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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: The Office of The President

## **Administration-Submitted Grievance for Organization-Sanctioned Events**

### **National Collegiate Dodgeball Association - Fall Semester (August-December) 2015**

The purpose of this report is to address the misunderstanding of the section of the NCDA's Bylaws regarding the Forfeit Policy for Member Teams that do not attend NCDA-Sanctioned Events they previously committed to attending. Per 9.10 of the NCDA Bylaws, an official grievance was submitted and is being addressed. The names of all Members have been redacted, unless they are currently serving on the NCDA Executive Board.

**Date of Occurrence:** Fall Semester, 2015

**Location of Occurrence:** Various

**Name of Occurrence:** Various

**Affected Member Teams:**

- All

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## **Bylaws Section on Forfeits**

7.4.1 Forfeits – If a Member Team has previously committed to attend an Event, but later decides not to attend an Event, they must announce their intention to cancel within a defined time period.

7.4.1.1 If a Member Team cancels ten (10) or more days prior to the Event, no forfeits may be imposed on that Member Team.

7.4.1.2 If a Member Team cancels less than ten (10) days prior to the Event, but another Member Team replaces the canceling Member Team, no forfeits may be imposed on the canceling Member Team.

7.4.1.3 If a Member Team cancels less than ten (10) days prior to the Event, and no other Member Team can replace the canceling Member Team, a forfeit will be applied to the canceling Member Team's Matches.

7.4.1.3.1 Determination of Forfeits – A participating Member Team may propose a forfeit be applied to the canceling Member Team's Matches by submitting a written request to the League. A Board vote will determine the application of forfeits.

7.4.1.3.1.1 The Board will determine whether the cause for absence from the Event is justified. Examples of why it would be justified include, but is not limited to: adverse weather conditions, traffic accident, death, etc.

7.4.1.3.2 Application of Forfeits – There are different scenarios in which a Member Team's absence will affect the way the forfeits are applied.

7.4.1.3.2.1 If four (4) or fewer Member Teams (including any combination of Upcoming Member Teams) have committed to attending an Event, but one of those Member Teams cancels without being replaced by another Member Team less than ten (10) days prior to the Event (Article 7.4.1.3), the other Member Team(s) attending this Event will receive one (1) Forfeit Win to their record over the canceling Member Team. The canceling Member Team will receive a Forfeit Loss on their record to the other Member Team(s) attending this Event.

## **Bylaws Section on Forfeits**

### **Continued...**

7.4.1.3.2.2 If five (5) or more Member Teams (including any combination of Upcoming Member Teams) have committed to attending an Event, but one of those Member Teams cancels without being replaced by another Member Team less than (10) days prior to the Event (Article 7.4.1.3), the other Member Teams attending this Event will not receive a Forfeit Win to their record over the canceling Member Team as long as they play at least three (3) Matches at this Event against three (3) unique Member Teams. Any attending Member Team who does not play at least three (3) Matches at the Event against three (3) unique Member Teams will receive one (1) Forfeit Win over the canceling Member Team. The canceling Member Team will receive a total of three (3) Forfeit Losses to their record against any attending Member Team who did not play at least three (3) Matches against at least three (3) unique Member Teams. If the total number of attending Member Teams who did not play at least three (3) Matches against at least three (3) unique Member Teams is less than three (3), then the canceling Member Team's remaining Forfeit Losses shall be imposed against a Ghost Team.

7.4.1.3.2.2.1 Ghost Team – A Ghost Team exists purely as a means of punishment for Member Teams forfeiting from larger sized Events. A Ghost Team's record and standing shall reflect the average ranking of all Member Teams for Standings purposes.

7.4.1.3.3 Forfeit Loss – When imposed, a Forfeit Loss is imposed on the Member Team who cancelled. It is recorded as one (1) loss with a 0-1 result.

7.4.1.3.4 Forfeit Win – When imposed, a Forfeit Win is awarded to the appropriate attending Member Teams (Article 7.4.1.3.2.2) participating in the Event. Recorded as one (1) win with a 1-0 result.

7.4.1.3.5 Box Score – [Attending Member Team] def [Forfeiting Member Team] 1-0 (F).

9.4 Timing and Statute of Limitations – A complaint filed under these Bylaws shall be filed within thirty (30) days of the conduct in question. The Board or the Judicial Committee, as the case may be, shall have the discretion to grant complainants extensions of this deadline, including up to 180 days for right to participate complaints.

## Explanation of Forfeits

### Application of Forfeits:

If a Member Team does not attend an Event they have previously committed to, no forfeits are automatically applied to their record [Bylaws 7.4.1].

A Member Team that did attend the Event [Bylaws 7.4.1.3.1] has thirty (30) days to request these forfeits be applied [Bylaws 9.4]. This request for forfeits to be applied to the non-attending Member Team has to be emailed to the NCDA at [ncdadodgeball@gmail.com](mailto:ncdadodgeball@gmail.com) by an attending Member Team of the Event in question.

The NCDA Executive Board (“Board”) will vote on whether the absence from the Event in question was justified [Bylaws 7.4.1.3.1.1].

### How Forfeits Affect Teams’ Records:

A Forfeit Loss [Bylaws 7.4.1.3.3] being applied to the non-attending Member Team’s record does not always mean the attending Member Teams will have a Forfeit Win [Bylaws 7.4.1.3.4] applied to their records. The goal of NCDA Events [Bylaws 4.3] is to allow Member Teams to compete in Matches [Bylaws 4.3.1] against opponents (Opponents must be other Member Teams [Bylaws 4.2] or Upcoming Member Teams [Bylaws 4.2.3.1]; alumni, JV, or other assembled squads do not qualify as viable opponents in this situation [Bylaws 4.3.1.1]).

NCDA Sanctioned Events are broken down into three different categories:

- Match [Bylaws 4.3.1] – A competition between two (2) Teams (Member Teams or Upcoming Member Teams).
  - Up to one (1) Forfeit Loss can be applied to the non-attending Member Team in this category.
  - Up to one (1) Forfeit Win can be applied to the attending Member Team in this category.
- Series of Matches [Bylaws 4.3.2] – This is an Event with at least two (2) Matches played between at least two (2) Teams within a 24-hour period. Typically referred to as a “Round Robin”, “Double Header”, or “Invitational” and will generally not determine an overall winner.
  - Up to three (3) Forfeit Losses can be applied to the non-attending Member Team in this category.
  - If three (3) or fewer total Teams are attending the Event, up to one (1) Forfeit Win can be applied to each attending Member Team in this category.
  - If four (4) or more total Teams are attending the Event, and each attending Team plays at least three (3) Matches against at least three (3) unique opponents, no Forfeit Wins will be applied to any of the attending Member Teams in this category.

## Explanation of Forfeits

### Continued...

- If four (4) or more total Teams are attending the Event, and any Team that does not play at least three (3) Matches against at least three (3) unique opponents will receive up to one (1) Forfeit Win against the non-attending team.
  - If the non-attending Team has three (3) Forfeit Losses applied to their record, but each of the attending Teams play at least three (3) Matches against three (3) unique opponents; the non-attending Team's Forfeit Losses will be against a Ghost Team [Bylaws 7.4.1.3.2.2.1].
- Tournament [Bylaws 4.3.3] – This is an Event with at least three (3) Matches played between at least four (4) Teams within a 72-hour period. This type of Event includes an elimination bracket to determine an overall winner of the Event.
    - Up to three (3) Forfeit Losses can be applied to the non-attending Member Team in this category.
    - If four (4) or more total Teams are attending the Event, and each attending Team plays at least three (3) Matches against at least three (3) unique opponents, no Forfeit Wins will be applied to any of the attending Member Teams in this category.
      - If four (4) or more total Teams are attending the Event, and any Team that does not play at least three (3) Matches against at least three (3) unique opponents will receive up to one (1) Forfeit Win against the non-attending team.

## **NCDA President's Notes**

A complete list of the NCDA's bylaws and policies can be found on our official website in the 'About' section. Here you will find all documentation about how the organization is structured and stays operational on a day-to-day basis.

Over the last couple of years we have discussed different options for our forfeit policy, but have found this one to be the most appropriate for our organization in its current state of development. The rationale behind our current model of conditional forfeit application is as follows:

- Since each of the NCDA's Member Teams play different amounts of Matches during the season, it is impossible to have a completely accurate and fair ranking system. For this reason, we have four different ranking systems. An average of the four produces the NCDA Ranking Algorithm; which gives the overall rank for the respective Member Teams.
  - Objectively, any forfeits that are applied to teams do not represent a true Match amongst the ranking systems. In the same vein, a forfeit win may not constitute a true win for that particular team, and thus give an error in the predictive nature of the different ranking systems.
- It would also take away from the Spirit of the Game and how the NCDA prides itself on being a Member driven organization.
  - The administration of the NCDA welcomes Member participation and suggestion for policy and rule changes. It is the reason for the open forum on the NCDA website and Facebook page which allows Members to discuss and submit their ideas for change within the organization.
  - By allowing Member Teams that attend Events to have control over the forfeit option, it gives the Members the opportunity to negotiate and communicate with one another.
    - As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the NCDA's purpose is:
      - The purpose for which the Organization is organized is to act as the premier governing body that fosters an educational, athletic, and recreational atmosphere for collegiate-level competition in the sport of Dodgeball by involving its members in the organizing, promoting, and hosting of events. [Bylaws 2.1]
    - The NCDA is not only an athletic organization, it is an educational organization as well. By involving our Members in team management, event planning, budgeting, and leadership we are able to provide real world challenges and obstacles they will have to overcome in post-college life.

## **NCDCA President's Notes**

### **Continued...**

- The NCDCA understands that situations occur that may prevent a Member Team from attending an Event. By allowing the application of the forfeits to be conditional and contextual, it gives the NCDCA Executive Board the opportunity to pardon absences due to unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances.
  - Once an attending Member Team of an Event submits an email request for the forfeits to be applied to the non-attending Member Team's record, the NCDCA Executive Board will seek out rationale from the non-attending Member Team for their absence. The Executive Board will vote on whether the forfeits shall be applied or not.

Overall, the purpose of this report is to reiterate this policy and its process/functionality. There have been four Events during the Fall 2015 semester where forfeits could have been applied, but none were. I've also heard different interpretations of this policy that do not accurately represent the way it was intended to read.

**If you feel your Team deserved a forfeit win on an Event, contact the Executive Board.**

If anyone has questions or concerns about this policy, please send an email to [ncdadodgeball@gmail.com](mailto:ncdadodgeball@gmail.com) and we will be happy to address them.