

Players Code Of Conduct

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this document is to specify the Code of Conduct that is applicable to and binding upon all Players, Coaches and Officials participating in any event of, or any activity associated with, the UK Beach Tour (UKBT).

**2. General**

2.2 Every Player shall, during all matches and at all times whilst within the tournament site, conduct himself / herself in a professional manner, in accordance with the provisions outlined in this Code of Conduct.

2.3 For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, the tournament site shall be defined as all sections of the beach / venue which are under the control of the Tournament Promoter.

**3. Scheduling & Punctuality**

3.1 It is the Players’ responsibility to regularly check on the tournament’s order of play, which shall be displayed in a visible place in the tournament administration area and when applicable, online.

3.2 Teams are required to commence play at the instruction of the Referee.

3.3 If either team is not ready to commence play at the allocated match start time it shall:

* Forfeit 1 point for every minute, or part thereof, that they are late after the official match starting time; and
* Be declared in default of a set if, after 5 minutes, it is not ready to play.
* The same process as outlined in (a) & (b) shall be repeated for the second set (if the playing format allows for multiple sets).

3.4 The Event organiser, after due consideration of all relevant circumstances, may elect under extraordinary circumstances not to declare a default (loss of set). Such decision will be made immediately.

**4. Attire, Presentation & Sponsorship**

4.1 Players shall dress and present themselves in a professional manner.

4.2 Players must wear official tournament kit while competing in 4 star and Pro Tour events. If official tournament kit is not provided, players must provide their own matching kit.

4.3 Players’ attire must meet the standards of common decency, be clean and appropriate for beach volleyball competition.

4.4 Players are free to wear / use headwear, arm and wristbands, socks, shorts, swimwear bottoms, drink bottles, towels, bags, transferable tattoos, etc to display their own personal sponsorship at their own discretion.

4.5 Players’ personal accessories should not be placed or positioned as to cover any branding or signage of UKBT or event sponsors.

**5. Leaving The Court**

5.1 A Player shall not leave the immediate playing area during a match without the permission of the Referee or other tournament official.

**6. Best Efforts**

6.1 A Player must use his / her best efforts to win a match.

6.2 If, in the opinion of the event organiser, a player has failed to do so, he / she may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including disqualification from the event or the UKBT.

**7. Failure To Complete A Match**

7.1 A Player must complete a match in progress unless he / she is reasonably unable to do so.

7.2 Violation of rule above shall cause a team to automatically forfeit the match in question.

**8. Ceremonies & Presentations**

8.1 When accepting awards, prize money and/or prizes, players are required to thank the UKBT sponsor, the event sponsor, UKBT and the host venue, including (where applicable) the local council.

**9. Misconduct**

9.1 During competition, the following misconduct categories, sanctions and sanction scale shall apply.

* Unsportsmanlike conduct – argumentation, intimidation, etc.
* Rude conduct – acting contrary to good manners or moral principles, expressing contempt.
* Offensive conduct – defamatory or insulting words or gestures.
* Aggression – physical attack or intended aggression.
* Theft – Taking something that is not yours.

9.2 Audible Obscenity

* Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the tournament precinct.
* For the purpose of this rule, “audible obscenity” shall be defined as the use of language commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the Referee, opponents or spectators.

9.3 Visible Obscenity

* Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the tournament “precinct”.
* For the purpose of this rule, “visible obscenity” shall be defined as any actions or gestures by a player that commonly have an obscene meaning, understood by a reasonable person, or of an inappropriate nature.

9.4 Abuse of the Ball

* Players shall not violently, dangerously, in frustration or anger, throw or kick the ball except in the reasonable pursuit of a rally.
* For the purpose of this rule, “abuse of the ball” shall be defined as intentionally striking, kicking or throwing a ball out of the immediate area of the playing court, or striking a ball dangerously or recklessly.

9.5 Abuse of the Net or Court Fixtures

* Players shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, in frustration or anger, hit or pull on the net, other court fixtures, signage or other facilities.

9.6 Theft of Tournament Equipment

* UKBT imposes a zero tolerance policy in relation to the theft of any equipment. Players found to be in breach of this provision shall be liable to automatic suspension from the UKBT.

9.7 Verbal Abuse

* Players shall not at any time abuse the match officials, their teammates, opponents, spectators or tournament officials.
* For the purpose of this rule, “verbal abuse” shall be defined as statements that imply dishonesty or lack of integrity, or are derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

9.8 Physical Abuse

* Players shall not at any time physically abuse or intend physical harm to any match official, teammate, opponents, spectators or Tournament official.

9.9 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

* Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, giving due regard to the authority of all tournament officials and the rights of teammates, opponents and spectators.
* For the purpose of this rule, “unsportsmanlike conduct” shall be defined as any conduct by a player that is clearly abusive, detrimental to the success of the tournament or the sport.
* This shall include “sledging” by players both on and off the court area and any attempts to influence the referee’s decisions or interfere with an opponent’s play.

**10. Doping & Alcohol**

10.1 UKBT has a zero tolerance policy in relation to violations of this provision. Players found to be in breach of this provision shall be liable to automatic suspension from a tournament or the UKBT.

10.2 Players shall at no time consume alcohol whilst:

* Involved in playing or officiating in a match;
* Remaining in the Tournament competition draw; and/or
* Within the Tournament precinct unless in an area designated by the event organiser.

10.1 Illegal or Banned Substances

* Players shall at no time use any illegal substances whilst within the tournament precinct.
* Players shall at no time compete whilst under the influence of any illegal or banned substances as specified by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA).
* Testing for illegal substances may be carried out at events. Players found in breach of the WADA policy will be subject to sanctions outlined in the WADA policy and in UKBT anti-doping policy.

**11. Sanctions**

11.1 Any player who has accrued two (2) "red cards", as prescribed in the FIVB Misconduct Scale, during the course of a tournament shall automatically lose the match in which the third penalty occurs.

11.2 If a Player is excluded from the remainder of a tournament, he or she shall receive no UKBT Ranking Points for that tournament.

11.3 A Player excluded from a tournament must show cause to UKBT as to why they should be allowed to continue their participation in the UKBT during the current season.

11.4 Any Player excluded from two (2) tournaments throughout the course of the UKBT shall be ineligible to compete in any remaining events of the season, including the UKBT Finals.

11.5 The UKBT Judicial Panel will rule upon any disputes or protests arising *after* the conclusion of an event and will act as an avenue of appeal on disputes and protests arising *during* an event.

* Players or teams wishing to appeal to the UKBT Judicial Panel must lodge their appeal in writing with the UKBT office within fourteen (14) days of the incident, giving rise to the appeal.

11.6 A full list of sanctions can be found in UKBT Handbook.

**12. Administration Of The Code**

12.1 The event organiser is empowered to enforce the rules and any subsequent sanctions, as outlined in this Code of Conduct, at any time during the course of an event.

**13. Officials Code Of Ethics**

13.1 Paid officials, volunteer officials and competitors who take on official roles (e.g. refereeing duty) are subject to this Code of Ethics.

13.2 The duty of the sports official is to act as an impartial judge of sporting competition. This duty carries with it an obligation for the official to perform with accuracy, consistency, objectivity and the highest sense of integrity. In order to preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism and integrity of officiating, officials must first foster ethical behaviour.

13.3 The overriding objectives for Officials are to:

* Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
* Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
* Be impartial.
* Avoid any situation, which may lead to a conflict of interest.
* Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
* Value the individual in sport.
* Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
* Encourage inclusiveness and access to all areas of officiating.
* Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
* Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes.
* Refrain from any form of harassment towards athletes.
* Show caution and concern towards sick and injured athletes.

13.4 Officials have the right to expect that:

* Their health and safety are paramount.
* They are treated with respect and openness.
* They are appointed to a level of competition appropriate to their level of competence.
* They have access to self-improvement opportunities.

**14. Filming And Photographic Release Agreement**

14.1 UKBT and/or its authorised production company and personnel will be filming and taking photographic images during the UKBT. It is agreed that you authorise and give permission for UKBT and its authorised associates to have:

* Permission to use any video footage and photographic images taken at any events for exclusive use/broadcast by UKBT and or its associates at no cost in perpetuity in all territories worldwide.
* Permission to use any photographic images on any online platform as deemed appropriate for promotional or marketing purposes. This will include social networking sites.
* Grant permission for UKBT to use any images taken from the event for any other marketing or promotional material in perpetuity in all territories.
* If you are under 18 seek the permission of your parent and guardian.