

# AMERICAN DARTERS ASSOCIATION



## PROFESSIONAL DARTER

# OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Effective January 1, 2006**

**These Official Rules and Regulations of the American Darters Association govern Professional status, competition, policies and procedures for all Professional Darters. Anyone who competes in an ADA Professional Championship is required to comply with the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.**

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## **RULE 1 - PROFESSIONAL STATUS**

**1.1 Criteria for Professional status.** Professional status in the American Darters Association (ADA) is open to any male or female darter who meets the following criteria:

- a. Must be a member of the American Darters Association (ADA).
- b. Must participate in an American Dart Leagues' Open division.
- c. Must participate in each quarter of the calendar year.
- d. Must play a minimum of twenty 501 games per calendar year.
- e. Must maintain a minimum Points Per Dart Average (PPDA) of:
  - Men's steel tip – 17.5
  - Women's steel tip – 12.0
  - Men's soft tip – 21.0
  - Women's soft top – 14.0
- f. Must be in good standing with the ADA.

**1.2 Length of term.** Professionals are determined on December 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. Their Professional status begins January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**1.3 Verification of Identity.** Applicants must provide identification in both of the following forms:

- a. ADA Professional status card
- b. Driver's License or photo ID

## **RULE 2 - DUES**

**2.1 Duties and Privileges.** A professional is considered to have agreed to comply with the ADA Professional Darter Rules and Regulations and is entitled to the privileges of Professional status. In the event a Professional resigns, or is suspended from Professional status, he or she will forfeit all privileges of their Professional status.

**2.2 Payment of Dues.** All Professionals must pay dues to the ADA on a yearly basis. Any Professional who does not meet their dues obligations will be prohibited from competing in all Professional Darter events and will forfeit all Professional status privileges. If the Professional status is terminated, the member must resolve any conduct violations or financial obligations prior to reinstating their Professional status. Reinstatement decisions will be at the discretion of the President.

**2.3 Resignations.** Any Professional who wishes to resign his or her Professional status must notify the President in writing.

### **RULE 3 – ADA PROFESSIONALS’ CODE OF ETHICS**

**3.1 Code of Ethics.** The ADA requires that its Professionals conduct themselves at all times in conformity with the ADA Professionals’ Code of Ethics. The title “Professional Darter” must be, and at all times remain synonymous with honor, service and fair dealing. Integrity, fidelity to the sport of darts and a sense of great responsibility to employers, employees, manufacturers, clients and others professionals, should transcend all thought of material gain in the motives of the true Professional Darter. The conduct of each member must always be in keeping with this ongoing standard. If, at any time, ADA officials have reason to believe that a Professional Darter is acting in violation of the ADA Professionals’ Code of Ethics, disciplinary action will be taken.

**3.2 Code of Ethics Violations.** Specific violations of the ADA Professionals’ Code of Ethics include, but are not limited to, the following:

**3.2.1 Defaming the Sport of Darts.** A Professional allowing the use of his or her name or likeness in such a manner as to defame the sport of darts and/or the ADA. As used in these Rules, “defame” means use, conduct, or action that the ADA Believes will cause disgrace or harm to the reputation of the sport of darts or the ADA.

**3.2.2 Failure to Meet Obligations.** A Professional failing to promptly meet his or her Professional status or Professional contractual obligations, or otherwise acting in a manner that is reasonably likely to injure the reputation and standing of the ADA and/or its members.

**3.3 ADA Professional Rules Violations.** A Professional, who acts in violation of the ADA Professional Darter Official Rules and Regulations, is subject to disciplinary action.

## **RULE 4 – ADA PROFESSIONALS’ CONDUCT**

**4.1 General.** When competing in any ADA event, including, but not limited to the American Dart League, ADA Championships, and making public appearances, a professional must adhere to and abide by all aspects of the ADA Professionals’ Code of Ethics (Rule 3) and this Rule 4 and may not publicly criticize or defame the integrity of the ADA, its members, officers or staff, tournament sponsor, host location, and employees of the host location or spectators.

**4.2 Authority.** The Championship Director will make all decisions and apply all associated penalties regarding whether a violation resulting in the disqualification of any Professional has occurred.

**4.3 Use of Tobacco Products.** The Professionals understand that the ADA will use reasonable efforts to ensure that host locations be designated smoke-free during the Championship (with a designated smoking room or area).

**4.4 Media Sessions.** Professionals may not use or display tobacco products during any media sessions.

## **RULE 5 – DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

**5.1 General.** In the event a Professional violates the ADA Professionals’ Code of Ethics, any provisions of these rules and regulations, or whose conduct is otherwise likely to injure or adversely affect the reputation or standing of the ADA, the Professional will be subject to disciplinary action and hereby agrees and acknowledges the right and authority of the appropriate agents, to take any of the following actions pursuant to the provisions of this rule:

**5.1.2a Probation.** Place the Professional on probation.

**5.1.2b Suspension.** Suspend the Professional from Professional status.

### **5.2 Charges**

**5.2.1 Imposition of Penalty.** All charges brought against a Professional must be in written form, and submitted to the President of the ADA.

**5.2.2 Notification of Charges.** The President will then notify the accused Professional of the substance of those charges and offer the Professional the opportunity to respond to the charges and explain his or her conduct.

**5.3 Action and Disposition of Offense.** Within ten (10) days of the date of such notification, the ADA will issue a ruling on the situation and notify the Professional of any penalties to be imposed against him or her.

**5.4 Conduct Penalty while on Probation.** Any conduct offense while on probation will result in a suspension, the length to be determined by the President.

## **5.5 Appeals.**

**5.5.1 Time Limited to File an Appeal.** The President of the ADA must receive an appeal within ten (10) days from the date of the written notification of the imposition of the penalty. Failure to make an appeal in a timely manner will preclude the Professional from any later attempt to contest the charges brought and the penalty imposed against him or her.

**5.5.2 Appeal Review Process and Member Notification.** The President will notify the Professional of the decision on the initial appeal within ten (10) days of its receipt.

**5.5.3 Eligibility to Compete.** A Professional who files an appeal may compete in Championships pending the outcome, provided the appeal is in writing and includes all defenses or mitigating circumstances claimed. The Professional may include signed statements of witnesses.

**5.6 Harmless.** Each Professional agrees to release and hold harmless, all employees of the ADA, any Appeals Committees formed, any individual ADA member thereof, and all officers, employees, agents and other ADA representatives, acting in their official and individual capacities, from any and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action whatsoever, in law or in equity, arising in connection with any charges brought and/or penalties imposed against him or her including, but not limited to, any damages caused by loss of income or sponsorship.

## **RULE 6 – CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES**

**6.1 General.** All Professionals must maintain a professional appearance in both clothing and personal grooming while participating in an ADA Championship or other Professional event. The Championship Director has the authority to interpret and implement this regulation, subject to the oversight of the President. The Championship Director must approve all questionable apparel before it is worn during a Championship.

**6.2 Beverage Policy.** Professionals must consume all beverages from containers approved by the Championship Director during competition.

**6.3 Media Photographs and Interviews.** Any Professional being photographed or interviewed for television in conjunction with an ADA Championship, whether before or after the event must meet all attire guidelines set by the ADA.

**6.4 Championship Commitment.** Any Professional who is confirmed as a Championship participant and fails to compete **MUST** personally notify the Championship Director prior to the scheduled event to avoid penalties.

**6.5 Media Guidelines** Professionals must attend all functions designated as mandatory by the ADA during a Championship in which they are competing.

**6.5.1 Press and Media Obligations.** When required, Professionals must report to the Media Office no later than 10 minutes after the conclusion of their match or qualifying round.

**6.5.2 Professionals' Introductions.** Professionals must be present for Professionals' introductions prior to the Championship.

**6.5.3 Media/Public Relations (PR) Appearances.** Professionals must cooperate with all reasonable media requests made through the ADA during the year

**6.6 Verification of Identity.** Applicants to a Professional event must provide identification in both of the following forms:

- a. ADA Professional status card
- b. Driver's License or photo ID

## **RULE 7 – RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

**7.1 Criteria.** Resident Professional status in the American Darters Association (ADA) is open to any male or female darter who meets the following criteria:

- a. Must be a member of the American Darters Association (ADA).
- b. Must participate in an American Dart Leagues' Open division.
- c. Must participate in each quarter of the calendar year.
- d. Must play a minimum of twenty 501 games per calendar year.
- e. Must maintain a minimum Points Per Dart Average (PPDA) of:
  - Men's steel tip – 17.5
  - Women's steel tip – 12.0
  - Men's soft tip – 21.0
  - Women's soft tip – 14.0
- f. Must be in good standings with the ADA with no violations of Rules 3 & 4.
- g. Based on approval from the ADA office are asked to perform a minimum of three public appearances per calendar year. American Dart League play and Championship Series play is not considered public appearances.

**7.2 Compensation.** Duties, tasks, & responsibilities of each Resident Professional are voluntary until such time sponsorship can be secured to compensate expenses incurred performing ADA functions.

**7.3 Benefits.** The ADA will extend complimentary entry into every ADA Championship Series event during the term of each Resident Professional. Any additional benefits will be extended based on securing sponsorship.

**7.4 Acknowledgements.** Immediately following approval by the ADA each Resident Professional will be notified by Certified Mail. Upon receipt of the signed “Resident Professional Pledge” a certificate proclaiming the ADA member a “Resident Professional” will be issued and forwarded to the respective Resident Professional.

## **RULE 8 – FUTURE REVISIONS**

**8.1 General.** The ADA reserves the right to revise in whole or in part the contents of the ADA Professional Darter Rules and Regulations at any time deemed necessary, especially with respect to anticipated corporate sponsorship and television involvement. Notice of any such changes will be given to the Professionals in such manner as the ADA deems reasonable. All such revisions will be binding on the Professionals upon ADA giving such notice.

