



VATPAC DISCORD POLICY

WARNING

Information contained in this document is intended for flight simulation purposes and must not be used for any real-world aviation use.

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Document Control

Discord Policy Version 1.09 – 14/06/2020		
Date	Version	Description
07/04/2019	0.8	Initial draft.
21/08/2019	0.9	Second Draft.
07/11/2019	0.9.1	Final Draft. Changes to wording and recording of infractions.
03/12/2019	1.0	Final Changes. Release Version.
14/06/2020	1.09	Changes to wording 3.3.2 and 3.5.1. 4.6.Draft Edition containing strike through and colored additions.

Change Process

Any changes must be brought before the VATPAC Board and agreed on prior to taking place. The Director of Operations, which will be referred to as “The Discord Administrator” throughout this document is responsible for the publication and management of the policy on behalf of the VATPAC Board.

Scope

This document is applicable to all users of the VATPAC Discord server.

Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
Discord Administrator	The portfolio director that has been assigned portfolio responsibility for administering this policy by the Division Director.
Discord Moderator	A person appointed under 5.1.
Discord Moderation Panel	The Discord Moderation Panel is where Discord Moderators can record infractions committed by a user.
VATPAC Staff or Staff Member	Has same meaning as the Constitution.
VATOCE Regional Staff	Any member of VATOCE staff specifically. This does not include VATPAC staff or VATNZ staff.
Discord User	Any member of the VATPAC Discord Server.
Hard-Ban	Any disciplinary action that involves the removal and subsequent denial of login privileges from the VATPAC Discord. Such a ban does not extend to the broader VATSIM Network.
Soft-Ban	The removal of all write privileges to the VATPAC Discord Server. A user serving a soft-ban can still read messages. Soft-bans are issued while waiting for the Discord Administrator to review the reason for the ban and issue a hard-ban with the appropriate time limit.
CoC	VATSIM Code of Conduct

Referenced Documents

Title	Reference
VATSIM Code of Conduct	https://www.vatsim.net/documents/code-of-conduct

1 Introduction

This document outlines the terms of use of the VATPAC Discord server and the mechanism by which the VATPAC Board may take disciplinary action against users found in breach of this policy.

2 Application of the VATSIM Code of Conduct

2.1 Application of VATSIM CoC A1

2.1.1 VATSIM CoC section A paragraph 1 applies to all Discord users in the VATPAC Discord;

“Members shall, at all times, be courteous and respectful to one another.”

2.2 Application of VATSIM CoC A11

2.2.1 VATSIM CoC section A paragraph 11 applies to all Discord users in the VATPAC Discord;

“Members are prohibited from using any software, forums, newsgroups, social media streams, or mailing lists utilized by VATSIM and its officially recognized Regions, Divisions and their subdivisions to threaten, harass, stalk, or to otherwise violate the legal rights of others including expectations of privacy and publicity. This includes using the above resources to find, locate, or otherwise discover methods of contacting members for the purpose of threatening, harassing, stalking, or otherwise violating the legal rights of them. Further, members shall not publish, post, distribute, disseminate, or use any kind of defamatory, infringing, obscene, vulgar, profane, unlawful, or other types of communications, materials, or information. Individuals violating this rule are subject to the procedures set forth in Article I of the VATSIM.net Code of Regulations, which may result in removal from VATSIM and revocation of their membership privileges.”

3 Regulations

3.1 *Entry to the VATPAC Discord Server*

- 3.1.1 To gain access to the VATPAC Discord server, you must be an active VATSIM member and at least one of the following;
- a) A VATPAC member
 - b) A VATPAC visiting controller
 - c) A VATNZ member
 - d) A member of the VATSIM Oceania Regional Staff
 - e) A guest at the discretion of the Discord Administrator
- 3.1.2 Discord users must include their first name, last name, and VATSIM CID in their server nickname. This is not required for their Discord-wide username.
- 3.1.3 Discord users must have an appropriate “Discord Status” set at all times. This includes the description of the game/program currently in use.
- 3.1.4 In addition to the conditions set forth in section 3.1.1, any Discord user who wishes to connect to the VATPAC Discord server must not currently be serving time for an infraction issued by VATSIM Oceania or VATSIM New Zealand.

3.2 *Off-topic discussion*

- 3.2.1 Discussion and activities within the Discord server should, at all times, be made relevant to the objectives of conducting virtual aviation on the VATSIM network.
- 3.2.2 Off-topic discussion are permitted however, must not interfere or intrude on or disrupt ongoing discussions related to VATPAC, the broader VATSIM Network, Flight Simulation or real-world aviation.
- 3.2.3 The ATC Coordination channels are for operational use only when logged onto or preparing to be logged onto the VATSIM Network as an Air Traffic Controller. Discussions relating to anything other than coordination in these channels are considered Off-topic.
- 3.2.4 Moderators can determine whether or not a discussion is off-topic and intruding or disrupting on an on-topic conversation.

3.3 File Uploads and Links

3.3.1 Uploading files which are not images is prohibited.

The following image formats are accepted:

- a) PNG
- b) JPEG/JPG
- c) GIF

3.3.2 Uploading images or sharing URLs to content which is in breach ~~of section 2.2~~ of this policy is prohibited.

3.4 Swearing

3.4.1 Swearing in an offensive, disruptive, or hostile manor is prohibited.

3.4.2 Context of the conversation should be carefully considered before issuing infractions due to swearing.

3.5 Abuse / Harassment

3.5.1 ~~Discriminating against~~, abusing, or harassing ~~or offending~~ other Discord users is prohibited.

3.5.2 Sending messages to VATPAC Discord users via Discords direct message feature in mass for the purpose of advertisement, or what multiple server Discord users and/or moderators consider to be spam is prohibited.

3.6 Reporting other Discord users

3.6.1 If a Discord user is concerned about the behaviour of another Discord user, they should report it to a moderator via the reporting tool at <https://discord.vatpac.org> for investigation.

3.6.2 Discord users should not attempt to mitigate situations themselves.

3.7 Reporting Moderators

3.7.1 If a Discord user feels a moderator is not acting appropriately in their role or is breaching the VATPAC Discord Policy they can report this to the

Discord Administrator via email or via Discords direct message feature for further action.

- 3.7.2 Moderators may appeal to the Division Director regarding their final decision on the matter.

3.8 *Illegal activities*

- 3.8.1 Activities which are illegal according to Australian Criminal Law are strictly prohibited.

- 3.8.2 Legal action may be taken against the offending Discord user.

3.9 *Ban evasion*

- 3.9.1 Discord users attempting to evade bans will have their existing ban period extended in length as decided by the Discord Administrator.

4 *Infractions*

4.1 *Application of Infractions*

- 4.1.1 Moderators should use the Moderator Guidelines to appropriately record and act upon infractions.

- 4.1.2 VATPAC staff Discord users should not receive special treatment and should be treated the same as other Discord users.

- 4.1.3 All infractions and actions (including warnings) taken by Discord Moderators must be recorded in the Discord Moderation Panel against the user's profile.

4.2 *Warnings*

- 4.2.1 Moderators may issue warnings to Discord users in breach of any of the regulations in section 3.

- 4.2.2 Moderators must use the Moderator Guidelines to appropriately issue warnings.

4.3 *Disconnecting*

- 4.3.1 Disconnecting refers to Discord users being manually disconnected from a voice channel by a moderator.
- 4.3.2 Discord users may be disconnected from voice channels by moderators when in breach of this policy if required.

4.4 *Soft-Banning*

- 4.4.1 Soft-banning refers to a Discord users' talk permissions (both text and voice) being revoked temporarily while waiting for further appropriate actions from The Discord Administrator.
- 4.4.2 Discord users who are soft-banned will not be able to join voice channels or participate in text conversations but may still read ongoing conversations in public text channels.
- 4.4.3 Discord Moderators can issue soft-bans for up to 48 hours, however, The Discord Administrator may extend this ban.
- 4.4.4 Discord Moderators may issue temporary bans to Discord users if the moderator has determined a Discord user should be banned for their infractions.
- 4.4.5 When a Discord user is soft-banned, the Discord Moderator shall notify the Discord Administrator with a recommended ban period, which the Discord Administrator must officially issue or amend as they see fit.

4.5 *Hard-Banning*

- 4.5.1 Hard-banning refers to a Discord user being banned from accessing the VATPAC Discord server.
- 4.5.2 The ban period is to be recommended by the moderator issuing the soft-ban.
- 4.5.3 The moderator shall issue a recommended ban period to the Discord Administrator. The Discord Administrator is then responsible for ensuring the infraction has been appropriately logged and issuing the hard-ban.
- 4.5.4 The Discord Administrator may choose to not follow the moderator's recommendation in favour of a Suspended Sentence or a different ban period.

4.6 *Suspended Sentence*

- 4.6.1 Suspended Sentence periods are issued by the Discord Administrator in place of hard-bans if the offending user has not breached the policy previously, and the Discord Administrator has determined there will be no further breaches.
- 4.6.2 Any breach of the policy during the good behaviour period will result in the user being hard-banned for the original period.
- E.g. If the user was originally sentenced a 1 month suspended sentence, during the good-behaviour period, if the Discord user breached the policy after 15 days, the Discord user would then be banned for 1 month from the day they breached the good behaviour period.
- 4.6.3 The Suspended Sentence period must match that of the hard-ban period.
- E.g. If a Discord user ~~were would be~~ issued a 1 month ban, but the Discord Administrator determined the Discord user should be issued good behaviour, then the good behaviour period will be 1 month.

4.7 *Appealing Infractions*

- 4.7.1 Discord users who feel their infraction has been incorrectly assessed may appeal to the Division Director for re-assessment.
- 4.7.2 Discord users who appeal should reference this document.

5 Moderation

5.1 *Who is a moderator?*

- 5.1.1 Moderators are Discord users of the VATPAC community who have been appointed by the Discord Administrator to moderate the VATPAC Discord server.
- 5.1.2 Moderators report to the VATPAC Discord Administrator.
- 5.1.3 VATPAC staff members are not automatically considered Discord moderators. Portfolio Director's will have the authority of a Discord Moderator however should not interfere with the moderation process unless necessary.
- 5.1.4 Discord moderators who are also VATPAC staff members will not lose their Staff Discord user status upon losing their moderator status unless determined otherwise by the board.
- 5.1.5 To become a moderator, the Discord user must meet all the following requirements:
- a) Be a VATPAC Discord user.
 - b) Be in good standing with VATPAC.
 - c) Be 16 years or older.
 - d) Be an active member of VATSIM for at least 1 year.
 - e) Be an active member of VATPAC for at least 6 months.
- 5.1.6 Moderators are identified by the Discord Moderator role on the VATPAC Discord server.

5.2 *Powers of a moderator*

- 5.2.1 Moderators poses the following powers:
- 1) Issue verbal warnings.
 - 2) Kick / disconnect Discord users from voice channels.
 - 3) Activate slow-mode on specific text channels.
 - 4) Issue soft-bans.

5.3 Obligations of a moderator

- 5.3.1 Moderators must record all infractions, including verbal, they have actioned on the Discord User's Profile on the Discord Moderation Panel (discord.vatpac.org). It must include the regulation which has been breached, and evidence of the breach if available.
- 5.3.2 Moderators issuing soft-bans must, in addition to the requirements of 5.3.1, report to the Discord Administrator with the name and CID of the Discord user in breach of the policy, the regulation which has been breached, evidence of the breach if available, and the recommended hard-ban period (if required).

5.4 Moderator Guidelines

- 5.4.1 The VATPAC Discord Moderator Guidelines have been created to provide guidance to Moderators and the Discord Administrator on the types of sanctions to impose on infractions of the Discord policy.
- 5.4.2 The VATPAC Discord Moderator Guidelines provide expanded information on possible sanctions for breaches of the VATSIM CoC, section (A1) and (A11).
- 5.4.3 Discord moderators will use the VATPAC Discord Moderator Guidelines to effectively and fairly moderate the Discord server.
- 5.4.4 If a Discord Moderator fails to follow the Moderator Guidelines, Discord Users should report this to the Discord Administrator.

6 Acceptance of the Discord Policy

- 6.1 *By joining the VATPAC Discord Server, the Discord user agrees to abide by this policy.*