

3rd July 2023

Breaches of Fair Play and Expected Action from Players

The SAI Ethics Committee formed in May 2022 following an incident reported in April 2022, has investigated several reported matters from tournaments over the past few months.

This is a compilation of the breaches brought to its attention, published with the objective of ensuring that these lapses do not recur. Participants in a tournament need to be aware of what constitutes a violation as a lack of rules awareness is not deemed as an excuse

It is also every player's responsibility to report such breaches when observed, to uphold standards of both ethics and etiquette

Breaches of Fair Play based on complaints received:

The following note is based upon complaints received; not all from those reported against have been proved guilty, but warnings have been issued to those even suspected of infractions, or with sketchy antecedents. It may be noted that multiple instances of suspicion can be grounds for suspension

	Complaint	Method of breach	Expected Action (Fair Play)
1.	Collusion: Mutually agreeing on scores to be misreported	Reporting a tie when it wasn't the natural outcome of the game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. One cannot enter into any arrangement whatsoever with the opponent to misrepresent scores or result b. Such an act is a violation in bad faith and a Level I offence c. Actual scores or revised scores (if any) upon recount must be reported
2.	Collusion: Request for more time	Asking your opponent not to consider overtime if you erred by not pressing the clock	Strictly follow the clock and apply overtime rule where applicable
3.	Using a word checker on a phone	Referring to an anagrammer on the phone on the pretext of taking a bio-break	The TD must be intimated if an emergency break is to be taken, and the player's clock is to be kept running. Use of any electronic device during a game to gain unfair advantage is an offence
4.	Altering the clock/ timer	The clock was switched off by the player in the middle of the game	The clock has to be neutralised (stopped, not switched off) at the end of the last play. Only if the opponent says "hold" (considering a challenge) should the clock continue
5.	Deliberate selection of tiles when drawing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Looking into the bag when drawing b. Drawing 2 tiles but laying only one on the table and returning the other to the bag surreptitiously when drawing the next tile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The rim of the bag is to be at or above eye level when drawing b) Avert your eyes from the tile bag c) Display your empty hand before and after drawing the next tile.

6.	Interference in recount/verifying scores by a third party	When 2 players are recounting or verifying scores at the end of the game, a third person is asked to assist them at the behest of one of the players claiming inability to count accurately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Counting of scores including any recount is to be left to the 2 players only. In case of a disagreement the TD should be called. A third person cannot intervene in counting, or influence the game in any way. b. No player can claim incompetence in counting for any reason; use of visual aids like glasses need to be in place at the start of the game.
7.	Hiding a tile for use later in the game	Hiding a tile either at the start or during a game only to produce it at a later stage to be used advantageously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Both players should check the tiles (ideally arranged in a grid) at the start of a game b. Be vigilant at the time of the opponent drawing c. Inform the TD if tiles are found out of the bag or if tiles are spilled from the bag during a game; the due course of action must be enforced by the TD
8.	Refusal to surrender scoresheet to opponent upon request	The recounting player requests to view opponent's scoresheet during recount at the end of the game which was refused	A recounting player may request the use of the opponent's score sheet. The opponent may object, but must, if asked, surrender the score sheet to the TD, who may use it to assist the recounting player
9.	Failure to disclose overdraw	A player returns an extra tile to the bag upon drawing tiles without intimating the opponent	A player who has overdrawn must disclose the overdraw. Non-disclosure is regarded as unethical behaviour (Level II offence)