



Press Release 06: Late cancellations and penalty points

Late cancellations in tour stops have over the last couple of years developed from a rather marginal problem to a very serious problem with 40-50 late cancellations in the worst cases. The problem has become a real existential threat for many tournaments and might become an existential threat to the whole tour business if nothing is done.

The ETBF Presidium has had increased focus on the problem for many months and possible solutions, steps and actions have been discussed.

The most perfect solution will be a sophisticated and Internet based combined payment and booking system for all tournaments. We have therefore asked a company to investigate the possibility of developing such a system, its costs and its consequences. We can, however, not expect such a system to be up and running in the next couple of years.

In the meanwhile a new set of rules will be in effect as of stop 1 in 2006, including a system with penalty points, penalties and registration in cases of late cancellations.

Late cancellations are defined in three categories and penalty points are given as follows:

Late Cancellation Type A

Cancellation Type A happens if the organizer is notified by the player in a period of 14 days or less before the first day of the tournament until the day just before the first day of the tournament. The player will be given 1 penalty point and the organizer is allowed to issue a penalty invoice to the player with an amount of not more than half of the maximum fee for a primary entry.

Late Cancellation Type B

Cancellation Type B happens if the organizer is notified by the player during the tournament, but before the qualification squad in which the primary entry was ordered. The player will be given 2 penalty points and the organizer is allowed to issue a penalty invoice to the player with an amount of not more than the maximum fee for a primary entry.

Late Cancellation Type C

Cancellation Type C is defined as a "No Show", which happens when a player fails to appear without having notified the organizer or is notifying the organizer after the start of the qualification squad in which the primary entry was ordered. The player will be given 3 penalty points and the organizer is allowed to issue a penalty invoice to the player with an amount of not more than the maximum fee for a primary entry plus the maximum fee for a re-entry.



If an invoice (A-C) is not paid latest 30 days after it was issued, the player will be given 1 penalty point more, regardless whether the voucher is paid at a later moment.

For late cancellations 1 penalty points will be given, but also for an illegal pull out in a tournament and furthermore from 0-4 penalty points can be given to players presenting improper behaviour like attacking equipment, attacking other players or officials and other similar, fortunately not very often, occurring happenings. The level of action will decide the number of penalty points given.

Penalty points will be accumulated over a three year period, where after points from the oldest year will be removed.

Each time a player is at or passing 4 penalty points, a penalty number is added to the player's total of penalty numbers and a penalty will be issued as follows:

- If the penalty number is 1, the player will be suspended for 60 days from EBT stops, counting from the day the suspension letter is issued.
- If the penalty number is 2, the player will be suspended for 90 days from EBT stops, counting from the day the suspension letter is issued. In addition the player will, through his federation, be invoiced by ETBF with a penalty fee of € 300.
- For each time the penalty number is higher than 2, the suspension period will be 30 days higher than the suspension period of the previous penalty number. In addition the penalty fee will be € 300 higher than the penalty fee of the previous penalty number.
- A suspension of a player from the EBT will in principle never end as long as a player has not paid the penalty fee to ETBF.

Together with the introduction of these rules ETBF has prepared an open letter to all players, appealing to a better attitude when entering and/or cancelling tournament entries and with a future hope that we can avoid further restrictions and even more strict rules for late cancellations. This letter is attached for your convenience.

It is important for ETBF to underline that the whole situation and the unfortunate necessity to introduce the penalty system is caused by a minority of players. A vast majority of the players can meet the new rules in confidence, because they do not need to change the attitude they already have and most of them will most probably never get one single penalty point.

The penalty system is directed towards a group of players filling up the good and attractive squads for a long period, and by doing that preventing other players from entering and then ruin the economy for many organizers by cancelling their bookings (or even worst just stay away without notification), often with misrepresentation of the facts.

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