

## **ARTICLE 39 DISQUALIFICATIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS**

**A team, team member, manager or team official shall cease to be eligible to compete in tournaments or events conducted or sanctioned by T.A.A.F. while disqualified by T.A.A.F. or any T.A.A.F. local member city, provided that the disqualification by the T.A.A.F. member city does not conflict with the established rules and policies of T.A.A.F.**

### **39.1 ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATION AND PENALTY**

- .01 **VIOLATION:** Unsportsmanlike conduct.  
**PENALTY:** Maximum of one (1) year probation and/or suspension in all T.A.A.F. play.
- .02 **VIOLATION:** Physical violence (attacks on a game official or tournament official immediately preceding, during or immediately following a game; also fights and/or confrontations between players, etc.).  
**PENALTY:** Minimum of one (1) year loss of eligibility in all T.A.A.F. play or indefinite suspension in all T.A.A.F. play, subject to an annual review, if requested.
- .03 **VIOLATION:** Committed a fraud while a player, coach, manager; this includes, but is not limited to, playing under an assumed name, falsifying rosters or falsifying identification.  
**PENALTY:** Minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of three (3) years loss of eligibility in all T.A.A.F. play.
- .04 **VIOLATION:** Violating any rules and regulations as printed in the T.A.A.F. Participant Guide.  
**PENALTY:** Maximum of one (1) year probation and/or suspension in all T.A.A.F. play.

### **39.2 HEARINGS AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL (Local Play)**

- .01 **LOCAL DISQUALIFICATION & SUSPENSION PROCEDURES:**
  - a) **LOCAL HEARING:** Prior to local disqualification, any player or individual who commits any violation of T.A.A.F. Article 38.1 (.01-.04) must be given the opportunity for a hearing by the local T.A.A.F. member city. The hearing shall be scheduled to be held within fourteen (14) days of the incident or within fourteen (14) days of the discovery of the incident, as applicable.
  - b) **LOCAL MODERATOR:** For local hearings, the moderator shall be the member city representative to T.A.A.F. or his appointed agent. This individual will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda, notification of the accused and will provide someone to take minutes. It is recommended that all hearings be taped. The moderator cannot make motions or cast a vote.
  - c) **LOCAL HEARING PANEL:** A seven (7)-member panel shall hear the case. The panel shall include two (2) T.A.A.F. members from separate member cities or in the case of a metro, members from other department divisions; four (4) local league representatives (managers, sports association officers, etc.); and one (1) representative from the local officials' association. No individual involved in the incident shall be included on the panel.
  - d) **LOCAL NOTIFICATION:** The moderator will notify the individual(s) in writing of the time, place and date for the hearing. An individual(s) is entitled to an alternate date selected by the moderator if, for a good cause, the original date

is not acceptable. Should the accused individual(s) fail to attend the hearing, the moderator may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.

- e) **LOCAL RULINGS:** After hearing the evidence, the moderator shall render a written decision, based on the decision of the hearing panel, within fourteen (14) days of the hearing. If the ruling involves a disqualification, an OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SUSPENSION is issued to the individual(s) involved. A copy shall be sent to the T.A.A.F. executive director.
- f) **WARNING:** The individual(s) being suspended must be advised in writing by the moderator that any further act or acts of violation may result in a suspension for a longer period of time, including indefinitely.
- g) T.A.A.F. will honor all local suspensions that follow Article 38.2.01 (a - f).

.02 **LOCAL RIGHT OF APPEAL:**

- a) LOCAL HEARINGS & SUSPENSIONS: Appeals should be made directly to the city that held the hearing. Their appeal decision is final and T.A.A.F. will honor any appeal decisions from that city.

**39.3 HEARINGS AND RIGHTS OF APPEAL (T.A.A.F. Championship Competition, includes Regional and State Tournaments and Meets)**

**.01 T.A.A.F. CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION:**

- a) **DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES T.A.A.F. CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION:** In addition to disqualification procedures stated under Article 38.1 (.01-.04), there shall be a Tournament (or meet) Protest Committee for each T.A.A.F. Championship Competition, appointed by the tournament director, which shall have jurisdiction to decide questions of disqualification from that Championship Competition or to which a decision in the tournament (or meet) competition may be appealed. THE DECISION OF THIS COMMITTEE SHALL BE FINAL AND SHALL APPLY TO THAT SPECIFIC CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION ONLY.
- b) No protest involving an official's (umpire, referee, judge, etc.) judgment shall be accepted by the tournament (or meet) director or considered by the protest committee.
- c) The tournament (or meet director) shall accept no protest on interpretation of Playing Rules after play or competition has resumed in team sports, and after the Meet Referee states that the meet results are final in individual sports.

**.02 DISQUALIFICATION HEARING (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):**

Depending on the violation, the state commissioner or the tournament/meet director may also request a disqualification hearing be held concerning the incident, including incidents that may not be discovered until after completion of the competition. The request shall be made to the T.A.A.F. president. Taking the location of the individual(s) residence into consideration, the president reserves the right to refer the hearing to that individual's T.A.A.F. regional director, who shall set the site, time and date for the hearing on behalf of the president.

- a) **HEARING (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):** Prior to T.A.A.F. disqualification, any player or individual who commits any violation of T.A.A.F. Article 38.1 (.01-.04) must be given the opportunity for a hearing by T.A.A.F. The hearing shall take place within fourteen (14) days following the date the president is notified that a disqualification hearing has been requested by the state commissioner or the tournament/meet director.
- b) **HEARING PANEL (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):** A seven (7) member panel shall hear the case. The panel shall include seven (7) T.A.A.F. members from separate member cities. No individual involved in the incident shall be included on the panel.

- c) **MODERATOR (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):** The moderator shall be the T.A.A.F. president or his appointed agent. This individual will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda, notification of the accused and will provide someone to take minutes. It is recommended that all hearings be taped. The moderator cannot make motions or cast a vote.
  - d) **NOTIFICATION (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):** The moderator will notify the individual(s) in writing of the time, place and date for the hearing. An individual(s) is entitled to an alternate date selected by the moderator if, for a good cause, the original date is not acceptable. Should the accused individual(s) fail to attend the hearing, the moderator may proceed and take the evidence of those in attendance.
  - e) **RULINGS (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):** After hearing the evidence, the moderator shall render a written decision, based on the decision of the hearing panel, within fourteen (14) days of the hearing. If the ruling involves a disqualification, an OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SUSPENSION is issued to the individual(s) involved.
  - f) **WARNING:** The individual(s) being suspended must be advised in writing by the official that any further act or acts of violation may result in a suspension for a longer period of time, including indefinitely.
- .03 **RIGHT OF APPEAL (Following T.A.A.F. Championship Competition):**
- a) **T.A.A.F. CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION:** Any individual suspended from T.A.A.F. play pursuant to Article 38.3.02, who desires to appeal the ruling must notify the T.A.A.F. executive director, in writing, of intent to appeal within fourteen (14) days after the RECEIPT of the NOTICE OF SUSPENSION.
  - b) **APPEAL REVIEW:** The T.A.A.F. executive director shall notify the chairperson of the Suspension Review Committee of the appeal. The chairperson and the executive director will prepare the appeal review agenda and the executive director will notify the individual of the date, time and place of the Suspension Review Committee's review of the ruling. The individual may attend the Suspension Review Committee's review of the ruling and make a statement. The Suspension Review Committee shall vote to either uphold or reverse the original hearing decision.
  - c) **APPEAL REVIEW DECISION:** The Suspension Review Committee chairperson shall render a written decision to the T.A.A.F. State Office and the executive director shall notify the appealing individual of the decision within thirty (30) days of the executive director's receipt of the committee's decision.
  - d) **APPEAL OF SUSPENSION REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISION:** Any individual who desires to appeal the Suspension Review Committee's decision must notify the T.A.A.F. executive director, in writing, of intent to appeal within fourteen (14) days after the RECEIPT of the Suspension Review Committee's decision.
  - e) **T.A.A.F. EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The appeal of the decision of the Suspension Review Committee will be made to the T.A.A.F. Executive Board at their next (winter, spring or fall) scheduled meeting. The executive director will notify the appealing individual(s) of the date, time and place of the next Executive Board meeting. The individual may attend the Executive Board's review of the incident and make a statement. The Executive Board shall vote to either uphold or reverse the original hearing decision and the decision of the Suspension Review Committee. The action taken by the Executive Board will be final.
  - f) **NOTIFICATION:** The individual(s) will be notified orally of the decision at the conclusion of the Executive Board meeting and will be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days following the Executive Board meeting.