



CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENCES POLICY

Our commitment

The Darwin Netball Association (DNA) is committed to providing a safe environment for the participation and attendance of all people during the netball season.

The DNA Management Team (DNA MT) has a zero tolerance for bringing the DNA competition into disrepute with abusive (verbal and physical) and disrespectful behaviour.

The Code of Conduct Offences Policy applies to all registered members and non members of the DNA competitions.

Hearing Panel

The Hearing Panel consists of the following DNA MT members:

- DNA Vice President (Chair)
- DNA President
- DNA Umpire Coordinator

Standard Range of Penalties for Code of Conduct Offences

The following range of penalties will be used by the DNA MT as a guide for first offences.

Level 1 Offences

- 1.1 Dispute an umpire's decision.
Includes expressions of excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision or with an umpire making the decision. This does not prohibit the team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision during a break, or anybody from commenting on the umpires' performance in an official complaint.
- 1.2 Use language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture.
This includes swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune. The extent to which such behaviour is likely to give offence shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.
- 1.3 Unauthorised encroachment onto the court
This includes any person entering the court while the match is in progress which causes a disruption. The extent to which the encroachment causes disruption shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.
- 1.4 General misconduct
Any act which is deemed to be in breach of the DNA Codes of Conduct and may not necessarily be defined under any other offence.
- 1.5 Failure to attend a hearing panel without reasonable cause when requested to do so.



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Level 2 Offences

- 2.1 Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision.
Dissent should be classified as serious where the dissent is expressed by a specific action such as displays of anger, obscene gestures or abusive language directed at the umpire. Where the alleged offence is committed by more than one member of the team or spectator group, that team's club will be held responsible.
- 2.2 Engage, or attempt to engage, in inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with other players or officials.
Without limitation, players will breach this Rule if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder or push another player, official or match official, or engage in rough play that is deemed unreasonable in the circumstances
- 2.3 Unsportsmanlike behaviour
Without limitation, anyone will breach this rule if they engage in acts that are deliberately intended to gain an unfair advantage to their team or are not in the best interests of the game, including but not limited to time wasting, deliberately delaying the start / restart of the game, spitting at another player/spectator/official or throwing the ball at or near another person in an inappropriate or dangerous manner. Where the alleged offence is committed by more than one member of the team, the captain and/or coach of that team will be held responsible.
- 2.4 Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a generally insulting nature to another person. This is language or gestures which are directed at another person. See comments under 1.2 above in relation to the seriousness of the breach.
- 2.5 Attempt to manipulate a Match in regard to the result, including percentage points.
The captain and/or coach of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible. Prohibited conduct under this Rule will include incidents where a team plays in such a way as to either adversely affect its own, or improve its opponent's percentage points or grading.
- 2.6 Playing or coaching while under suspension.

Level 3 Offences

- 3.1 Intimidate or attempt to intimidate an umpire whether by language or conduct.
- 3.2 Threaten to assault another player, team official or spectator.
- 3.3 Negligently or recklessly strike, elbow, trip or kick another player, umpire, official or spectator.
- 3.4 Engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against another person or group of persons on the ground of their race, religion, gender, skin colour, sexual preference, orientation or identity or special ability or disability. Counselling or education shall be considered as a penalty for a first offence, unless the offence is of a more serious nature.
- 3.5 Any act of serious misconduct
Any serious act of misconduct that is deemed to be in breach of the PNA Code of Conduct and may not necessarily be defined under any other offence.



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Level 4 Offences

- 4.1 Threaten to assault an umpire.
- 4.2 Intentionally strike, elbow, trip or kick another player, umpire, official or spectator.
- 4.3 Engage in any other deliberate act of violence on the court.

Level 5 Offences

- 5.1 Aggressively, violently or physically touch/assault an umpire.
- 5.2 Aggressively, violently or physically touch/assault a player.
- 5.3 Aggressively, violently or physically touch/assault an official.
- 5.4 Aggressively, violently or physically touch/assault a spectator/supporter/visitor.
- 5.5 Aggressively, violently or physically touch/assault a member of the DNA MT or DNA employee.

Outcome and Penalty

When imposing a fine or penalty, the DNA MT may take into account any circumstance it considers relevant, including the:

- seriousness of the breach
- harm caused by the breach
- person's seniority and standing in the game
- remorse shown by the person and the prospect of further breaches
- person's prior record
- impact of the penalty on the person.

Recommended Penalties for Code of Conduct Breaches

The following are recommended penalties for first offences:

- (a) Level 1 – Official reprimand and/or fine of up to \$200 and/or a ban of up to 2 matches (able to attend the courts)
- (b) Level 2 – A suspension of 2 or 3 matches (able to attend the courts)
- (c) Level 3 – A suspension of 3 to 5 matches (able to attend the courts)
- (d) Level 4 – A suspension of 6 or more matches (able to attend the courts)
- (e) Level 5 – A banning from attending the courts for a period time or permanently. Due to the seriousness of the incident the Hearing Panel may considered the deregistration from the competition. The cited individual is unable to attend the courts in any capacity.

In imposing a suspension or disqualification, the DNA MT may impose that penalty by reference to:

- number of games in a particular competition or grade, or
- time-period suspension or disqualification.

Any part of a suspension may be offered as a suspended penalty for a given period of time. Should any person currently serving a suspended penalty be found guilty of a further offence that suspended penalty is automatically added to any subsequent penalty imposed.