

What Happened to My Player Memo?

Part 1: the Disciplinary Process

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So you filed a player memo and you got a canned acknowledgment. What happens next?

The answer depends on three things:

1. How long ago was the incident? Unless the alleged violation is *very* serious (like cheating) or part of a pattern of (mis)conduct we have detected, we cannot do anything with a memo that you file beyond 120 days after the incident.
2. Did you waive confidentiality? If not, it may limit our ability to act on the complaint.
3. If the accused is guilty of everything you allege, is it a violation of our Code of Disciplinary Regulations? If not, we just file the report as there is no basis for discipline.

Let's say your Player Memo passed these three tests. Then the recorder investigates. This investigation will involve the following:

1. An interview with you.
2. An interview with the subject of the complaint.
3. An interview with any tournament director involved in the incident and a determination whether a Zero Tolerance or procedural penalty was assigned.
4. An interview with any witnesses.
5. A review of the deal, sometimes consulting expert players (or players of your caliber in some cases) for their opinion (with no disclosure of who was involved).
6. Involvement of the Anti-Cheating Commission if appropriate.
7. A written summary of the investigation provided to the charging party. It will include evidence gathered and a recommendation regarding whether the subject should face a disciplinary committee. If the complaint is about an incident at a tournament still taking place, the charging party is the director-in-charge. If not at a tournament, the charging party is the unit or district president where the incident took place or the subject's unit or district. If the case goes to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee or the Ethical Oversight Committee, the charging party is ACBL management. The proper charging party after a tournament is spelled out in the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.
8. If the charging party decides to bring charges, the chair of the appropriate disciplinary committee is contacted, and the disciplinary process begins. You are no longer a participant in the formal disciplinary process, except that you may be called as a witness. If the charging party decides to send the matter to a tournament disciplinary committee, the charging party is solely responsible for "prosecuting" the case.

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