



21 August 2022

1. Levels of Referees and Disciplinary Power

For the WRC 2022, there will be three designated levels of referee level, in ascending order: Associate referees, the head referee, and the executive referee. All disciplinary actions, including warnings, should be documented.

1.1. Associate Referees

Associate level referees are intended to handle the majority of calls that occur, including handling of giving out tenbo (debt) sticks, signing off on final scores, and otherwise answering other questions. However, associate level referees can give warnings, declare hands dead, and assign point penalties for chonbos as well after repeated warnings.

Dead hand and point penalties from associate level referees can always be appealed up to either the head or executive referee.

1.2. Head Referee

The head referee will be the primary source for handling appeals as well as filling in as necessary for the associate level duties. The head referee has all the same disciplinary tools as the associate level referees.

The head referee can deny appeals for any infraction (aside from cheating) if it meets the following criteria:

- An appeal has already been raised from an associate referee (that the head referee is not the first respondee).
- The penalized action is well documented in the rule book (not a result of repeated warnings)

- The penalty being prescribed matches what is prescribed in the rulebook (not a heightened penalty for repeat offense)
- The person(s) at fault is clear.
- There are no other reasonable circumstances or other reasons to grant an appeal.

1.3. Executive Referee

The executive referee, while they can perform the same duties as the other referees, will primarily be in charge of ensuring the time keeping of the rounds and handling any appeals necessary. They are also the only people who can disqualify a person.

Executive referee calls cannot be appealed, therefore, their decision is final. In addition, whenever a person is accused of cheating, such accusations are immediately escalated to the executive referee due to the severe nature of the accusation and consequences.

2. Disciplinary and Appeal Process

To maintain the flow of an individual game and the tournament, the process is as such:

- Upon an incident happening, all four players must halt the game and gameplay may not continue until told by a referee to continue. The players request a referee by raising their hand, even if the penalty is known or just a warning. If necessary, the referee can also grant additional time to ensure the players have the same amount of playing time as other tables.
- After being told what happened, the referee will take one of the two actions:
 - If there is an accusation of cheating, it will be automatically escalated to the executive referee if not already being taken by them.
 - If the issue at hand is something that the referee on hand does not feel they can adequately adjudicate or uncomfortable doing so, they can choose to escalate the issue immediately.
 - Otherwise, the referee should pass judgment given the information provided and the appropriately listed punishment.
- If the players agree upon the disciplinary action, the disciplinary action is enabled and play resumes. Otherwise, the players may appeal the judgment. This is the only time that players can appeal the decision to have it reversed; later appeals will not be honored. The players should (politely) point out any circumstances or apparently misunderstandings as for why they disagree with the judgment.
 - If it is an associate referee, appeals are automatically granted if the disciplinary action is anything besides a warning.

- If it is the head referee, they can deny appeals on the criteria highlighted in section 1.2 of this document.
- If it is the executive referee, while they can review their own decision before enacting the decision, the judgment cannot be appealed.
- The disciplinary action will be recorded for the shared record of referees. For any point penalties given, the referee will note the penalty on the score sheet immediately.