

*Report of the NPDA Executive Secretary
Fall 2006 Business Meeting*

November 7, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

It has been my pleasure to serve as the NPDA Executive Secretary since the conclusion of the 2006 Championship Tournament. While there is little to report to the membership about the present year, I did want to bring to your attention one change in enforcement that will begin taking place in the 2007-2008 season.

NPDA tournament sanctioning policies currently state that the following requirements are in place for a tournament to be sanctioned:

- A. Sanctioned tournaments are those for which
 1. There is prior notification made and received by the Executive Secretary. Notification should be made no less than 30 days in advance of the tournament.
 2. There is support for the purposes of the organization both in philosophy and by paying dues.
 3. Results are submitted in a timely fashion and formatted as requested by the Executive Secretary.

There are several justifications for these standards. Most prominently, sanctioning allows a tournament to be placed on the NPDA calendar. Many programs, especially newer programs that are not familiar with annual tournaments, depend on the NPDA calendar to find regional tournaments in their area. Failure to sanction in advance creates tournaments that are "semi-open" at best. That is, some people who are "in the know" may attend such tournaments, but others are excluded. We need to do whatever we can to encourage tournament directors to include their information 30 days or more in advance so that programs can make informed travel choices.

The bylaws of the organization state that failure to adhere to the above standards will result in the denial of sanctioning status, which would in turn mean that the tournament results would not count for NPDA season long sweepstakes. My general assumption is that the bylaws should be enforced as passed by the membership. However, over a dozen tournaments this season have submitted sanctioning forms after the 30 day period, with some submitting forms on the day of the tournament or even after the tournament takes place. Some tournament directors were unaware of the need for sanctioning forms in the first place and others did not know about the 30 day advance notice standard, so I felt that the best approach for this season was to exercise lenience until we could make members more aware of these bylaws.

For the 2007-2008 season, I will begin to enforce the above bylaws as written, and tournaments for which we do not have forms at least 30 days prior to the tournament will not be granted sanctioning. It is not my intention to keep tournaments from being sanctioned, and I sincerely hope that all tournaments will comply with the guidelines that the bylaws set forth. However, the rules of the organization, as passed by the membership, need to be enforced.

Results submissions have progressed well so far. I only have one tournament that has not submitted results in a timely manner. I hope that this continues over the entire season.

I ask that the membership aid me with this change of enforcement in two ways:

1. If you host a tournament, please submit your sanctioning form on the same day you send out your invitation. The sanctioning form takes 5 minutes at most.
2. If you are attending a tournament and you are unsure of the sanctioning status of that tournament, please contact me and I will inform you as to whether we have a form on file for that tournament or not. If not, either one of us can contact the director in order to ensure that a form is filled out before the deadline. I have attempted to do this with tournaments that have announced on listservs or message boards, but I simply cannot know all of the tournaments that will happen in a given year.
3. If you have attended a tournament and have full results (prelims and elims) please send them to me. I can take full results from anyone, not just tournament directors.

Thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Gantt
NPDA Executive Secretary