

## Cases this year

Note that TDCC has two functions when dealing with cases where there is actual TD fault. TDs that are able and willing to learn from mistakes need to be taught. TDs that unwilling or unable to learn need to be deterred from adversely affecting the general membership.

There have been quite a few complaints that read as TDs being at fault until you look deeper and determine that the TDs took reasonable actions that the complainant didn't happen to like. Such complaints can still have merit if they are something that a reasonable person could find a seemingly valid issue with, in which case the good faith filing fee may be returned even if the complaint is denied. If a complaint is found to not have merit then the good faith fee is not returned.

In the 11 complaints below two were rejected as being without merit, one was not related to US Chess, two were denied but still found to have merit and six had actions taken to deal with the TDs. Over the years somewhere around 50% of complaints do not result in TDs being found at fault, while recent years have seen maybe 25% of complaints deemed to not have merit.

- 1) One complaint denied for complaints from a spectator about having their food mess cleaned up after repeated requests to take care of it before the venue opted to refuse to have chess tournaments any more. The complaint was deemed to have no merit and the good faith fee was not refunded.
- 2) One complaint was about a TD suggesting that a draw would be a possible way to resolve a situation that would give a win to one player or the other depending on the decision. A draw, which the players agreed to after the suggestion, had already been offered by the player trying to get a win. Rules had already said that the draw was final and the complaint had enough merit for good faith fee to be returned even though the complaint was denied. TDCC pointed out that rules 10 (draw), 14J (declared by TD) and 21F3b (otherwise make a ruling allowing the game to continue) existed if the TD felt that simply ruling it a draw was the best solution, and that if those rules were not enough then the TD should not have suggested a draw.
- 3) One complaint dealt with the reversal of a cell phone violation loss of game. Another committee already found the complaint to have enough merit to get the fee returned. TD penalties were assigned.
- 4) One TD self reporting as a player that cheated years earlier. Though very long or permanent suspensions were discussed the final decision, with leniency for self-reporting, was for a suspension of a single digit number of years.

- 5) One complaint concerning apparent TD strong partiality in favor of a player. Another committee had already ruled against the TD. TDCC gave a suspension for a double-digit number of years.
- 6) One complaint dealt with TDs that made mistakes with tie-breaks for non-monetary prizes and did not understand the limitations of the computer software. The complaint was found to be correct (thus automatically having merit) and the TDs were given information to provide them the teaching they had already expressed a willingness to accept if they had made an error.
- 7) One complaint about a TD continually falsely rating games the TD did not play. It was found to be accurate, resulting in a permanent TD ban. There was not any consideration given to anything less.
- 8) One complaint about a TD (lower than Senior) working as non-TD staff at a FIDE-rated tournament and making a controversial game ending decision. The TD received a suspension of a single digit number of years and a limitation to no higher than Local for a double-digit number of years (TDs have to be at least Senior to take a test to get a FIDE license).
- 9) One complaint dealt with a tournament only rated in a regional rating system. It was rejected for not being a US Chess event and the office was given the authority to decide how to handle a good faith fee sent for a tournament that US Chess did not have the authority to deal with (just like FIDE does not have authority over most local club events).
- 10) One complaint about changing the original final round pairings where the complainant stated the TD had already explained why the pairings were changed. The new pairings were the correct pairings and the complaint was summarily rejected (based solely on the complainant's information) and found to be without merit.
- 11) One complaint about a suspended TD acting as a TD. A double-digit number of years was added to the suspension. The listed chief TD that took a long mid-tournament absence was given a fractional year suspension and probation. A request was made that the EB require the affiliate to take certain actions.

One ongoing case and two more waiting for other committees to do their part before we take them.

## Other

EB request TDCC give tips to help guide new organizers. A number were forwarded.

EB request to address rules and give guidance for a ratings program redesign that would try to maintain current functionality

Office request on how to deal with TDs that are minors and are faced with Safe Play issues

Office request on how to procedurally handle Safe Play issues at US Chess organized events

Women's committee request on contacting female TDs