FMJD Code of Ethics and Ethics Committee

The FMJD Code of Ethics is written in English and juridical superior to translations.
Each federation should make a copy available to its members, either systematically or on demand, in its own language and updated.

1. Introduction

1.1. The game and concept of draughts is based on the assumption that everyone involved / concerned observes existing rules and regulations and attaches the greatest importance to fair play and good sportsmanship.

1.2. It is not possible to define exactly and in all circumstances the standard of conduct expected from all parties involved in FMJD tournaments and events, or to list all sets which would amount to a breach of the Code of Ethics and lead to disciplinary sanctions. In most cases, common sense will tell the participants the standards of behaviour that are required. If any of the participants in an FMJD event has any doubt as to the conduct which is expected of him or her, the FMJD officials present should be contacted or the local organizer who has been put in charge of the event. Disputes arising during a game or tournament shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of play in existence at the time and with the tournament regulations.

1.3. The Code of Ethics is applicable to:

- FMJD office bearers
- Members of sections and committees
- Member federations, delegates and counselors
- Affiliated organizations
- Organizers, sponsors
- Referees
- All competitors and accompanying persons in FMJD registered tournaments.

This Code of Ethics shall govern what action may be taken against any person or organization that deliberately or through gross negligence violates the rules and regulations of the game or neglects to observe the precepts of fair play.

2. Breach of Ethics

The Code of Ethics shall be breached by a person or organization who directly or indirectly:

- Offers, or attempts to offer or accepts any consideration or bribe with a view of influencing the result in a game of draughts or election in the FMJD
- FMJD will fight match fixing together with SportAccord and accepts the SportAccord Code on Conduct on Sports Betting Integrity as leading for the actions of FMJD against match fixing. See the document “FMJD Code of conduct for Match Fixing”
- In other respects acts contrary to this Code.

Of particular importance in this respect are the following:

2.1 Fraud in the administration of any FMJD or national federation office that affects other federations. The same applies where incorrect information is given in order to obtain unwarranted advantages or gain.

2.2 Office bearers who through their behaviour no longer inspire the necessary confidence or have in other ways become unworthy of trust.

2.3 Organizers, tournament directors, referees or other officials who fail to perform their functions in an impartial and responsible manner.

2.4 Failure to comply with normally accepted standards of courtesy and draughts etiquette. Misbehaviour of a personal nature, which is generally unacceptable by normal social standards.

2.5 Cheating or attempts at cheating during games and tournaments. Violence, threatening or other unseemly behaviour during or in connection with a draughts event.

2.6 Players withdrawing from a tournament without valid reason or without informing the tournament arbiter.

2.7 Gross or repeated violations of approved regulations.

2.8 In any top-level tournament, players, delegations or teams must comply with a high standard dress code. Delegations include both a player's seconds and any other individual who the player allows to conduct business on behalf of the players. Players are responsible for the actions of acknowledged members of their delegations.

2.9 Players or members of their delegations must not make unjustified accusations toward other players, officials or sponsors. All protests must be referred directly to the arbiter or the Technical Director of the tournament.

2.10 In addition, disciplinary action in accordance with this Code of Ethics will be taken in cases of occurrences, which cause the game of draughts, FMJD or its federations to appear in an unjustifiable unfavourable light and in this way damage its reputation.

2.11 Any conduct likely to injure or discredit the reputation of FMJD, its events, organizers, participants, sponsors or that will not enhance the goodwill which attaches to the same.

3. Sanctions

The tournament officials will take all necessary steps to ensure the proper conduct of both games and tournaments according to the tournament regulations.

3.1. FMJD federations, officials and affiliated organizations acting in contravention to this code can be temporarily excluded from membership or office.

3.2. Anyone acting in contravention of this code can be excluded from participation in all FMJD tournaments or from specific types of tournaments for a period of up to 3 years.

Weight shall be given to the type of violation and to any previous violations in deciding upon the length of the exclusion period.

3.3. Tournament referees who fail to act in accordance with the code of ethics can lose their authorization or be refused the right to supervise FMJD tournaments for a period of up to 3 years. In such cases any new authorization will only be granted according to ordinary regulations.

3.4. Tournament organizers, who act in contravention of the code, can be refused the right to organize FMJD events for a period of up to 3 years.

3.5 In the event of a player or member of delegation creating an unreasonable disturbance or distraction relating to rules, procedures or conditions, at the direction of the Appeal Jury during a tournament, a player may be fined up to 1,000 Euro and may be forfeited one or more games, depending on the disturbance. In any case the verdict of an appeal jury during a tournament is final and not open to further appeal with the ethics committee.

3.6 In the case of physically or verbally aggressive or intimidating conduct of a player or a member of delegation towards any other individual involved with an event, FMJD may take any or all of the following actions:

- Fine a player up to 2,000 Euro.
- Rule that a player has forfeited a game or a match.
- If a member of the player's delegation committed the offensive act, ask such person to leave the event. Refusal by such a person to comply may result in penalties to the player as described.

3.7 When appeals or protests are directed towards FMJD office bearers or towards the FMJD or one of its sections, no direct financial compensations or penalties can be imposed. The Ethics Committee however can suggest compensation or penalties to be decided by the General Assembly. Under no circumstances such penalties imposed can be higher than €2,000. Ordinary Courts can only decide about higher penalties or compensations.

4 Administrative Procedures

4.1 Breach of the regulations of this code by any person shall be reported to the FMJD Bureau and to the FMJD General Secretary. Measures to be taken will be decided by the FMJD Executive Board. If the FMJD Executive Board considers it necessary it will ask advice from the ethics committee.

4.2 Breach of the regulations of this code by any Federation or FMJD official shall be reported to and decided by the FMJD Ethics Committee.

4.3 Only National Federations that have fully paid their membership and FMJD Board Members can file complaints with the Ethics Committee.

4.4 An appeal, protest or complaint has to be accompanied by a payment of 100 euro to the FMJD treasurer. If the appeal consists of more than one protest then the payment of 100 euro has to be made for every protest. The deposit will be returned should the appeal to all intents and purposes prove to be justified which means that the Ethics Committee approves of the appeal.

4.5 The appeal has to mention explicitly against whom or against which federation / organization the protest is directed and has to mention explicitly which article(s) of this code of ethics is (are) the basis of the protest.

4.6 The appeal needs to have urgency. Otherwise the federation should bring the appeal, protest or complaint to the General Assembly.

4.7 The FMJD ethics committee shall not treat any protest which does not satisfy the conditions given in articles 4.3 through 4.6 and will inform the appealing party about this.

4.8 The proceedings shall be recorded in writing. Grounds must be given for any decisions taken and these must also be in writing after the defendant must have been given sufficient grounds to defend himself in writing and orally if necessary.

4.9 Any decisions made by the Ethics Committee may be the object of appeal at the General Assembly of the FMJD. Any decision of the General Assembly about this may be the object of appeal arbitration proceedings in accordance with the Code of sports-related arbitration of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

5. The ethics committee

5.1 Composition and election

The ethics committee exist of five persons proposed by the Executive Board or the General Assembly and approved by the General Assembly. The chairman must have a legal background.

5.2 The treatment of a protest

5.2.1 An protest will be sent to the chairman of the Ethics Committee with electronic copies to the FMJD Office and to the General Secretary. The chairman decides whether there are sufficient grounds to treat the appeal and checks whether the amount necessary to treat the protest has been received. The chairman checks if all formalities needed to treat a protest, as given in article 4.3 through 4.6, are satisfied. The chairman informs the other members and asks for their opinion. The chairman also asks for the opinion of the accused and makes that available to the other members.

5.2.2 Based on all available information a decision is taken within three months after the chairman has received the appeal. In the process the chairman gives sufficient time to the accused and the other members of the committee to give their opinion.

5.2.3 The decision will be duly signed by all members of the Ethics Committee, with name, date and place and shall be communicated by the chairman to all involved.

5.2.4 The decision of the Ethics Committee must be filed with the court in Utrecht, Netherlands.

5.2.5 After having received the decision every party involved, the complainer, the accused and the ethics committee, has six weeks to file a protest with the General Assembly to be treated in the next General Assembly. This has to be done by an original letter sent to the address of the General Secretary.

5.2.6 When the complainer or the accused party does not agree with the decision by the General Assembly he has six weeks after he has received the decision to bring the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.