

Mindbridge Ban Policy

v1.0 (drafted 28 February 2017)

In the interest of ensuring a common framework for bans and their appeals, Mindbridge establishes this Ban Policy and attached policies.

Reasons

Bans are a tool used by Mindbridge or its projects to enforce rules, protect the safety of attendees, and protect the interests and reputation of Mindbridge and its projects. In general, bans should be used as a last resort, when other punishments or sanctions have proven ineffective. They may be issued more directly if immediate safety becomes a concern.

Individual(s) may be banned for a variety of reasons, and it is left to the discretion of each project to determine appropriate reasons.

Ban Types

- a) Blacklist/Restriction: The individual(s) can attend, but are restricted from either volunteering, staffing, running panels or other functions, being a merchant or dealer, working as a contractor, being a guest of honor, or other variety.
- b) Project Ban: The individual(s) are barred from attending or participating in a single convention and/or project. They are still free to attend Mindbridge meetings or other conventions or projects.
- c) Full Ban: The individual(s) are banned from the entirety of Mindbridge.

Ban Durations:

- a) Pro tem: "For the time being." The individual(s) are banned from an event or project for the remainder of that current event/project, and is welcome to return with full (or restricted) privileges the next year.
- b) Temporary: The individual(s) are banned for no more than three (3) years.
- c) Permanent: The individual(s) are banned for three (3) or more years; or is declared as being lifetime.

Jurisdictions

- a) The Mindbridge Board of Directors ("Board") shall have the sole authority to issue full bans of any duration. Projects may petition the Board to consider issuing a full ban, but can not individually or in tandem issue full bans on their own.

- b) Projects shall have exclusive and priority access to investigating and handling any issues within their jurisdiction, with the sole exception being if the Board is investigating for consideration of a full ban.
- c) Decisions made by the projects are appealable to the Board, who shall then review relevant facts and conduct their own investigation before making a decision.
- d) The projects may issue blacklists, restrictions, and project bans relating to their own projects; and may have these for any duration of their determination. The Board may issue blacklists, restrictions, and full bans for any duration; and may issue project bans of any duration relating to any appeals submitted to them.

Appeals

- a) All bans and restrictions are considered appealable, with the exception of Pro tem bans and any ban that lasts one (1) year or less.
- b) For project bans, the issuing projects current convention committee ("CONCOM") should serve as the adjudicator for appeals.
- c) For bans that cover multiple projects, or for full bans, then the Board shall serve as the adjudicator for appeals.
- d) An appeal may be filed every other year, starting with the first year that it goes into effect.
- e) Summary reviews of all bans should be done every other year by all projects and the Mindbridge Supercommittee, to determine the appropriateness of continuing any long-term ban(s) or if they should be automatically lifted.