

CSNS CODE OF CONDUCT

Reviewed 6 June 2024

CSNS Code of Conduct

In addition to the discipline that your pool hall may impose, you are subject to the separate authority of the Executive Committee (EC) for violations of Cue Sports Nova Scotia (CSNS) rules and policies. The EC may impose appropriate discipline, up to and including probation or suspension from CSNS, for certain misconduct during ranking events, as well as for conduct detrimental to the integrity of or public confidence in CSNS.

Discipline involving behavior such as unnecessary physical altercation, unsportsmanlike conduct with respect to opposing players or equipment, engaging in illegal activity, and/or not following the rules and regulations set out by the hosting pool hall will be determined initially by Tournament Directors (TD's).

Violations may entail warnings, loss of game, loss of match, disqualification, loss of earnings, probation, and/or suspension and may be subject to further discussion and decisions by the EC and directors of CSNS.

Good Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is a cornerstone of the game of pool and of vital concern to everyone involved in the game, including members, spectators, and employees. The term sportsmanship conveys respect for the game, respect for opponents, respect for the TD's, respect for the pool hall/equipment and respect for the spectators.

Some examples of good sportsmanship are:

When it is your opponent's turn to shoot, sit in your chair, be still, and be quiet.

No sharking or intentional distraction of your opponent.

When the game is over, shake your opponent's hand, look them in the eye, and congratulate them on a good game, whether you win or lose.

Calling a foul on yourself even if your opponent did not see it.

Not moving or setting your cue down when your opponent is able to see you or when they are on the game ball.

Asking for a referee before a shot if the shot is questionable.

Taking a break only when it is your turn at the table.

Not talking to players while they are shooting.

No concession of balls or games.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

CSNS will not tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct. This applies to any act which is contrary to the generally understood principles of sportsmanship. The TD's will immediately address any unsportsmanlike conduct that occurs anytime during a CSNS event. The penalty for a concession for example will be loss of the current game and a penalty of an additional game lost.

It is important to note that the unsportsmanlike conduct rules apply to all members of CSNS, including members engaged in the game and members who may be spectating. Lack of respect or other unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated before, during or after games. This includes abusive, threatening, insulting, or profane language or gestures, and physical acts by members and/or spectators directed at opponents, equipment, employees, TD's and/or other spectators.

Some examples of abuse of equipment are:

Throwing a cue, rake, rack, balls, or chalk.

Tossing or moving balls in the air to land on or off the table.

Slamming balls into to the slate.

Striking the pool table with the hand or cue.

Raking multiple balls on the table either by hand or a cue (for example the penalty for raking multiple balls by hand or cue will be loss of game/warning).

Illegal Acts

If employees of a pool hall require a police presence to remove, arrest, or deescalate a situation, the player(s) involved will receive an automatic suspension from CSNS events, for the remainder of the season.

Rules

Discipline may be imposed for a first offense and without any warning. A player who is a repeat offender should expect more severe discipline. Penalties for third offenses and beyond in the same season or based on prior seasons' violations will be established on a case-by-case basis and may increase substantially. In addition, suspension may be imposed when deemed appropriate.

Discipline is not based solely on situations where the TD's are directly involved. In some cases, a violation may occur in the absence of the TD's or occur pre/post game without the TD's being informed. If a review by the EC establishes an egregious violation, particularly involving safety of the members involved, the offender(s) may be subject to penalties up to and including suspension. All efforts will be made to inform the parties involved as soon as possible.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct that may cause Physical Risk

Any act irrelevant to the game of pool that creates an unnecessary risk of injury to an opposing player will result in a level of discipline substantially higher than normal levels whether the individual is a repeat offender or not. First offenses are subject to severe discipline up to and including suspension.

Offenses against TD's

All CSNS members must maintain proper respect for the TD's at all times. Offenses against Include: (1) physical contact with TD's including but not limited to punching, pushing, shoving, grabbing, or other intimidating or interfering contact; and (2) verbal or

other non-physical abuse of TD's, such as profanity and other abusive language or gestures (3) not adhering to the directions given by the TD's. Offenses against TD's are strictly prohibited and will result in warnings, immediate disqualifications, and possibly suspensions or banishment.

This policy applies at all ranking locations. Please note that public criticism by CSNS members of the TD's, it's EC or directors is prohibited and is subject to discipline.

Fighting

CSNS policy on fighting is very simple: Zero Tolerance, and if a fight breaks out involving other members, stay away. If you are challenged, walk away from the situation. Fights during CSNS sanctioned events are pointless and only lead to disciplinary action and disqualification from the event, all of which hurt our credibility with the hosting pool hall and sponsors.

Being involved in a fight includes but is not limited to; creating a risk of injury for TD's, members, spectators, employees; interfering with TD's; contact with opposing players; abusive language or gestures; and other provocative actions that could aggravate the situation or lead to escalation of the fight.

Taunting

Taunting is the use of abusive, threatening, or insulting language or gestures to opponents, spectators, TD's and employees. Taunting is prohibited and subject to discipline. Taunting focuses on acts directed at an opponent. Obviously, it is not possible to identify in advance every action that may constitute taunting and final judgment on this is left to the TD's.

Sharking

Sharking is considered 'Performing some act or making some utterance with the intent to distract, irritate or intimidate the opponent so that they do not perform well, miss a shot, etc.' CSNS forbids blatant sharking, as a form of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Examples of sharking include, but are not limited to:

Concessions.

Shouting or talking when your opponent is at the table.

Intentionally playing slow or fast.

Excessive chalking.

Remaining in the playing area when it is not your turn.

Asking the opponent which ball they are shooting at the very last second.

Walking or moving while in the opponent's line of aim.

Shooting balls on a different table.

Walking away from the table when your opponent is shooting.

Reacting to any Unsportsmanlike Conduct Incident

There are two options and either one is acceptable. You can either calmly ask your opponent to stop doing the behaviour or you may stop play and go speak to the TD's

immediately. If needed the TD's will go to the table to address the situation and apply a penalty.

Contact with Spectators/Employees

A CSNS member may also be subject to discipline if they make physical contact with spectators or employees in a way that constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct or presents crowd-control issues and risk of injury. Pool halls are responsible for handling such situations appropriately within their normal security operations as well if employees are involved.

Violations of These Rules

Notwithstanding all disciplines previous outlined in this Code of Conduct, all incidents will be immediately addressed by the TD's. The disciplinary decision, if any, will be at the discretion of the TD's. Further discussion may be required, first within the EC, and then with the directors. Disciplinary actions will be decided on in the following order (1) immediately by the TD's (2) brought to the attention of the EC for discussion and decision (3) if warranted, voted on by the directors of CSNS. All decisions will be determined and then the members will be notified as soon as possible following the incident.

Potential Penalties

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Warning and/or loss of game and/or loss of match and/or disqualification and/or loss of earnings and/or suspension and/or probation and/or banishment.

Fighting: Immediate Disqualification and/or loss of earnings and/or suspension and/or probation and/or banishment. Length of time to be determined by EC and Directors.

Illegal activity: Immediate Disqualification and/or loss of earnings and/or suspension and/or probation and/or banishment. Length of time to be determined by EC and Directors.

Police involvement: Immediate Suspension for remainder of season. Length of time to be determined by EC and Directors.

Offenses against TD's: Warning and/or loss of game and/or loss of match and/or disqualification and/or loss of earnings and/or suspension and/or probation and/or banishment. Length of time to be determined by EC and Directors.