



World ParaVolley Disciplinary Regulations

(Approved by the WPV Board October 2023 to be applied from 1 January 2024)

1. Introduction

These regulations define how disciplinary matters are to be handled within World ParaVolley and the Zone Confederations. The Regulations set out:

- the bodies within World ParaVolley which may impose disciplinary sanctions;
- the duties and obligations of Zone Confederations, 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.

These Regulations are to be followed if there is a breach of any official World ParaVolley Policy or Rule or Regulation that require an investigation such as:

- The World ParaVolley constitution
- The code of conduct and ethics
- The confidentiality policy
- The non-accidental violence and abuse policy
- The privacy policy
- Specific competition rules and regulations
- Commission or Committee Terms of Reference
- The athlete transfer policy
- The per diem policy
- The travel of ITOs policy

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 World ParaVolley General Assembly
- The World ParaVolley Board of Directors
- A Zone Confederation Committee
- The Safeguarding and Integrity Commission
- The World ParaVolley Judicial Commission

Note: The Classification Commission and the Anti-doping Commission may recommend sanctions to the Board of Directors for approval.

3. The duties and obligations of Zone Confederations, Member Nations, teams and individuals

In general, all Zone Confederations, Member Nations, teams, and individuals associated with World ParaVolley have a duty and obligation to act with honesty, loyalty, responsibility and integrity, and in a manner which respects the dignity of others in the World ParaVolley community.

- 3.1 *Zone Confederations of World ParaVolley* have a duty and obligation to follow strictly the World ParaVolley Constitution, Zone Regulations, and all other regulations of World ParaVolley, including the Classification, Medical and Anti-Doping Codes as required by WVP and IPC and WADA. The Zone may be held responsible, even on the basis of presumed responsibility, for the actions of the Zone Assembly, Zone Committee/Board, any sub-committee or Commission of the Zone 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 the Zone Confederations. The Member Nations 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), NTOs, ITOs, spectators, the organisers of national or international competitions held in the Member Nation, and any individual or group acting on behalf of the Member Nation.
- 3.3 *National and club teams, and members of delegations to official World ParaVolley or Zone events* (e.g. tournaments, championships, assemblies, conferences) have a duty and obligation to follow strictly the World ParaVolley Constitution and all other regulations of World ParaVolley and the Zone Confederations. 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 Technical Officials 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 the Zone Confederation, including the Classification, Medical and Anti- Doping Codes as required by WPV, IPC and WADA, and any relevant official Policy.

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

4.1 Sport offences

Sport offences are in general any improper actions or words, written or spoken, which occur in match play or immediately surrounding a match or competition. They include the following (this list is not 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 ineligible 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 and management of the competition;
- (v) improper, abusive or violent words (written or spoken) or actions, or any form of harassment towards match or competition officials;
- (vi) biased officiating by jury members, referees, scorers, line judges or any other match officials.

4.2 Administrative offences related to an event or competition

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

- (i) dishonesty or cheating, including financial impropriety, in order to benefit an individual, group, team, Member Nation or Zone Confederation;
- (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 Zone Confederation 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 Confederation or Member Nation to enforce disciplinary action 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 Confederation and the Host Organiser.

4.3 Bringing the sport into disrepute

Bringing the sport into disrepute means in general any actions or words, written or spoken, which are likely to harm the reputation of World ParaVolley, a Zone Confederation, athletes or the sport's playing disciplines. They include the following (this list is not exhaustive):

- (i) dishonesty or cheating, including financial impropriety, in order to benefit an individual, group, team, Member Nation or Zone Confederation;
- (ii) improper, abusive or violent words or actions, or any form of harassment towards officials of World ParaVolley or the Zone Confederation;
- (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 (See Confidentiality Policy);
- (v) receiving or giving personal gifts in order to obtain privileges or position within World ParaVolley, a Zone Confederation 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 Confederation with a Member Nation, international sports governing bodies, or national or regional governments;
- (vii) failure to declare a conflict of interest affecting World ParaVolley, a Zone Confederation or activities within World ParaVolley or a Zone Confederation.

5. Disciplinary sanctions

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on individuals, groups, Member Nations or Zone Confederations:

- 5.1 Warning letter to the individual, group, Member Nation or Zone Confederation concerning its conduct, and warns against any future misconduct.
- 5.2 Monetary fine.
- 5.3 Suspension of an individual player, team official or ITO 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 Confederation 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 Zone Confederation competitions, Commissions, meetings or assemblies during the period of suspension.
- 5.6 Permanent expulsion of an individual, group or Member Nation from World ParaVolley

6. Powers of disciplinary bodies

- 6.1 A competition Protest 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.
- 6.2 A competition Jury of Appeal may impose the same sanctions as a competition Protest Committee and, in the case of an appeal, has the further power to cancel, reduce or increase the disciplinary sanctions imposed by the Protest Committee.
- 6.3 A Zone 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 Zone Committee/Board may also recommend a further suspension, or expulsion, to the World ParaVolley Board of Directors.

- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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: 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;
 - permanent 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 Zone Confederations. Such sanctions must be agreed by simple majority vote of the Member Nations eligible to vote.

7. Disciplinary procedures

- 7.1 World ParaVolley and Zone Confederation 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 written information received from a team member, ITO, Zone Confederation or World ParaVolley official.
- 7.3 If the matter concerns an event or issue within a competition, the competition Protest Committee shall convene a hearing within 24 hours of the information being received. The Protest 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 Protest 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 appeal fee payable to World ParaVolley or the Zone Confederation.

- 7.4 A competition Jury of Appeal shall convene a hearing within 24 hours of an appeal being received. 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 Committee or Jury of Appeal, the relevant disciplinary body 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 The 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 sufficient 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 per week. If the fine remains unpaid after 40 days, the case is subject to further disciplinary action by the relevant body, 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 may be penalised by a Zone Committee or the Board of Directors 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. In the case of an individual, team or club being suspended, the Member Nation shall be responsible for ensuring that the suspension is served. In the case of a Member Nation being suspended, the Zone Confederation, and the World ParaVolley 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.
- 8.5 Expulsion means that the individual, group, team, club or Member Nation is excluded permanently from membership of World ParaVolley and its Zone Confederations. 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 Protest 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 €500. If the appeal is successful, the appeal fee is returned to the appellant. There is no appeal within a competition above the decision of the Jury of Appeal
- 9.2 An appeal against a decision made by a World ParaVolley disciplinary body or Zone Confederation disciplinary body may be made to the World ParaVolley 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 €500. If the appeal is successful, the appeal fee is returned to the appellant. The appeal body appointed by the World ParaVolley Judicial Commission 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. (See the Judicial Commission Regulations for the procedures for such an appeal.)

10. Conclusion and entering into force

- 10.1 These Regulations come into force as at 1 January 2024
- 10.2 In cases not covered by the Disciplinary Regulations, the World ParaVolley Board of Directors shall have the power to provide a ruling which is binding on all parties concerned. In such cases, the right of appeal shall rest with the General Assembly.