rules outlined in the *MTADL General Rules*.
- A breach of “discipline” referred to in the *MTADL General Rules sec. 15: Discipline and Protests* as “unfair or unsporting conduct”.

While the first circumstance is fairly obvious, the second could benefit from some clarification. A sporting person may be defined as one who abides by a code of fair play in games or in daily practice, a fair or generous person, and/or a person willing to risk failure to act fairly towards opponents. The MTADL expects each of its members to behave fairly and with due respect for:

- The League
- The members of an opposing team
- The staff, management and other patrons of the establishments hosting MTADL teams
- The members of your own team
- Yourself – remember that your behavior reflects either positively or negatively on all the above.

It is always easier to define what is considered to be unsporting behavior rather than what is considered to be sporting behavior.

4. EXAMPLES OF INFRACTIONS

It is not practical for this document to list all potential infractions or potential solutions to them. Some breaches of the rules, however, can be considered as “less serious” than others. The responses of the Board of Directors and possible penalties assessed will vary according to the situations. Penalties for lesser offences may be loss of a match, fines, game suspensions, *etc.* The Board of Directors is firmly committed to long-term suspensions or permanent bans for repeat or serious offenders.

The following may be considered as less serious infractions:

- Repeatedly throwing darts from in front of the oche (a foot fault) constitutes grounds for a protest, which if upheld may result in forfeiture of a match.
- Chalking problems are usually less serious. The MTADL General Rules document includes a “Tips for Chalkers” section, which every player should be familiar with. If a chalker is unable or unwilling to adhere to them, a player may request a change of chalker. Ideally this request should be phrased politely and if possible, should be made between captains or co-captains. The captain and chalker should comply with this request without comment or complaint. Failure

to do so may result in forfeiture of the match and may require more serious consideration as unsporting behaviour.

- Procedural problems are often the fault of an inexperienced captain or co-captain, and a little extra effort will help to avoid them. These include failure to play on the first available board, warming up on an adjacent board when the rules prohibit it, failure to play in the listed order, etc. If both captains agree to it, and no player takes exception, these may usually be waived, but in the case of a conflict, the rules shall stand. Penalties assessed by the Board of Directors will usually be in the form of forfeited matches.
- Advice must not be given to a player unless he/she has stepped back from the oche (General Rules, sec 11). If a player has already been cautioned and continues to receive advice while at the oche, he/she will likely forfeit the match. Repeat offenders will be considered as unsporting offenders.
- Any information regarding infractions must be communicated to a player's captain or co-captain who will relate the concern to the opposing team's captain or co-captain, who should attempt to resolve the issue immediately with their respective player(s).

In general, any minor incident and/or unsporting behavior may be addressed and remedied either by the captains involved, or if absolutely necessary, by referral to the Board of Directors.

The following are serious infractions and should be reported to the Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors feels that a hard-line approach is necessary to act as a deterrent for any serious offences occurring in the MTADL. Suspension, forfeiture of points, forfeiture of matches, or even games, and evictions from the League are possible. Any player who is found to have committed a serious offence will not be considered as a candidate to represent the MTADL. in affiliate All-Star shoots, challenge matches, or in Darts Ontario affiliated tournaments.

- Fighting will not be tolerated. All participants can receive a minimum one-game suspension and those involved will be called before the Board of Directors to explain why they should be allowed to remain members of the MTADL.
- Throwing darts in anger is extremely dangerous and irresponsible and can result in serious injury, regardless of the intent. Darts thrown wildly in anger will be considered a serious offence by the Board of Directors and will likely result in suspension and an appearance before the Board.
- Extreme intoxication or excessively rowdy behavior has no place in the MTADL. While the League does not wish to limit a player's enjoyment during a league evening, that player has a responsibility to the other players, and to the staff, management, and other patrons of the establishment where the game is being played. All players and spectators are expected to control themselves and their behavior accordingly.
- Any marker, player or captain found to have intentionally falsified a score or score sheet will be subject to disciplinary action commensurate with the offence, the minimum being forfeiture of the match.
- Captains are prohibited from using suspended players. Further restrictions are placed upon additions to a team respective to rankings, player change cut-off dates, transfer of players from other teams, etc. Breach of these rules will result in the captain's suspension, potential forfeiture of games, and/or suspension of an entire team from the League.
- Captains are expected to be leaders and to represent the League and its members according to our standards of sporting behavior. Captains and co-captains should exhibit exemplary behavior in all situations. The Board of Directors will address abuse of the position of captain or co-captain

- Offenses committed against an MTADL sponsor such as refusal to pay a bill, damage to or theft of property, or insulting behavior to employees or patrons will not be tolerated. If a sponsor in good standing has banned an MTADL player with reason, MTADL will have no choice but to accept that ban, and that player's team will need to play all scheduled games without him/her. If the MTADL board feels the ban unreasonable, the board reserves the right to schedule those games in another venue.
- All players from the MTADL are expected to be sportsmanlike in all affiliated tournaments and shoots while representing the MTADL as players, captains, or volunteers.

5. PROTESTS

Before making a protest, PLEASE make sure you have done all of the following:

- TRY TO WORK IT OUT! Two captains can sit down and work out almost anything if they can be calm and reasonable. In the case of an infraction of any of the rules, follow the rules. In most cases, a simple solution can be found that is acceptable to both captains. This may mean that you, as a captain, have to "give" a bit, or that as a player, you may not feel that the compromise your captain has agreed to is entirely fair, but if a simple solution is apparent, take it! In almost every circumstance, the Board of Directors will uphold this mutual agreement if protested later.
- If the two captains are unable to reach a compromise, contact your division representative from the Board of Directors. Please remember that you are dragging him/her away from his/her game before you call. The division representative will make a recommendation based upon his/her understanding of the rules and the *likely* outcome of a protest to the Board of Directors - it is only a recommendation. Carefully consider this recommendation – it will, more than likely, be upheld by the Board of Directors. Discuss it with the other team's captain and either continue under this recommendation or come to a solution that both of you can live with.
- If you are still unable to find a common ground, continue the evening's play by following the division representative's recommendation. Inform the other team's captain, calmly, that you intend to protest the match. Inform your player as well of your intent to protest. DO NOT inform the opposing team's player – it is his or her captain's responsibility to deal with that player. DO NOTHING TO PROVOKE ANY FURTHER INCIDENT – THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR AND WILL BE TREATED AS SUCH BY THE BOARD.
- The Board of Directors must receive protests in writing within 10 days of the occurrence. Include as clear and concise a description of the events as you understand them. If you feel it to be beneficial, have the player(s) involved include their own brief statement(s) as well.
- Make sure that all written protests include the full names and contact information (home, work, mobile phone, email, *etc.*) of all players involved, and the captain's and co-captain's contact information.
- A PROTEST IS A SERIOUS CHARGE. Do not make a protest unless you are sure that no other solution can be found and agreed upon.
- Try at all times to remain calm and reasonable. Do not allow your actions to be influenced by anger or frustration.