

Seattle Pinball Services LLC

Participant Eligibility and Community Safety Policy

Effective Date: 02/18/2020

Last Updated: 09/01/2026

1. Purpose

Seattle Pinball Services LLC ("Seattle Pinball Services," "SPS," "we," "us," or "our") organizes, operates, administers, sponsors, and/or supports pinball tournaments, leagues, shows, gatherings, and other pinball-related events.

Our events depend on a community environment in which participants, volunteers, tournament officials, venue staff, spectators, vendors, and guests can enjoy pinball safely and respectfully.

This Participant Eligibility and Community Safety Policy ("Policy") establishes the standards and procedures Seattle Pinball Services uses to:

- promote a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment;
- establish participant conduct expectations;
- respond to reports of inappropriate or unsafe conduct;
- determine whether an individual is eligible to participate in SPS events;
- take appropriate action when conduct presents a safety, operational, or community concern; and
- provide a consistent framework for reviewing serious or repeated conduct concerns.

This Policy is intended to supplement, and not replace, the rules of individual tournaments, venues, leagues, or other events.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to events and activities operated, administered, or controlled by Seattle Pinball Services LLC, including, as applicable:

- the Northwest Pinball Championships;
- other SPS-operated or administered tournaments;
- leagues and competitive events;

- pinball shows and exhibitions;
- satellite or affiliated events where SPS has responsibility for participant eligibility;
- social events, after-parties, and other activities organized by SPS in connection with an event; and
- other pinball-related activities for which SPS establishes or controls participant eligibility.

When SPS does not control participant eligibility for an event operated by another organization, this Policy does not automatically give SPS authority to exclude an individual from that independent organization's event.

SPS may, however, provide relevant information to another event organizer where appropriate and lawful.

3. Participation Is a Privilege

Participation in SPS events is a privilege and is subject to compliance with applicable event rules, venue requirements, and this Policy.

SPS reserves the right, consistent with applicable law, to determine whether an individual is eligible to participate in an SPS event.

Eligibility decisions may be made before, during, or after an event and may apply to one event, multiple events, or future SPS events.

Nothing in this Policy creates a contractual right or entitlement to participate in any SPS event.

4. Expected Standards of Conduct

Participants and other individuals attending SPS events are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports a safe and respectful environment.

Examples of expected conduct include:

- respecting other participants, volunteers, tournament directors, venue employees, vendors, and guests;
- respecting personal boundaries and obtaining appropriate consent before physical contact;

- following reasonable instructions from tournament directors, event staff, and venue personnel;
- following posted tournament and venue rules;
- remaining in areas designated for participants, spectators, staff, or officials as appropriate;
- avoiding behavior that interferes with another person's ability to participate or enjoy the event;
- using appropriate language and behavior in circumstances where inappropriate conduct could reasonably interfere with the event or another participant's experience;
- treating pinball equipment, venue property, and other people's belongings appropriately;
- complying with applicable laws and venue requirements; and
- cooperating with reasonable safety measures or instructions.

These standards apply during the event as well as to event-related activities, including official social gatherings, after-parties, and other activities where conduct may reasonably affect the safety or operation of an SPS event.

5. Prohibited or Potentially Disqualifying Conduct

SPS may take action in response to conduct that violates event rules, this Policy, venue requirements, or applicable law, or that otherwise presents a reasonable concern regarding participant or community safety.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

A. Harassment or unwanted conduct

- unwanted or inappropriate physical contact;
- repeated unwanted attention or interaction after a person has communicated that they want the interaction to stop;
- sexual harassment or sexually inappropriate conduct;
- threatening, intimidating, or abusive behavior;

- targeted conduct that substantially interferes with another person's participation or enjoyment of an event; or
- stalking or following another attendee in a manner that creates a safety concern.

B. Disruptive or disrespectful conduct

- repeated disruptive behavior;
- abusive, threatening, or excessively hostile conduct toward participants, officials, volunteers, or venue staff;
- intentionally interfering with another person's game or participation;
- refusing to comply with reasonable instructions from event officials or venue personnel; or
- repeated violations of event rules after being warned.

C. Discriminatory or hateful conduct

SPS does not permit discriminatory harassment or conduct directed at individuals based on protected characteristics.

This includes hateful, threatening, or harassing conduct directed toward another person or group based on characteristics protected by applicable law or SPS policy.

SPS may distinguish between protected expression and conduct that constitutes harassment, threats, intimidation, or other behavior that creates a safety or operational concern.

D. Unsafe conduct

- conduct that creates a reasonable risk of injury to another person;
- intentionally damaging or recklessly handling pinball machines or other property;
- interfering with emergency procedures or safety measures;
- entering restricted areas without authorization; or
- other conduct that creates a reasonable safety concern.

E. Illegal or prohibited activity

SPS may consider conduct involving suspected or established violations of applicable law when determining participant eligibility, particularly where the conduct is relevant to the safety or operation of an SPS event.

This may include, depending on the circumstances:

- possession, use, distribution, or offering of illegal controlled substances at or in connection with an event;
- theft or property crimes;
- assault or threats of violence;
- sexual misconduct;
- vandalism; or
- other unlawful conduct that reasonably affects event safety or community trust.

SPS is not a law-enforcement agency and does not make criminal determinations. An eligibility decision under this Policy is an administrative decision concerning participation in SPS events and does not constitute a determination of criminal guilt.

6. Conduct Outside SPS Events

SPS may consider relevant conduct occurring outside an SPS event when determining participant eligibility.

Examples may include:

- conduct at other pinball tournaments or events;
- conduct involving SPS participants or volunteers;
- conduct occurring during event-related travel, gatherings, or social activities;
- prior incidents that demonstrate a relevant pattern of behavior; or
- pending criminal proceedings or other documented circumstances that reasonably relate to event safety.

SPS will consider the relevance and reliability of information rather than automatically treating any allegation or outside incident as established fact.

Conduct occurring outside an SPS event will generally be considered only when it has a reasonable connection to participant safety, event operations, or the interests protected by this Policy.

7. Reports and Complaints

Anyone may report a conduct or safety concern involving an SPS event.

Reports may be made to:

Seattle Pinball Services LLC

[EMAIL ADDRESS]

[WEBSITE / REPORTING FORM]

Reports should, when possible, include:

- the date and approximate time of the incident;
- the location;
- what occurred;
- the names of people directly involved;
- names of witnesses;
- whether the person making the report personally observed the conduct;
- any relevant messages, photographs, recordings, or other documentation; and
- whether the matter was previously reported to an event official.

A person making a report is not required to conduct an investigation or determine whether a rule or law was violated.

SPS encourages prompt reporting, particularly when conduct may present an ongoing safety concern.

8. Handling of Reports

SPS will review reports based on the circumstances and available information.

The review may include:

- speaking with the person making the report;
- speaking with witnesses;
- speaking with event staff or tournament directors;

- reviewing available video, photographs, messages, recordings, or other documentation;
- reviewing prior documented incidents;
- considering relevant event rules and venue requirements; and
- providing the subject of the report an opportunity to respond when appropriate.

SPS may take immediate interim action when necessary to protect participants, staff, volunteers, venue personnel, or the event.

Examples of interim action include:

- directing an individual to stop particular conduct;
- separating individuals;
- restricting access to a particular area;
- removing an individual from an event;
- suspending participation while a review is pending; or
- taking other reasonable safety measures.

Immediate action does not require SPS to have completed a final eligibility review.

9. Standard for Eligibility Decisions

SPS does not conduct criminal trials or require proof beyond a reasonable doubt when making participant eligibility decisions.

Eligibility decisions are administrative decisions based on the information reasonably available to SPS.

In determining whether an individual should be permitted to participate, SPS may consider:

- the nature and seriousness of the reported conduct;
- the reliability and specificity of the information available;
- whether the conduct was personally witnessed or independently corroborated;
- whether multiple reports describe similar conduct;
- whether the individual was previously warned or instructed to stop;

- whether the conduct continued after a warning;
- whether the conduct created or reasonably could have created a safety concern;
- the effect of the conduct on other participants, volunteers, staff, or the event;
- prior relevant conduct;
- the individual's response to the concerns;
- whether the individual accepts responsibility or demonstrates an understanding of applicable boundaries and rules;
- the likelihood of recurrence;
- the relationship of the conduct to SPS events; and
- any other circumstances reasonably relevant to participant safety or event operations.

No single factor is necessarily determinative.

SPS may consider the totality of the circumstances and may determine that multiple incidents, even if individually less serious, establish a pattern that warrants restricting participation.

10. Opportunity to Respond

When practical and consistent with participant safety, SPS will inform an individual when their eligibility is under formal review and provide an opportunity to submit relevant information before making a final eligibility determination.

The opportunity to respond is intended to allow the individual to:

- correct factual inaccuracies;
- provide additional context;
- identify relevant evidence or witnesses; and
- provide any other information that should reasonably be considered.

SPS may limit or delay disclosure of information where necessary to protect the privacy or safety of a reporting person or witness, to preserve an ongoing review, or for other legitimate reasons.

SPS will not require a reporting person to confront or communicate directly with the person whose conduct was reported.

11. Available Actions

Depending on the circumstances, SPS may take one or more of the following actions:

A. No action

SPS may determine that the available information does not warrant an eligibility restriction.

B. Informal or formal warning

SPS may warn an individual that further conduct may result in additional action.

C. Conditions of participation

SPS may permit continued participation subject to reasonable conditions.

Examples may include:

- restrictions on particular conduct;
- restrictions on particular areas;
- compliance with specific event instructions;
- restrictions on interaction with particular participants where appropriate; or
- other reasonable conditions designed to protect participants or event operations.

D. Removal from an event

An individual may be required to leave an event or venue.

E. Suspension

SPS may determine that an individual is temporarily ineligible to participate in SPS events for a specified period.

F. Indefinite exclusion

SPS may determine that an individual is not currently eligible to participate in SPS events without establishing a specific end date.

An indefinite exclusion may be reconsidered if material new information or circumstances arise.

G. Future eligibility restrictions

SPS may deny eligibility for future SPS events where the circumstances reasonably warrant such action.

These actions are not necessarily progressive. SPS may impose a more serious action without first issuing a warning when the nature or circumstances of the conduct warrant it.

12. Organization-Wide Eligibility Decisions

When circumstances warrant, an eligibility decision may apply to multiple SPS events rather than only to the event where the conduct occurred.

For example, an individual may be determined to be ineligible for:

- the Northwest Pinball Championships;
- SPS-operated tournaments;
- SPS-operated leagues;
- SPS-operated shows or exhibitions; and/or
- other SPS-operated or administered events.

The scope of an eligibility restriction will be determined based on the circumstances and the relationship between the conduct and the activities covered by this Policy.

An eligibility restriction imposed by SPS does not automatically prohibit an individual from attending or participating in events operated independently by other organizations.

13. Confidentiality and Privacy

SPS will make reasonable efforts to protect the privacy of people who report incidents or provide information during a review.

However, SPS cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality.

Information may need to be shared with:

- event organizers and officials;
- venue management or security;
- legal counsel;

- insurers;
- law enforcement;
- other individuals with a legitimate need to know; or
- other organizations where disclosure is appropriate and lawful.

SPS may withhold the identity of a reporting person or witness when disclosure is not necessary for the decision and where withholding the information is appropriate.

14. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person for making a good-faith report, participating in a review, providing information, or otherwise raising a legitimate safety concern is prohibited.

Retaliation may itself be grounds for an eligibility restriction.

Nothing in this section prohibits SPS from considering knowingly false reports or intentionally fabricated evidence as conduct under this Policy.

15. Good-Faith Reports

SPS recognizes that reports of misconduct are often made after stressful or uncomfortable experiences and that memories may differ.

A person does not violate this Policy merely because a report they make cannot ultimately be substantiated.

However, knowingly making a materially false report, fabricating evidence, or intentionally misleading an SPS review may itself be considered misconduct.

16. Reconsideration

An individual subject to an eligibility restriction may submit a request for reconsideration.

A request should identify:

- the eligibility decision being challenged;
- any material new information;
- any factual errors the individual believes should be corrected; and

- any circumstances that have materially changed since the original decision.

A reconsideration request is not intended to require SPS to repeat an entire review when no meaningful new information is presented.

SPS may consider:

- new evidence;
- new circumstances;
- evidence that a prior factual determination was materially incorrect;
- demonstrated changes in conduct or circumstances; and
- other information reasonably relevant to eligibility.

SPS may maintain, modify, shorten, extend, or remove an eligibility restriction following reconsideration.

Unless SPS determines otherwise, an eligibility restriction remains in effect while a reconsideration request is pending.

17. Emergency and Immediate Safety Situations

Nothing in this Policy prevents SPS or event personnel from taking immediate action when they reasonably believe that a person presents an immediate risk to themselves or others, is engaging in dangerous conduct, or is interfering with emergency or venue operations.

Such action may include removal from the event or contacting venue security, emergency services, or law enforcement when appropriate.

18. Relationship to Law and Venue Rules

Participants remain responsible for complying with applicable federal, state, and local laws and the rules of the venue hosting an SPS event.

SPS may impose reasonable event conditions designed to protect participants, volunteers, staff, property, and the operation of the event.

Nothing in this Policy is intended to authorize discrimination prohibited by applicable law or to limit rights provided by applicable law.

Where an SPS event takes place at a third-party venue, venue policies and requirements may impose additional restrictions.

19. No Requirement of Criminal Conviction

SPS may make an eligibility decision based on conduct that has not resulted in a criminal conviction.

A criminal conviction is not required for SPS to determine that an individual is not currently eligible to participate in an SPS event.

Likewise, an arrest, accusation, pending criminal proceeding, or unverified report does not automatically establish that misconduct occurred.

SPS will consider the reliability, relevance, seriousness, and circumstances of available information when making an eligibility decision.

20. Administrative Nature of Decisions

Eligibility decisions under this Policy are administrative decisions concerning participation in Seattle Pinball Services LLC events.

They are not criminal findings, judicial determinations, or findings of legal liability.

SPS may determine that an individual's participation is inconsistent with the safety, operational, or community standards of its events even when the conduct could not be established to a criminal or civil legal standard.

21. No Obligation to Provide Detailed Public Explanation

SPS may communicate the existence and scope of an eligibility restriction to event staff, tournament officials, venue personnel, or others who have a legitimate need to know.

SPS is not required to publicly disclose confidential reports, witness identities, investigative materials, or the complete reasoning underlying an individual eligibility decision.

When communicating publicly about an eligibility decision, SPS may provide only the information reasonably necessary to explain the decision.

22. Application to Participants, Spectators, Volunteers, and Others

Although this Policy primarily addresses participant eligibility, SPS may take reasonable action concerning any person attending or involved in an SPS event when their conduct presents a safety, operational, or community concern.

Depending on the circumstances, such action may include:

- directing the person to stop the conduct;
 - restricting access to particular areas;
 - removing the person from the event;
 - restricting future access to SPS events; or
 - contacting venue security or law enforcement where appropriate.
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23. Policy Administration

Seattle Pinball Services LLC is responsible for administering this Policy.

SPS may designate tournament directors, event managers, staff, or other representatives to address incidents during individual events.

Event officials may take immediate action within their authority to protect participants and maintain event operations.

Final organization-wide eligibility decisions should, when practical, be reviewed by designated SPS leadership rather than being made solely by a single tournament official.

24. Amendments

Seattle Pinball Services LLC may amend this Policy from time to time to reflect changes in its events, community standards, operational practices, or applicable law.

The current version published by Seattle Pinball Services will govern future events unless a different version is expressly incorporated into an event's terms.

25. Contact

Questions, concerns, or reports regarding this Policy or participant safety may be directed to:

Seattle Pinball Services LLC

Website: [seattlepinballservices.com]

Email: [contact@seattlepinballservices.com]

For an immediate emergency, contact the appropriate emergency services or venue security.

Seattle Pinball Services LLC

Building competitive pinball events where everyone can play, compete, and participate safely.