

BLAST RULEBOOK

2021 Fall Qualifiers

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1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1. The capitalised terms used in this Rulebook shall, unless otherwise specified herein, have the meanings set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2. Any phrase introduced by the terms "including", "include", "in particular", "for example" or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.
- 1.3. Words and expressions importing natural persons include any individual, body corporate, unincorporated body, government, government department, agency and any municipal, local, statutory or other authority.
- 1.4. Headings are for ease of reference only and do not affect the meaning of this Rulebook.
- 1.5. The singular includes the plural and vice versa, and words importing a gender includes other genders.
- 1.6. A reference to a clause, paragraph or schedule is a reference to a clause or paragraph of or schedule to this Rulebook and a reference to this Rulebook includes any schedules.
- 1.7. Unless specifically stated, each provision of the Rulebook applies equally to online events as LAN events.

2. THE RULEBOOK.

- 2.1. <u>Purpose</u>: The Rulebook (which for the purposes hereof includes all schedules and appendices) is for the benefit of all Tournament stakeholders, including the Teams, the Participants, BLAST and Tournament Partners. The purpose of the Rulebook is to protect and maintain the integrity and competitive balance of the Tournament, and to set out the minimum standards to be expected of all Teams and Participants
- 2.2. <u>Acceptance of the Rulebook</u>: The Rulebook shall apply to, and be binding upon, the Teams and all Participants. By participating in the Tournament, all Teams and Participants expressly and unconditionally agree to comply with, and be bound by, the Rulebook as insofar as the same relates to the applicable Teams and Participants.
- 2.3. <u>Amendments of the Rulebook</u>: The Rulebook and any other rules or regulations imposed by BLAST in relation to the Tournament may be amended by BLAST from time to time and any such amendments shall be binding upon the Teams and Participants.
- 2.4. <u>Application of the Rulebook</u>: Subject to the ESIC Codes and the application thereof, Tournament Officials will always, to the extent permitted by the Rulebook and the situations presented, resolve any issues and conflicts in a fair, reasonable and proportionate way. If the Rulebook does not cover a specific incident or sequence of events, Tournament Officials reserve the right to rule as they see fit taking into account sportsmanship, integrity, the spirit of the Tournament and applying the principles of reasonableness and proportionality. If necessary, the Tournament Director may take a decision at his/her sole discretion.
- 2.5. <u>Validity</u>: If any provision of the Rulebook is deemed void or unenforceable in whole or in part, this shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Rulebook. If a provision of the Rulebook is found to be void or unenforceable, the provision shall apply with the minimum modification necessary to make it valid and enforceable.

3. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

- 3.1. <u>Tournament Officials</u>: The Teams shall be notified of the relevant Tournament Officials appointed for each stage of the qualifier.
- 3.2. <u>Responsibilities</u>: The Tournament Officials are responsible for making decisions and judgment calls on Match play and Tournament related issues which take place immediately before, during and immediately following a Match. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - 3.2.1. starting and closing the Match;
 - 3.2.2. monitoring the Playing Area;
 - 3.2.3. monitoring the Participants' behaviour;
 - 3.2.4. issuing appropriate in-Match Sanctions; and
 - 3.2.5. making decisions on Match related issues.
- 3.3. <u>Independence</u>: Tournament Officials shall, at all times, conduct themselves in an appropriate, professional and impartial manner, as befitting the Tournament and BLAST. For the avoidance of doubt, Tournament Officials shall show no prejudice towards any Team or Participant.
- 3.4. <u>Decision Making</u>: Subject to the application of the ESIC Codes (where applicable), the decisions made and Sanctions applied by Tournament Officials during a Match or otherwise during a Tournament Stage are final and binding on all Teams and Participants unless otherwise provided for herein. Only those decisions that are not Non-Appealable Decisions can be appealed, and the process for such appeal(s) is set out in Clause 14 below.
- 3.5. Payments to Tournament Officials: Without limitation to the ESIC Codes, no Team, Participant, or any other person acting on their, or its behalf, shall make, or offer to make, any payment whatsoever to a Tournament Official, whether in cash or in kind, and whether by way of fee, allowance or reimbursement of expenses, except as may from time to time be approved or determined by BLAST.

4. BEHAVIOUR AND STANDARDS

- 4.1. <u>Punctuality</u>: Participants are expected to attend all Tournament commitments (including but not limited to team briefings, Matches, signing sessions, fan meets, pre-/post-match interviews and other PR responsibilities) at the specified time prior to their beginning. Delayed start of any such engagements may result in warnings and/or Sanctions including, in the case of a Match, default loss.
- 4.2. Respect: All Participants must comply with the Code of Conduct and are required to treat Tournament Officials, other Participants, BLAST staff, Tournament Partners, members of the press and fans with the utmost respect. This extends to all equipment and hardware provided by BLAST/the venue and any damage or breakage of the aforesaid items may lead to warnings and/or Sanctions.
- 4.3. <u>Communication</u>: Participants must use respectful language when communicating with Tournament Officials, other Players, Team Personnel, BLAST staff, Tournament Partners, members of the press and fans. Use of vulgar and/or inappropriate language may result in warnings and/or Sanctions.
- 4.4. <u>Confidentiality</u>: The Teams and Participants acknowledge that by participating in the Tournament they may have access to certain confidential information, including but not limited to Roster changes, Team news, results of Matches (which shall be considered

confidential up until such time as such results are made publicly available by BLAST), information disclosed or covered at Tournament Council Meetings, communications regarding the Tournament disclosed to Teams and/or Participants in circumstances imparting confidence and correspondence between Participants and/or Tournament Officials. The Teams and Participants undertake to hold in confidence all confidential information, and not to disclose such information to third parties and to use such information only for the purposes of participating in the Tournament. In addition, the Teams and Participants acknowledge that in connection with the Tournament, they may have access to BLAST's and/or other third parties' (and/or their respective parents', subsidiaries', affiliates' and/or business partners') confidential information including, but not limited to, business and other non-public information. The Teams and Participants shall not disclose any such confidential information to any third party unless so authorised by BLAST (except as required by law).

- 4.5. <u>Non-Disparagement</u>: The Teams and Participants shall not at any time make any comments, statements or remarks by whatever means (including online) or engage in any conduct which damages or adversely impacts the goodwill, image, commercial interests or reputation of BLAST, the Tournament and/or any Tournament Partner or other Team and shall not engage in any conduct which brings the Tournament, the Team or the Participants into public disrepute or scandal.
- 4.6. Penalty Points: Where a Participant breaches this Rulebook and/or acts in a manner which BLAST reasonably determines to be detrimental to the integrity or public image of the Tournament, BLAST, any Team or Tournament Partner, BLAST may, in addition to the other Sanctions available to it (including but not limited to those in Clause 14.3 below (which include financial penalties and fines) impose Penalty Points on that Participant in accordance with Appendix 4, which may result in a suspension from playing in BLAST Matches or Tournaments. Further details of the Penalty Points system are provided in Appendix 4.

5. TEAM MATTERS & ROSTER

- 5.1. <u>Team Name</u>: Each Team will be referred to in the Tournament as they are commonly known and shall not include any title sponsor.
- 5.2. <u>Team Kit & Sponsors</u>: Unless advised otherwise by BLAST, Participants must wear Team Kits during all Matches, and during pre-match and post-match interviews organised by or for BLAST. Each Team shall provide to BLAST Team Kit details for the relevant, upcoming Tournament Stage. Teams and Participants may include sponsors' logos/marks on their clothing and peripherals, save that sponsors from the Blacklisted Categories are strictly prohibited. Furthermore:
 - 5.2.1. No non-Team branded jackets or coats may be worn on stage or in the Playing Area (including being stored on the back of chairs or under the table).
 - 5.2.2. Players and Team Coaches must wear full Team apparel on stage and in the Playing Area at all times.
 - 5.2.3. Players and Team Coaches must wear Team specific trousers (or dark long trousers) and proper shoes on stage and in the Playing Area at all times.
 - 5.2.4. If an item of clothing (such as headwear) is deemed to provide an unfair advantage, the Participant may be required to remove it.
 - 5.2.5. If a Team changes any of its sponsors during a season, BLAST shall be under no obligation to update or edit any content or other marketing or advertising materials in relation to the Team or the Team's involvement in the Tournament to take account of such sponsor change.
- 5.3. <u>Broadcasting</u>: Each Participant acknowledges and agrees that BLAST has the right to

photograph, record, publish, broadcast, stream, disseminate, telecast, transmit, air, distribute, or otherwise exploit, in any manner whatsoever and in any and all media whether now known or hereinafter invented, all or any part of the Tournament and any services provided by, or image, representation or voice communications of, a Participant or a Team howsoever arising in respect of or connected to the Tournament (including but not limited to the products of such services).

5.4. Eligibility:

- 5.4.1. The Team's roster may consist of up to five (5) starting Players and two (2) substitute Players. The Team Coach may be used to fill a substitute position.
- 5.4.2. A Player or Team Coach may not be included on a Submitted Roster (and therefore may not participate in the Tournament) if:
 - 5.4.2.1. They are under the age of sixteen (16).
 - 5.4.2.2. they are serving a ban imposed by BLAST and/or ESIC and/or any other applicable authority recognised by BLAST and/or ESIC;
 - 5.4.2.3. they have been Valve Anti-Cheat (VAC) banned during the 2 years prior to the first match date of the applicable Tournament Stage;
 - 5.4.2.4. they have a direct or indirect financial interest (whether through the holding of shares or otherwise) in any other professional esports team (excluding the Team they represent) participating in any BLAST qualifier or BLAST Premier event.
- 5.4.3. <u>local qualifier eligibility</u> During official matches, teams playing in the Local Qualifier and the Regional Qualifier must consist of at least three(3) players holding passports for the same country within the Region. In addition there needs to be at least one(1) player holding a passport from the same Region. One(1) player can be from anywhere in the world, but cannot participate in multiple Regional Qualifiers and cannot already be qualified to play in higher stages of the BLAST Fall series.
 - 5.4.3.1. BLAST retain the right to identify the most suitable qualifier for a team should the above eligibility criteria exclude them from all regions
- 5.4.4. An exception may be made If a team has been residing in a country in the applicable Region for the last 6 months and have at least 30 official matches on HLTV during this period, Teams need to contact the respective Tournament Officials with a request in advance. In extreme cases
- 5.4.5. Teams who qualify for the BLAST Premier Showdown will not be able to change their roster prior to the tournament even if the change is submitted prior to the tournament roster lock .Exceptions may be made at BLAST's sole discretion
- 5.4.6. In case of further restrictions, Tournament Officials will notify the teams before each respective qualifier.
- 5.4.7. By participating in the Tournament, all Participants warrant and represent that they are eligible to do so in accordance with the Rulebook (and any other rules or regulations connected thereto).
- 5.5. Team Coach: A Team may submit one (1) Team Coach who is eligible to stand behind the Players in the Playing Area. The Team Coach may only communicate to the Players during tactical timeouts and half time/side switches (including half time/side switches during overtime). If the Team Coach is required to substitute into the line-up, a starting or substitute

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Player may take the place of the Team Coach.

5.6. <u>Emergency Replacements</u>: Where possible, Teams should always use registered substitutes included on the Submitted Roster. However, in some cases it may be necessary for a Team to apply for an emergency replacement after the submission of the Submitted Roster due to issues such as illness, injury, and travel disruption. Replacements cannot be a Participant who is active on another pro roster which is participating in the Tournament. The acceptance or rejection of an emergency replacement will be decided by BLAST on a case by case basis in its sole discretion.

6. SCHEDULING

- 6.1. <u>Abandoned Matches</u>: If the Tournament Operations Manager deems it necessary to abandon a Match for any reason then, irrespective of the status of the Match, the result and score of that Match may be determined by the Tournament Operations Manager, in their absolute discretion. The Tournament Operations Manager may also order the Match to be replayed, in which case the Match will take place on a date, and with a start time, determined by BLAST.
- 6.2. <u>Late Arrival or Failure to Arrive</u>: BLAST takes breaches of Match scheduling very seriously. In the case of a Late Show or a No Show, BLAST is, therefore, entitled to impose Sanctions on any offending Team (who are vicariously liable for the actions of Participants hereunder) and/or Participant, which will take immediate effect. Furthermore:
 - 6.2.1. Except in the case of a Force Majeure, a Team will be deemed to have committed a "**Late Show**" if, after five (5) minutes before the scheduled Match start time, all five (5) starting Players are not present at the Playing Area and Match Ready.
 - 6.2.2. Sanctions may be imposed on Participants and/or Teams at the discretion of BLAST and based on the length (in minutes) of the Late Show.
 - 6.2.3. A Team will be deemed to have committed a "**No Show**" (and, subject to BLAST's discretion to rule otherwise, shall automatically forfeit the Match) if, after fifteen (15) minutes following the scheduled Match start time, all five (5) starting Players are not present at the Playing Area and Match Ready.
- 6.3. <u>Forfeit</u>: If a Team wishes to forfeit a Match, for any reason, it must make a formal request to the Tournament Operations Manager for permission to forfeit, who shall make a decision on such request at his or her sole discretion. The Tournament Operations Manager can choose to accept, or reject, the forfeit request, in accordance with whatever conditions they deem appropriate, bearing in mind the overriding requirement to protect the integrity of the Tournament.

7. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

7.1. <u>Technical Specifications</u>: All matters relating to the Game's technical specifications are set out in the Technical Specifications & Regulations at Appendix 2.

8. PLAYING AREA

- 8.1. For the case of an Online Match:
 - 8.1.1. Access: Teams are allowed a total of eight (8) persons in the Playing Area during the duration of their Match. The six (6) Participants in the Match (five Players and one Team Coach) with the addition of two (2) extra persons, which could include but is not limited to substitutes, Team Manager, Content Team, Support Staff or Sports Psychologists. All staff with access to the Playing Area must be pre-approved by the Tournament Operations Manager. BLAST reserves the right to remove any staff, acting

in its sole discretion.

8.1.2. <u>Documents</u>: Team(s)/Player(s) may take physical documents such as paper, binders and notepads into the Playing Area for tactical purposes.

8.1.3. Food and Drink:

- 8.1.3.1. All food must be placed under the table and out of sight.
- 8.1.3.2. Players must not have any branded drinks within the Playing Area and drinks should not be on display.
- 8.1.3.3. BLAST reserves the right to ask for the removal of any food or drink from the Playing Area if it deems appropriate.

8.1.4. <u>Electronic and USB devices</u>:

8.1.4.1. Other than gaming peripherals, no Participant may bring an electronic or USB device (including mobile phones, smart watches, tablets, pagers and laptops) into the Playing Area at any point during the Tournament, unless approved by the Tournament Operations Manager on a case by case basis.

8.1.5. Marketing:

8.1.5.1. Save for official sponsors on Team clothing and peripherals, and/or as directed by BLAST, Teams and Participants shall not be permitted to have third party brands within view during an Online Match, and shall not promote or market (or seek to promote or market) any third party brands, including without limitation by directly or indirectly suggesting, or creating, a commercial connection or association between the third party (and its products, services or brand) and BLAST or the Tournament. Any exceptions to this to be agreed with the Tournament Operations Manager.

9. DURING THE MATCH

- 9.1. <u>Leaving the Playing Area</u>: Players must not leave the Playing Area at any time during the ten (10) minutes prior to or during a Match without the express permission of the Tournament Officials.
- 9.2. <u>Leaving the Server</u>: Players must not leave the server during a Match without the express permission of the Tournament Officials. If a Player leaves the server without permission and does not return in time for the next round, no pause will be granted and the Match will continue. The Team may call tactical timeouts to extend the freeze time.
- 9.3. <u>Tactical Timeouts</u>: Teams may take up to four (4) tactical timeouts during regulation rounds. These may be used in separate rounds or in succession. To call a tactical timeout, the Team must use the in-game "call vote" function. Any unused times out at the end of round 30 will be carried over to overtime
- 9.4. <u>Anti-Cheat</u>: In the case of an online Match, all Players are required to use the relevant anti-cheat system. Details on this shall be provided by the Tournament Operations Manager if required.

9.5. Technical Pause:

- 9.5.1. In the case of an Online Match:
 - 9.5.1.1. Teams are limited to ten (10) minutes total of technical pauses per Map. After

- this time has run out a Team may use a tactical pause to allow more time to resolve issue(s). If no tactical pauses are available Teams are able to make a substitution (see 10.5.7) or play the game out.
- 9.5.1.2. Technical pauses may be called at any time but will come into effect at the next freezetime, or immediately if called during a freezetime. The Player who has an issue must immediately notify the Tournament Official in their Playing Area.
- 9.5.1.3. All communication (including but not limited to text and voice communication between Players and Team Coaches) is forbidden during a technical pause. Warnings will be given for first infringement and more severe Sanctions will be imposed for multiple breaches including but not limited to Penalty Points and/or fines.
- 9.5.1.4. Players must continue to play out any ongoing round until the pause has come into effect to allow Tournament Officials to make a decision according to the Rulebook.
- 9.5.1.5. The misuse of a Technical Pause for a non-technical Issue will result in the game being un-paused.

9.6. <u>Match Interruptions</u>:

- 9.6.1. Any match interruption shall be immediately reported to the Tournament Operations Manager by the Team and any Participant also affected.
- 9.6.2. If a Match is interrupted for reasons such as a server crash, network/power outages, player client crash or other reasons beyond the Teams' or the Players' control, the Tournament Operations Manager may order a round or Map restart.
- 9.6.3. If the issue takes place after damage has been received the round will be deemed live. This must be played out and will count.
- 9.6.4. If any money issues remain after a round is restored then the Teams must call a technical pause immediately to allow the Tournament administration to fix such issues.
- 9.6.5. All decisions made by the Tournament Operations Manager in respect of Match interruption are final and non-appealable.
- 9.6.6. If during an online Match, a Player(s) incurs a serious issue (e.g. internet issues, power outage etc.) that cannot be resolved quickly, their Team may request a substitution from their pre-approved Submitted Roster. This substitution request is at the discretion of the Tournament Operations Manager. The Match can be paused for the change to be made if required, however this delay must not exceed five (5) minutes.
- 9.7. <u>Scripts</u>: Except for buy, toggle and jump, all scripts are prohibited. If a Player is unsure on the validity of a script, they should contact the Tournament Officials before usage.
 - 9.7.1. So called "Jumpthrow" binds are specifically allowed.
- 9.8. <u>Custom Data</u>: Apart from changing of CSGO Skins, Players shall not use any form of custom game file that may be used to manipulate any of the following: huds, crosshairs, scoreboards, player models, weapon models and sprite.
- 9.9. <u>Unfair Advantage/Cheating</u>: Without in any way limiting the terms of the Code of Conduct or the powers of ESIC, trying to gain any unfair advance during a Match, cheating, or in any way

bringing into question the authenticity and/or integrity of a Match or the Tournament (in whole or in part) is strictly prohibited hereunder and will be a punishable offence under Clause 14.3 (in addition to any investigations and/or sanction imposed by ESIC).

9.10. Bugs and Glitches:

- 9.10.1. Use of bugs or glitches is strictly prohibited and any use of the same will be punished depending on the severity of the case. A bug or glitch includes but is not limited to:
 - 9.10.1.1. moving through clipped areas where movement is not intended by the design of the Map.
 - 9.10.1.2. planting the bomb in a way that removes the planting sound or beeping sound;
 - 9.10.1.3. planting the bomb where the opposing Team cannot reach or defuse the bomb (note that planting where the opposing Team needs a boost from a teammate is permitted);
 - 9.10.1.4. boosting is allowed except where Players are boosted to a position where they can see through/over an area that is not intended with the design of the Map; and
 - 9.10.1.5. throwing grenades under/through clipped areas of the Map.
- 9.11. Permitted bugs and/or glitches: these will be communicated to the Teams by Tournament Officials prior to the start of the Tournament and if any Team/Player has a question regarding what they believe might be a permitted bug or glitch, they should ask the Tournament Officials at the team briefing which takes place prior to the start of the Matches in order to clarify the position.
- 9.12. <u>New Positions</u>: If a Team has found a new position but is unsure of its validity within the Rulebook, they should contact the Tournament Officials before usage to check whether such a position complies with the Rulebook.
- 9.13. <u>Nicknames:</u> Players must use the nicknames provided on their team sheet which must match the Players' typically used alias including any modifications (e.g. capitalisation/special characters). If the Player has played a Valve Major, the name used in the Valve Major shall be used regardless. No sponsors are allowed in Player nicknames.
- 9.14. <u>Steam Group</u>: Teams are expected to have their Players in an associated and appropriately named Steam group. Players should have the Steam group set up for the duration of the Tournament.
- 9.15. <u>Communication</u>: During Matches, Players shall not communicate with any person not involved in the Match, even if the Match is paused. Involvement in the Match is limited to Players, Team Coaches and Tournament Officials. In the case of an Online Match Coaches will be allowed to connect to the server and communicate with their Team(s) during Matches. Coaches must remain in their Teams(s) coach slot for the duration of the Match.
- 9.16. <u>Chat</u>: Game related chat is permitted, for example asking the health points of an opponent or answering a question by the Tournament Officials. Players shall not advertise or seek to advertise any company, products, sponsors or services.
- 9.17. <u>Item Name Tags</u>: Players may not use items which have name tags that are vulgar in nature, promote companies/sponsors/partners/services or which violate the spirit of the game (e.g. taunts an opponent).

- 9.18. <u>Graffiti:</u> Players are prohibited from using in-Game graffiti and sprays during the Tournament. Players should ensure that the 'hotkey' is unbound from their keyboard and mouse to prevent accidental use.
- 9.19. <u>Incorrect Buy</u>: Players are responsible for what they buy in-game and no round will be restarted due to a Player buying an item they did not intend to.
- 9.20. <u>Line of Communication</u>: During an online Tournament the official line of communication between Team(s) and Tournament Officials will be the BLAST Discord. Invites to said Discord will be sent one (1) week prior to the Match.
- 9.21. <u>POVs</u>: All Players and Team Coaches are required to record their POVs of each Map and upload them to their Team(s) GDrive that will be provided. Players must have uploaded their POVs within six (6) hours prior to the start of their next Match.

10. AFTER THE MATCH

- 10.1. Complaint Procedure: If a Team wishes to file a complaint regarding the result of a Match then they have up to fifteen (15) minutes following the completion of such Match to put forward their case as to why the result should not stand. The Team must provide as much evidence as possible to support their case and the case must be put forward to the Tournament or Teams Operations Manager. If no case has been made within fifteen (15) minutes after the Match finishes, the result will stand. Where such complaint relates to a Participant potentially breaching the ESIC Codes, the complaint must be made to the Match Official. BLAST shall consider any complaints in good faith and determine a fair and reasonable course of action, taking into account the merits (if any) of the complaint.
- 10.2. For the avoidance of doubt, no complaints may be made against the decisions of the Tournament Officials during the Match, such decisions being final and non-appealable.

11. INTEGRITY

- 11.1. <u>Code of Conduct</u>: Each Team and Participant shall comply with, and be bound by, the <u>ESIC Code of Conduct</u>, as amended from time to time (the "**Code of Conduct**") which is hereby incorporated into this Rulebook by reference. It is each Team and Participant's duty to familiarise themselves with the Code of Conduct and, by participating in the Tournament, each Team and Participant accepts ESIC's jurisdiction with respect to the matters covered by the Code of Conduct.
- 11.2. <u>Betting, Corruption, Inside Information:</u> Each Team and Participant shall comply with, and be bound by, the <u>ESIC Anti-Corruption Code</u>, as amended from time to time (the "**Anti-Corruption Code**") which is hereby incorporated into this Rulebook by reference. It is each Team and Participant's duty to familiarise themselves with the Anti-Corruption Code and, by participating in the Tournament, each Team and Participant accepts ESIC's jurisdiction with respect to the matters covered by the Anti-Corruption Code.
- 11.3. <u>Alcohol and Doping</u>: Each Team and Participant shall comply with, and be bound by, the <u>ESIC Anti-Doping Policy</u>, as amended from time to time (the "**Anti-Doping Policy**") which is hereby incorporated into this Rulebook by reference. It is each Team and Participant's duty to familiarise themselves with the Anti-Doping Policy and, by participating in the Tournament, each Team and Participant accepts ESIC's jurisdiction with respect to the matters covered by the Anti-Doping Policy.
- 11.4. The Code of Conduct, the Anti-Corruption Code and the Anti-Doping Policy shall together be referred to as the "**ESIC Codes**" and can be viewed here: https://esic.gg/codes/. The ESIC Codes' "Definitions" and "Disciplinary Procedure" are also incorporated into this Rulebook by

reference both of which can be found here: https://esic.gg/codes/.

12. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND LIABILITY

- 12.1. <u>General:</u> It is the responsibility of every Team and every Participant to comply with this Rulebook (including without limitation the ESIC Codes).
- 12.2. <u>ESIC Codes</u>: To the extent that a Team(s) or Participant(s) is in breach of the ESIC Codes, the "**Disciplinary Procedures**" (as defined in the ESIC Codes) shall apply. This shall not prevent BLAST from taking its own disciplinary or other action against the Team(s) or Participant(s).
 - 12.3. <u>BLAST Sanctions</u>: To the extent that a Team(s) or Participant(s) is in breach of this Rulebook (or any other rules, policies or contractual obligations imposed by BLAST), BLAST shall have the right to impose a range of Sanctions against the offending Team(s)/Participant(s), acting in its sole discretion. BLAST shall impose Sanctions which it believes to be reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances and the severity and nature of the Sanction will be determined by BLAST on a case by case basis. BLAST shall have the right (but not the obligation) to publish its findings and the Sanctions imposed. For the avoidance of doubt, the jurisdiction of ESIC in relation to the ESIC Codes shall not affect or otherwise prevent BLAST from imposing Sanctions against Team(s)/Participant(s) where such Team(s)/Participant(s) are in breach of the Rulebook, and/or any other contractual provisions including but not limited to the terms of the ESIC Codes.
- 12.4. <u>Jurisdiction and Appeals</u>: Save in respect of any Non-Appealable Decisions (which are final and non-appealable), Teams and Participants shall have the right to appeal all decisions or Sanctions imposed by BLAST under this Rulebook in accordance with the remainder of this Clause 14.4:
 - 12.4.1. The appeals procedure set out in the ESIC Codes shall apply where: (i) the ESIC Disciplinary Procedure has been initiated (including but not limited to a BLAST-imposed Sanction in relation to a Level 1 or Level 2 offence as provided for in the Code of Conduct); and/or (ii) an appealable decision has been made, or an appealable Sanction has been imposed, pursuant to Appendix 4 of this Rulebook (the Penalty Points System); and/or (iii) an appealable decision has been made, or an appealable Sanction has been imposed, pursuant to this Rulebook which relates to in-Match or in-Tournament matters (including without limitation the imposition of fines and/or deductions in prize money);
 - 12.4.2. For any matters which do not fall within the scope of Clause 14.4.1, the Teams and Participants shall have the right to appeal such decision within ten (10) working days of BLAST handing down its Sanction. Such appeal shall be made to a sole arbitrator appointed in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of Sport Resolutions (UK). A party shall be at liberty to apply to the sole arbitrator for an extension of the timeframes stated for the lodging of an appeal and the decision of the arbitrator shall be binding in this regard. The appeal shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sport Resolutions (UK)'s Appeal Arbitration Rules, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this Clause. The decision of the sole arbitrator shall be final and binding on all concerned. Each party shall bear its own costs of any appeal subject to any finding to the contrary by the appointed sole arbitrator.
 - 12.4.3. To the extent that there is a conflict or ambiguity between which of Sports Resolutions or ESIC shall have jurisdiction to hear an appeal, the BLAST shall determine which entity should, in the first instance, be the correct entity to hear the appeal.
 - 12.4.4. Any decisions and/or Sanctions imposed by BLAST under this Rulebook shall remain in effect and binding upon the Teams and Participants pending the outcome of any appeal, unless the Chairman of the ESIC Panel or the Sport Resolutions sole arbitrator

orders otherwise.

- 12.5. <u>Governing Law:</u> This Rulebook and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.
- 12.6. <u>Liability</u>: Participation in the Tournament constitutes an agreement by the Teams and Participants that they will not hold liable, or make any claim, against BLAST or any of its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates and each of its respective successors, assigns, agents, employees, servants, or authorised representatives (including any Tournament Official, administrator or representative):
 - 12.6.1. for any losses, costs, charges, damages, compensation or expenses arising out of or in connection with any kind of injury or illness suffered by any Participant, spectator or other third party;
 - 12.6.2. for any damage to property of any kind;
 - 12.6.3. for any loss of or damage to goodwill;
 - 12.6.4. for any other indirect or consequential loss or for loss of profit incurred; and/or
 - 12.6.5. for any loss of any description from or in relation to the result of any Match, arising out of, or due to any decision or action that BLAST may take (or fail to take) under the Rulebook, of whatsoever nature (including but not limited in relation to a Sanction).
- 12.7. Nothing in the Rulebook limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, or fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.

13. PRIZES AND PRIZE MONEY

- 13.1. <u>Regional Prizes</u> The winning team of the Regional Qualifier earns the right to participate in the BLAST Premier Fall Showdown in 2021. Teams will participate in the BLAST Premier Fall Showdown for prize money and qualification to the BLAST Premier Fall Final. Teams participating in the Showdown through the Regional Qualifiers will receive a participation fee of 25000 USD from BLAST to invest in their organisation as they see fit.
 - 13.1.1. Each Local Qualifier may have a separate prize pool and distribution in addition to the winner qualifying to the Regional Qualifier based on the discretion of the Local Qualifier organiser in the given country.

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS

Anti-Corruption Code shall have the meaning set out in Clause 13.2;

Anti-Doping Policy shall have the meaning set out in Clause 13.3;

Blacklisted Categories shall mean firearms/firearm accessories, pornography, tobacco products (excluding vaping), prescription drugs (excluding CBD), counterfeit goods, political campaigns, religious or political positions, and third party esports tournaments, leagues or event organisers;

BLAST shall mean either BLAST Aps, or the relevant representative organisation running the applicable qualifier.

Code of Conduct shall have the meaning set out in Clause 13.1;

Disciplinary Procedure shall have the meaning set out in Clause 14.2;

ESIC shall mean the Esports Integrity Commission;

ESIC Codes shall have the meaning set out in Clause 13.4;

Extraordinary Penalty Points Sanction shall have the meaning set out in Clause 11(a) of Appendix 4;

Finals Teams shall have the meaning set out in Clause 3.1 of Appendix 3;

Force Majeure shall mean events beyond the party's reasonable control, including but not limited to, war and other hostilities; rebellion, terrorism and civil war; riots and strikes, but only strikes by persons other than the effected party's personnel and contractors; explosive materials and radioactive contamination; and natural catastrophes such earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons and volcanic activity;

Game shall mean Counter-Strike: Global Offensive;

Map shall mean a single MR15 inclusive of any overtime rounds or, when referring to in game levels map can be defined as one of the official maps from the competitive map pool (appendix 2 1.3) e.g. Overpass;

Match shall mean a best of 1, best of 3 or best of 5 maps where appropriate;

Match Ready shall have the meaning set out in Clause 7.4.1.2;

Match Schedule shall mean a separate document setting out the Tournament Match schedule for the applicable Tournament Stage (but which shall not be Team specific);

Non Appealable Decisions shall mean (i) any decisions or Sanctions of the Tournament Officials made during a Match; (ii) any decisions relating to Penalty Points which the Participant has accepted in accordance with Clause 11 of

Appendix 4; and/or (ii) any decisions relating to three (3) or fewer Penalty Points, in accordance with Clause 17 of Appendix 4.

Participant shall have the meaning prescribed to it in the ESIC Codes, and for the avoidance of doubt it shall include all Players, Team Personnel, Team owners and any other individual participating in Tournament;

Players shall mean the professional CS:GO players competing in the Tournament;

Player Manager shall mean the player managers appointed by BLAST from time to time, including the Team Operations manager;

Playing Area shall mean the area in which the Players compete as part of the Tournament;

Pot shall have the meaning set out in Clause 1.2.3 of Appendix 3;

Qualification Tournaments shall have the meaning set out in Clause 4.1.1 of Appendix 3;

Rulebook shall mean this BLAST Premier Rulebook along with all appendices, schedules and annexures;

Sanction(s) shall mean any sanction or penalty (whether financial in nature or not), fine, Penalty Points or other disciplinary action (including but not limited to the imposition of, suspensions, disqualifications and bans, restrictions or handicaps) taken by BLAST or any BLAST Tournament Official or the Tournament Operations Manager as a result of any breach by a Team and/or a Participant as provided for in the Rulebook, as applicable

Teams shall mean the professional esports teams competing in the Tournament;

Team Coach shall mean the Teams' appointed head coach from time to time;

Team Kit shall mean the official uniform worn by Players and Team Personnel which must be worn during the entirety of each Match, and during pre or post-Match interviews or engagements

Team Personnel shall mean the Teams' Players, Team Coach, the Team's owners and all other Team employees and contractors;

Technical Specifications & Regulations shall mean the Technical Specifications & Regulations set out at Appendix 2.

Third Party Online League Matches shall mean any online professional CS:GO league match operated by a third party league;

Tournament shall mean the professional esports tournament, currently known as the "BLAST Premier", that is owned and operated by BLAST;

Tournament Mechanics & Qualifications regulations shall mean the Tournament Mechanics & Qualifications Regulations set out at Appendix 3;

- **Tournament Officials** shall mean the Tournament officials appointed by BLAST from time to time, including the Tournament Operations Manager;
- **Tournament Operations Manager** shall mean the Tournament Operations Manager appointed by BLAST from time to time;
- **Tournament Partners** the commercial partners, suppliers and sponsors of the Tournament as a whole or regional and/or category specific partners from time to time;
- **Tournament Section** shall mean, the subsection of the tournament format e.g. upper/lower bracket, round robin/gauntlet etc.
- **Tournament Stage** shall mean the applicable stage of the Tournament, including without limitation the so-called "Groups", "Showdown" "Season Final" and "Global Final";

Tournament Stage Ban shall have the meaning set out in Clause 13 of Appendix 4;

Valve shall mean Valve Corporation;

- **Valve Majors** shall mean the CS:GO major events officially recognised, certified and sponsored by Valve Corporation, which are typically held in both the Spring and the Autumn:
- **General Rules** shall mean the content of the Rulebook excluding the 'Regional Rules' section

Local Qualifier shall mean a Tournament Stage within a Region including one or more countries providing a set amount of teams to participate in the Regional Qualifier of the given region.

Region shall mean geographical section of the world including one or more countries determined by BLAST, strictly in relation to BLAST qualifiers/tournaments.

Regional Qualifier shall mean a Tournament Stage determining a set number of teams from a given Region that qualify to the BLAST Showdown.

Regional Rules shall mean a subset of rules that are specific to a given Region.

Roster shall mean a set number of players that are eligible and participating in a given Tournament Stage

APPENDIX 2: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS & REGULATIONS

1. MATCH SETTINGS

- 1.1. Server:
 - 1.1.1. Startmoney \$800
 - 1.1.2. Round time 1 minute 55 seconds
 - 1.1.3. Freeze time 20 seconds
 - 1.1.4. Bomb timer 40 seconds
 - 1.1.5. Timeouts 4 timeouts of 30 seconds each
 - 1.1.6. Overtime Max Rounds 3, \$12,500 start money.
- 1.2. Maps: The full competitive map pool for the Tournament is set out below. Should Valve's active duty map pool be updated, BLAST reserves the right to update the map pool for the Tournament and the Teams will be notified of any such changes within a reasonable time.
 - 1.2.1. Dust2
 - 1.2.2. Inferno
 - 1.2.3. Mirage
 - 1.2.4. Nuke
 - 1.2.5. Overpass
 - 1.2.6. Ancient
 - 1.2.7. Vertigo
- 1.3. Seeding: Team(s) will be seeded pre-tournament as laid out in Appendix 3. The Teams(s) original seeding will remain the same for the first period of the tournament (eg. round robin, upper bracket). After each tournament section has been completed Team(s) will be re-seeded based on previous results.
 - 1.3.1. For example:
 - 1.3.1.1. During a Gauntlet style tournament (e.g. BLAST showdown) teams will only be re-seeded after the round robin has been completed. Seeding will be based on finishing position in the round robin.
 - 1.3.1.2. Double Elimination (the BLAST series, BLAST Season finals, BLAST Global finals) teams will be re-seeded as they enter the lower bracket. This means teams entering the lower bracket will have a higher seed than teams already in the lower bracket.
- 1.4. Map Veto: For Series, Season Final and Global Final, map vetoes will take place on the day of the Match (90-60 minutes prior to the Match). For the Showdown BOI Group Stage, map vetoes will take place either on content day or the day of the Match. After the conclusion of the map veto, the identity of the maps must be kept strictly confidential by the Team(s)/Participant(s) until they are released officially by BLAST.
 - **1.4.1. Best-of-One (BO1)** The higher seeded Team will choose whether to be Team A or Team B in the following system:
 - 1. Team A will ban one map.
 - 2. Team B will ban one map.
 - 3. Team A will ban one map.
 - 4. Team B will ban one map.
 - 5. Team A will ban one map.
 - 6. Team B will ban one map.
 - 7. The remaining map is played.

- **1.4.2. Best-of-Three (BO3)** The higher seeded Team will choose whether to be Team A or Team B in the following system:
 - 1. Team A will ban one map.
 - 2. Team B will ban one map.
 - 3. Team A will pick the first map.
 - 4. Team B will pick the second map.
 - 5. Team A will ban one map.
 - 6. Team B will ban one map.
 - 7. The remaining map will be played third if needed.
- 1.5. Side Choice
 - 1.5.1. BO1: The winner of a knife round chooses which side they will start on.
 - 1.5.2. BO3: Teams will pick a side (CT/T) on their opponent's map. On the third map the winner of a knife round chooses which side they will start on.
- 1.6. Game Version: The Tournament will use the latest beta branch available. If the latest version is considered problematic due to bugs or extreme balance changes, an older version will be used (as determined by BLAST) and the Teams will be informed by BLAST. The official beta branch to be used will be communicated to teams I week prior to the first game.
- 1.7. Restricted Weapons: The Tournament will use the current live restricted weapons enforced by Valve. If a weapon is added to the Game within an unreasonable time before a Tournament Stage, BLAST may add it to the restricted weapons list and the Teams will be informed by BLAST.
- 1.8. Restricted Agents: The Tournament will use the default models for each map. Players must not use the alternative agents.

2. SOFTWARE AND SETTINGS

- 2.1. General: Players are allowed to configure certain aspects of their PC, software and game client or monitor settings to suit their preferences. These include but are not limited to:
 - 2.1.1. Digital Vibrance
 - 2.1.2. Brightness, Gamma, Contrast
 - 2.1.3. 3D Settings through Nvidia Control Panel
 - 2.1.4. Sound/Audio
 - 2.1.5. Mouse acceleration, pointer precision, sensitivity
 - 2.1.6. Keyboard

2.2. Overlays:

- 2.2.1. Players shall not use any form of overlay that provides information on top of the game client. This includes but is not limited to tools such as Nvidia SLI Display, RivaTuner, Teamspeak/Overwolf.
- 2.2.2. Steam overlays such as fps and the main steam overlay are permitted.
- 2.2.3. The cl_showpos command must remain 0.

Appendix 3 - Eastern Europe

1. Purpose:

1.1. This Appendix contains rule specifications of rules in relation with the Eastern European Region for the BLAST Premier Fall Qualifiers.

2. <u>Eastern European Region:</u>

2.1. During the fall iteration of 2021 the following countries are included in the Eastern European Region: Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey

3. Slot Distribution within the Eastern European Region:

- 3.1. Adria: Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia 1 Slot
- 3.2. Bulgaria 1 Slot
- 3.3. Czech Republic, Slovakia 1 Slot
- 3.4. Hungary 1 Slot
- 3.5. Israel 1 Slot
- 3.6. Romania 1 Slot
- 3.7. Turkey 1 Slot
- 3.8. Direct Invite after the qualifiers concluded 1 Slot

4. Replacement restrictions

- 4.1. In addition to 5.6., during the Local Qualifiers and the Regional Qualifier, players that are already participating in another team or eligible to play in a higher stage of the BLAST Premier Season can not be considered as an Emergency Replacement
- 4.2. In addition to the roster restrictions in 5.4.5 there is no option to change the roster during or between the stages of the BLAST Qualifier

5. Regional Qualifier Format

- 5.1. The official format of the Eastern European Qualifier is based on the GSL system:
- 5.2. The Regional Qualifier is played between the 8 teams previously qualified from the Local Qualifiers.
- 5.3. The group stage of the Regional Qualifier consists of Best of One(1) matches, the Playoffs of the Regional Qualifier (semi-finals and final) between the four(4) remaining teams consists of Best of Three(3) matches.
- 5.4. Group distribution is random
- 5.5. Winner qualifies to BLAST Fall Showdown

6. <u>Local Qualifier Format</u>

6.1. Appointed Tournament Officials may use a different format from the Regional Qualifier Format for the Local Qualifiers. Each Local Qualifier shall ensure the fairness and integrity of the selection system and a standard level of competition based on the number of participating teams.

APPENDIX 4: PENALTY POINTS SYSTEM

<u>Purpose</u>

1. BLAST's Penalty Points System has been adopted as part of a wider effort to maintain and enhance the public image and integrity of the BLAST Tournaments. The points system, which involves the threat of suspension to Participants, is intended to act as an effective deterrent against improper behaviour and conduct on the part of its Participants and BLAST envisages that it will play a central role in bringing about a positive change in behaviour and standards.

2. The system will also assist in providing insight and clarity to Participants, and a transparent procedure under which matters of improper conduct can be dealt with fairly, reasonably and proportionately. The application of the Penalty Points System is not, however, an exhaustive option and BLAST reserves the right to impose a number of Sanctions dependent on the offence in question (including but not limited to fines).

Scope & Application

3. This Penalty Points System shall apply to, and be binding upon, all Participants. By participating in the Tournament, all Participants expressly and unconditionally agree to comply with, and be bound by, the terms of this Appendix 4.

4. The implantation of the Penalty Points System shall be used in conjunction with any financial or other Sanction imposed by BLAST pursuant to rule 14.3 of the Rulebook, which may be imposed by BLAST in addition to any Penalty Points imposed hereunder and/or any sanctions imposed by ESIC (as applicable).

Penalty Points

5.To the extent that a Participant is in breach of the Rulebook (or any other rules, policies or contractual obligations imposed by BLAST), BLAST shall, amongst other things, have the right to impose Penalty Points against individual Participants, acting in its sole discretion. The imposition of any Penalty Points shall be made in accordance with the procedure set out in Clause 11 of this Appendix 4.

6.The standard of proof in all cases brought under this Appendix 4 shall be whether BLAST is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, and taking into account all of the evidence before it, that the alleged offence has been committed by the Participant.

7. In exercising its discretion and determining the appropriate number of Penalty Points to impose, BLAST shall have regard to (i) the non-precedential and non-exhaustive guidance table set out at the end of this Appendix 4 (the "Penalty Points Guide"); (ii) any factors which it deems relevant to the mitigation or aggravation of the relevant offence; and (iii) all the evidence in front of it, including any answers provided by the Participant as part of the investigation.

8.The Penalty Points Guide shall act as a reference point only and BLAST shall not be bound by the parameters set out in the Penalty Points Guide. Where examples of certain conduct have been provided in the Penalty Points Guide, such examples should be read as a non-exhaustive list.

9. Should a Participant transfer to another Team, any points already on the Participant's record shall not be affected and shall remain on their record for the full twelve (12) month period.

10. BLAST shall keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all Penalty Points imposed upon Participants, which may be made available on BLAST's website from time to time.

Procedure

- 11. Where BLAST becomes aware of a potential offence, BLAST shall, where applicable, carry out an initial investigation into the alleged offence and may ask for the input of the Participant or any other individual(s) connected to the alleged offence. BLAST may draw an adverse inference if the Participant refuses, without compelling justification, to answer any relevant questions within the timeframes communicated by BLAST. Following the initial investigation by BLAST (if applicable), the following procedure shall be followed:
- a. If BLAST determines that an offence has been committed and Penalty Points are appropriate, BLAST shall provide the Participant with a "Penalty Points Notice" setting out (i) the details of the offence; (ii) the number of Penalty Points which BLAST intends to impose on the Participant; and (iii) any other information which BLAST deems relevant in the circumstances. It is intended that BLAST shall provide this Penalty Points Notice within seven (7) days of the end of the applicable Tournament Stage. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances where the imposition of Penalty Points is immediate, including but not limited to serious in-Match or in-Tournament matters, and otherwise where BLAST reasonably determines that immediate action is required ("Extraordinary Penalty Points Sanction"). In such circumstances, the Extraordinary Penalty Points Sanction shall be applied immediately whether communicated orally or in writing and shall remain in place for the remainder of the Tournament Stage unless otherwise stated by BLAST. If the Extraordinary Penalty Points Sanction is communicated orally BLAST shall provide the written Penalty Points Notice as soon as reasonably practicable. Following the end of the applicable Tournament Stage in which the Extraordinary Penalty Points Sanction has been imposed the Participant and/or Team on the Participant's behalf shall have the right to appeal such Extraordinary Penalty Points Sanction in accordance with the dispute resolution procedure set out in Clause 14.4.1 of the Rulebook.
- b. On receipt of the Penalty Points Notice, the Participant shall inform BLAST within forty eight (48) hours whether it either: (i) admits the offence and accepts the Penalty Points set out in the Penalty Points Notice; or (ii) denies the offence and does not accept the Penalty Points set out in the Penalty Points Notice. If the Participant does not inform BLAST of its decision within forty eight (48) hours, the Participant shall be deemed to have admitted the offence and accepted the Penalty Points. If the Participant denies the offence and does not accept the Penalty Points, the Participant shall (at the same time as informing BLAST of its decision to challenge the Penalty Points) provide written submissions setting out why it denies the offence and/or challenges the Penalty Points.
- c. If the Participant accepts the Penalty Points under Clause 11(b) of this Appendix 4, then (i) the Penalty Points set out in the Penalty Points Notice shall automatically be imposed on the Participant; and (ii) the Participant automatically waives any right of appeal in respect of such Penalty Points.
- d. Where the Participant challenges the Penalty Points and provides written submissions under Clause 11(b) of this Appendix 4, BLAST shall consider such written submissions in good faith and shall thereafter provide its final decision on the Penalty Points to be imposed. Such decision shall be final and can only be appealed by the Participant in accordance with Clauses 17 and 18 of this Appendix 4.

<u>Suspensions</u>

- 12. <u>One Match Ban</u>: Where a Participant accumulates a total of six (6) Penalty Points during any successive twelve (12) month period, the Participant shall receive an automatic one (1) Match ban. The Participant's ban shall apply in respect of the Participant's next available Match in the Tournament.
- 13. <u>Tournament Stage Ban</u>: Where a Participant accumulates a total of twelve (12) Penalty Points during any successive twelve (12) month period, the Participant shall receive an automatic one (1) Tournament Stage ban (a "**Tournament Stage Ban**"). The Participant's Tournament Stage Ban shall apply in respect of the Participant's next full Tournament Stage or, if the Participant is currently participating in a Tournament Stage, the remainder of the current Tournament Stage and the first three (3) Matches of the next Tournament Stage.
- 14. <u>Elapsing of Penalty Points</u>: each Penalty Point imposed shall automatically elapse and be cleared and shall no longer be applied against a Participant once:
- a. a period of twelve (12) months has elapsed since the date on which the Penalty Point(s) was awarded; or
- b. a Participant has served a Tournament Stage Ban in which case the first twelve (12) Penalty Points shall be deemed cleared but any balance of Penalty Points shall remain on the Participant's record held by BLAST
- 15. Where a Participant's ban is due to apply in respect of a Match or a Tournament Stage which is subsequently cancelled, postponed or otherwise abandoned, the Participant's ban shall roll-over to the next applicable Match or Tournament Stage.
- 16. Any bans imposed on Participants under this Appendix 4 shall be recognised and respected by the Teams. The Teams shall take all steps necessary to enforce and give effect to such bans. For the avoidance of doubt, any Match Suspensions imposed by BLAST shall apply only in respect of BLAST Tournaments.

Appeals

- 17. Subject to Clause 11 of this Appendix 4 and the remainder of this Clause 17, Participants shall have the right to appeal any Penalty Points imposed by BLAST under this Appendix 4 in accordance with the appeals and dispute resolution procedure set out in Clause 14.4.1 of the Rulebook. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Participants shall have no right of appeal in respect of a decision by BLAST to impose three (3) or fewer Penalty Points.
- 18. Any Penalty Points which are the subject of an appeal shall remain in effect and be binding upon the Participant pending the outcome of any appeal, unless the Chairman of the ESIC Panel orders otherwise.

PENALTY POINTS GUIDE

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND NON-BINDING

Offence Type	Min P e n a I t y I st O f e n c e	Max Pe na I t y I st O f e n c e	Max P en al ty R ep ea t Of fe nc e
Non-Match Play Conduct			
Misconduct Minor (e.g. unprofessional attitude, not listening to BLAST staff instructions, lateness for call times etc.)	War n i n g	1 p o i n t	Unlim ite d
Misconduct Major (e.g. harassing BLAST staff, actively causing negative PR around the event/season, threatening/assaulting other plays, staff, fans etc.)	3 p o i n t s	Unli m i t e d	Unlim ite d
Failure to participate in content / media obligations or fan interactions	1 p o i n t	3 p o i n t s	Unlim ite d
Failure to attend required meetings (Team Briefings etc.)	War n i n g	1 p o i n t	Unlim ite d
Match Play Conduct			
Communication during pause	War n	3 p	5 po

	i n g	o i n t s	in ts
Unapproved removal of a headset during a match	War n i n g	1 p o i n t	3 po in ts
Exploitation of a bug	War n i n g	3 p o i n t s	Unlim ite d
Misconduct Minor (e.g. unprofessional attitude, not listening to BLAST staff instructions, lateness for call times etc.)	War n i n g	1 p o i n t	3 po in ts
Misconduct Major (e.g. harassing BLAST staff, threatening/assaulting other players, staff, fans, damage to BLAST owned equipment, attempting to bribe staff, etc.)	3 p o i n t s	Unli m i t e d	Unlim ite d