

Code of Conduct

Introduction

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide a basic understanding of what is and what is not permitted in the Wildfire Games community. This code has the following aims.

- Ensure a friendly atmosphere to all visitors and members.
- Ensure the privacy of our members and that of others.
- Comply with existing applicable laws.
- Encourage responsible use of WFG communication services and discourage activities which disrupt our community or reduce the value of our services to our visitors.
- Encourage the freedom of expression and exchange of information in a mature, responsible and constructive manner.

Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions are used.

WFG: Wildfire Games

We: Wildfire Games and its associates

SPI: Software in the Public Interest, Inc., a corporation of the State of Washington, USA.

Forum: Any communication service operated by WFG or designated as an official communication system by WFG, except the 0 A.D. game lobby. Examples include, but are not limited to, the web-based forum, the official IRC channel, Trac, Phabricator, the SVN repository, and the official Git repositories.

Forum Moderator: staff person with edit, mute, ban and/or admin privileges on the relevant communication service.

Communication: any Forum topic, Forum post, Forum vote, text-based message, direct message, private message, audiovisual meeting, etc.

Code of Conduct (CoC): this document.

The Guidelines

Your use of any WFG Forum means that you agree to follow this Code of Conduct (CoC). Please read all of the following guidelines before you post in any area of the WFG Forums.

1. Communicating with Us

If you have any questions regarding this CoC, please contact any Forum Moderator. Forum Moderators typically have "badges" indicating their roles on the web-based forum at <https://wildfiregames.com/forum/>. Contact information is typically published on the web-based forum profile of each Forum Moderator. A private message can be sent by signing into the web-based forum, searching for the member name of the Forum Moderator you wish to contact, and then clicking the red "Message" button toward the top of the page.

In the event that you cannot sign into the web-based forum, please attempt to reach a Forum Moderator via other WFG communication systems, such as IRC, email, etc. The 0 A.D. website Contact Us page at <https://play0ad.com/about/contact-us/> lists general contact information for WFG.

2. Responsible Communication

Activities damaging the community are not considered to be an expression of free speech. Abusive behavior, whether committed by one or several person(s), has a negative impact on the entire community.

You may not post any material which is knowingly inaccurate, vulgar, defamatory, hateful, harassing, obscene, profane, threatening, or otherwise abusive or discriminatory;

You may not bait, insult, flame, troll, or otherwise abuse other users, including Forum Moderators. Baiting or trolling is defined as posting with a clear intent to provoke from other users anger, incendiary posts, and behavior that results in other users violating this Code of Conduct*.

You may not post graphically-disturbing images as inline images (such that the images are displayed when users view your post). However, you may, if the image is relevant to the discussion in progress, link to the images with a warning stating that the images are graphically disturbin

You may not abuse your ability to post in HTML-enabled Forums.

3. Forum Security

The following actions are strictly prohibited.

- Accessing, or attempting to access, accounts of other users.
- Exploiting, or attempting to exploit, bugs, vulnerabilities, or loopholes; whether they are disclosed or undisclosed.
- Penetrating, or attempting to penetrate, security measures of WFG' software, hardware, or electronic communications systems.

Any and all intrusions will cause your Forum account(s) to be immediately terminated, regardless of whether or not the intrusion results in damages, or the corruption, loss, or theft of data.

4. Spamming

Unless part of a Forum is designated as an area OK for spamming, you may not spam. Spam includes, but is not limited to, the following.

- Soliciting traffic from WFG.
- Advertising a non-WFG company, organization, product, service, etc. in non-advertisement Forums or subsections thereof.
- Creating excessive off-topic threads.
- Posting nonsensical messages.
- “Flooding” or “cross posting” in a Forum with content that has substantially similar meaning.
- Posting messages with the sole intent to increase Post-Count.
- Inciting a Forum war or riot.
- Posting suspicious or dangerous content including but not limited to URLs, hyperlinks, attached files, embedded content, etc.
- Acting fraudulently (Pyramid schemes, chain letters, etc.).
- ~~Creating a similar thread several times.~~ (this is redundant)

5. Piracy, Cracks, Trainers, Keys, and Key-Generators

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions are used.

- “Piracy” is the illegal copying of software;
- “Cracks” are programs that disable copy-protection technology;
- “Trainers” are programs that enable a player to gain an unfair advantage in a game;
- a “Key” is a combination of numbers and letters that is required for software installation and sometimes used to validate users for online play;
- “Key-Generators” are programs that generate valid Keys.

All of the above are considered illegal by the scope of the Code of Conduct, and as such any discussion, links to, posts in support, or encouragement of their use are covered by Section 11, “Illegal Use”.

This also covers the following.

- Seeking help to create cracks, trainers, and key-generators.
- Seeking missing files that are supplied with installation CD(s).
- Admitting to distribute pirated software, cracks, trainers, keys, and key-generators.

6. Forgery or Impersonation

You may not impersonate any WFG community member, in an effort to deceive or mislead, for example through the use of forged headers or similar nicknames, on any Forum or any means of communication, including but not limited to IRC, XMPP, Discord, WhatsApp, instant messaging, or any means of communication found suitable by WFG, . Examples of similar usernames are “Wijt”, “Wijit”,

“Wijmaker”, considering that the founder of 0 A.D. is “Wijitmaker”.

7. Duplicate Accounts

You may hold at most one account, unless otherwise authorized by WFG.

If you are considering requesting permission to use multiple accounts on the same WFG communication system, please consider the following. Use of multiple accounts is discouraged. You may have become familiar with other users after hours of playing, discussing, or working on the game with them, and pretending to be a total stranger is joining the discussion under false pretenses. It considerably reduces your trustworthiness if it becomes known to the community that both of your accounts belong to the same person. Additionally, people might want or need to contact you under your previous identity, based on your previous post history.

Using multiple accounts to allow yourself to violate the Forum rules or to evade a ban will result in deletion of the new account.

If you feel that you have a legitimate reason to use multiple accounts or change your account, contact a Forum Moderator to request permission. Again, to be clear, you may not create and/or use an alternate account on the same communication system without permission from a WFG Forum Moderator.

~~Using multiple accounts to allow yourself to violate the forums rules or to evade a ban will result in deletion of the new account. You may have become familiar with other users after hours of playing, discussing, or working on the game with them, and pretending to be a total stranger is joining the discussion under false pretenses. It considerably reduces your trustworthiness if it becomes known to the community that both of your accounts belong to the same person. Additionally, people might want or need to contact you under your previous identity, based on your previous post history.~~

~~If you feel like you actually need to change account, please contact us. Using a new account without requesting it is not tolerated.~~

8. Profanity

WFG reserves the right to edit, hide, or delete posts if profanity is deemed unnecessary. In addition to words included in the censor list, sexual remarks and slang may be considered profane when used in certain contexts.

A word about what is considered to be bypassing the software-based censor: anything done to avoid the default @\$%'s provided by the censor is considered to be a bypass of the censor. If “hell” was in the word censor (it is not), then all of the following would be considered bypassing the censor.

- H3ll
- h3ll
- heLl
- H3lL
- Hll

...and any similar bypassing of the software-based censor.

The list of words automatically censored by our filter is available upon request to a Forum Moderator.

9. Harassment

~~We have no tolerance for personal attacks as defined in the Terms of Use, whether public or private, towards user or staff.~~

You may not engage in personal attacks as defined in the Terms of Use , whether public or private, towards user or staff.

You may not purposefully demean the value of others.

~~You should not repeatedly under a short period of time (less than 7* days) send similar messages to a specific user or group or users, regardless of whether they have given you a satisfactory answer, even if the contents of the messages do not fall in the “demeaning” category.~~

You may not send excessive or harrassing communications on the Forums. This is determined by Forum Moderators on a case-by-case basis. Users who feel that they are receiving excessive or harrassing communication should notify a Forum Moderator, and provide evidence, in order to request intervention.

10. Pornography/Sexually Offensive Materials

You may not post or link to pornography or sexually offensive materials.

11. Illegal Use

You may not use our Forums for illegal purposes, or in support of illegal activities, as determined by the laws of the United States of America and the State of Washington (location of Software in the Public Interest(SPI), the non-profit project of which 0 A.D., the game developed by WFG, is a member), and/or the laws of Germany and the European Union (where the WFG servers are hosted). You are also bound by the laws of your own country and the terms under which your ISP grants you access to all affected platforms. Such infringing activities will lead to a ban. We may disclose information in order to satisfy any law, regulation or other governmental request, to operate and administer the Service, or to protect us or our users.

12. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreements

You may not post confidential WFG documents.

You may not post materials in breach of active Non-Disclosure Agreements. We reserve the right to cooperate with companies, law enforcement, or other external entities in the investigation of any NDA

breach. Note that the partnership between WFG and a sponsor or a contributor, where there is an explicit request not to give specific information, may itself be covered by an NDA.

13. Privacy

In particular, as far as your posts and PMs are concerned, the following guidelines apply.

- You may not distribute private email, PMs and private instant messenger messages ("Chatlogs") without the consent of all participants.
- You may not post other users' personal data, as defined by the General Data Protection Resolution (GDPR). Examples of this include, but are not limited to, an individual's real name, postal addresses, and phone numbers, without the consent of all participants. Be aware that, according to the GDPR, other information, for example a user's IP address, may or may not be considered personal information, depending on the other information available to the relevant data controller(s).
- You may not use other users' personal data with intent to harass.

Disclosures will be redacted, and suspects will face a ban. Please contact us as soon as possible if your personal data was disclosed without your permission.

14. Age Limitation

WFG does not screen the age of users when registering an account.

Please note that, due to the subject matter of historic warfare, the description and depiction of violence, and in order to protect children's privacy online, we recommend not using the WFG Forums if you are under 13 years of age.

15. Signatures

Signatures, whether facilitated by the Forum software or by the user, may not exceed the following restrictions:.

- The signature may not contain more than 10 lines including blank lines.
- The signature must not violate any part of the Terms of Use or Terms of Service.

16. Official Language

English is the official language of the WFG Forums. You must attempt to use English everywhere, except in specific threads dedicated to non-English speakers. Exceptions may be made for common and widely-understood phrases at the discretion of Forum Moderators.

17. Email Addresses

- You may not harvest email addresses from our Forums for any purpose
- You are required to keep your Forum account's email address up-to-date. ~~The team will refuse requests to manually change a user's email address through admin privileges, so please keep your account address accurate and valid at all times.~~ If you are locked out of your account and have lost access to the email address associated with your account then please contact a Forum Moderator via alternate means of communication, as specified in section 1, "Communicating with Us".

18. Smilies, Emoticons, and Emoji

Please use smilies, emoticons, and emoji in a reasonable fashion and prefer the clarity of words to convey information.

- Please consider using smilies, emoticons and/or emoji when expressing a strong opinion to weaken it, so that people feel more encouraged to reply to it.
- Use only one smiley, emoticon or emoji to explain an emotion; using multiple pictographs next to each other is discouraged.
- The number of smilies, emoticons and/or emoji should, at maximum, be roughly proportional to your post's length.
- Don't make a communication consisting only of similes, emoticons and/or emoji unless the topic starter indicates they wish you to do so.

19. Voluntarism

Volunteers by definition are not obliged to the organization other than abiding by WFGs terms and conditions, the law and their voluntary agreements.

When directing a complaint towards specific people, such as WFG, authors or administrators, they must base their argument on the ramifications of the subject matter, the WFG terms, or the law (or they may be in violation of the voluntarism principle), bring clear and convincing evidence for their claims (otherwise they may be in violation of the constructive principle described by Grice) and respond to a shifting burden of proof.

20. Miscellaneous

- ~~You may not post negative posts and discussions that are repeated multiple times with no other purpose than to disrupt conversation. If you feel the need to say something, say it once and then move on. Do not disrupt multiple threads in order to get your view out.~~ (Already stated in section 4, "Spamming")
- ~~You may not bait, insult, flame, troll, or otherwise abuse other users, including Forum Moderators. Baiting/trolling is defined as posting with a clear intent to provoke anger, incendiary posts, and behavior that results in other users violating this Code of Conduct, the Terms of Service, or the~~

~~Terms of Use~~^{*}. (Moved to Section 1, "Responsible Communication")

- ~~• You may not bait, insult, flame, or otherwise abuse another user, including a Forum Moderator (redundant to above)~~
- ~~• You may not abuse your ability to post in HTML-enabled forums. (Moved to Section 1, "Responsible Communication")~~
- ~~• You may not post graphically disturbing images as inline images (such that the images are displayed when users view your post). However, you may, if the image is relevant to the discussion in progress, link to the images with a warning stating that the images are graphically disturbing. (Moved to Section 1, "Responsible Communication")~~

You may not post in a manner that is harmful to WFG. For example, "Wildfire Games Forums suck. Go here! (link)".

- ~~• (We reserve the right to update the Guidelines at all times. We will communicate about major changes in order to prevent unexpected punishments; conversely, you may be punished for your reprehensible behavior, even before we single it out as unwanted in a Guidelines update.) See section 23. (Redundant to section 23.)~~^{*}

21. Warnings and Penalization

We prefer to advise users of inappropriate behavior. We ask you to communicate clearly with us if you wish to request an exception to the guidelines.

~~The WFG Team reserve the right to take remedial action, up to and including termination of all accounts belonging to you, without prior notice if you violate any of the guidelines of this Code. Users who violate guidelines will not necessarily receive an immediate ban, but flagrant and repeated violations may.~~

~~Minor violations will result in a warning. Three warnings will lead to penalizing action being taken. (redundant) (redundant)~~

~~A severe violation of this Code of Conduct will lead to penalizing action being taken as and when Forum Moderators become aware of the violation. (redundant)~~

A penalty will typically take the form of a suspension of your account for a period of time, the length of which varies depending on severity of the violation and whether penalties have been issued on a previous occasion. The team may decide to pursue different penalization options, including but not limited to: forced editing of content to redact or revise infringing conduct, temporary ban, or permanent ban. Permanent bans typically occur after several temporary suspensions and no improvement of the offender's behavior.

We may use suitable templates for warnings and penalties, in order to handle incidents efficiently and to communicate clearly with all parties involved.

In the event of a failure to enforce this policy, for whatever reason, it does not waive our right to enforce it at any time.

If you feel that you have not been dealt with fairly then you may appeal by contacting WFG staff according to the instructions in section 1. "Communicating with Us". If you suspect Forum Moderator

misconduct, please email abuse@wildfiregames.com with a description of the problem.

22. Your Response to Moderation Action

- You may not evade a temporary ban. Doing so will drastically lengthen your ban. ~~If you have a problem with the banning or feel it was inappropriate, please send an email to abuse@wildfiregames.com and wait for a response.~~ (Reduncant)
- You may not publicly complain about or demand a reason for another user's ban, the deletion of a message, or the deletion/closure of a thread. Any discussion about warnings, bans, message deletion, thread deletion and thread closure should be done over private email or Forum PM between the person concerned and the Forum Moderators.
- You may not re-edit a message that has been edited for moderation by a Forum Moderator.

23. Permanent Bans, Further Penalties, and Blocks

(this needs to be specific to the forum usage, should not change/define bans outside forum usage area (like lobby or staff membership) and it needs to be stated clearly)*

(from [*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Banning_policy#Community_bans_and_restrictions*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Banning_policy#Community_bans_and_restrictions))*

Other than the conditions stated earlier in this document, community members, including team members, may be banned from the Forum if their behavior is harmful to the rest of the community, a specific person, or the project.

The community or staff may reach a consensus to impose various serious penalties on contributors up to and including a permanent ban.

Contributors who are or remain indefinitely blocked after due consideration are considered "banned by the 0 A.D. community".

All permanent bans targeting non automatic spam bots should be preceded by attempts to communicate with the person in a peaceful way. The person risking a permanent ban should always have a chance to defend themselves.

WFG reserves the right to define "harmful" behavior. Such bad behavior should be reported in a written fashion. Effort should be made to describe unacceptable behavior in the policy documents as best as possible or as much as is practical so the rules are able to be clearly understood.

WFG reserves the right to ultimately make the final judgement and decision for any case under all circumstances.

23.a Intolerable Behavior.

All aggression, denial of respect, malicious behavior, and/or harm to the community, to a specific person, or the project may lead to a permanent ban.

All illegal acts under the applicable committed in the jurisdiction of WFG will lead to a permanent ban.

23.b Duration of Bans

A permanent ban is not intended as a short-term measure. Sometimes a ban may be for a fixed period of some months. More often no period is specified, because the ban is a decision that the contributor may not participate on this site.

23.c Ban Procedure

If a procedure leading to a permanent ban is started, after trying to discuss with the person:

1. The alleged facts against the person should be gathered in a written fashion.
2. Discussions should be organized to allow comments by involved and uninvolved contributors/staff, and to allow the subject to post a response.
3. The person subject to the ban should be given at least two weeks notice to offer counter arguments to the ban. Discussions should be longer if necessary. A ~~special~~ reasonable effort should be made to reach the person, and an extension to the deadline can be added if the person cannot reply in the given time. Such reasons include, but are not limited to: limited access to a computer; limited access to the internet; other legal assignments.
4. If the discussion appears to have reached a consensus for a particular penalty, an administrator should close the discussion, notify the subject accordingly, and enact any blocks called for.
5. If an obvious consensus can not be reached in the discussion, there should be a (staff) vote. The person who is being banned cannot vote even if he is a WFG team member.
6. A duration may be considered, including but not limited to permanent ban.
7. The penalty should be logged. A link to the discussion should be included in the ban log.

~~ought there be defined a section or paragraph here about a road to recovering a relationship gone wrong? A policy about how/when/why to consider unbanning someone could be valuable.. Maybe there could be occasional review of these (probably and hopefully) rare cases. (Looks like it's there in Section 23.d Review/Reconsideration)*~~

23.d Review and Reconsideration

In some cases the community or staff may review a ban or a contributor's unban request and reach a consensus of contributors/staff to endorse the ban as a community sanction or consider reversing the block if that seems correct.

If there is good evidence that a review of a case is appropriate, there may be a vote to decide if a new discussion should take place.

24. Modifications to This Document

(from

[*https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Terms_of_Use/en#16. Modifications to these Terms of Use](https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Terms_of_Use/en#16._Modifications_to_these_Terms_of_Use))*

Because it may be necessary to modify this document from time to time, we will provide notice of such modifications and the opportunity to comment. However, we ask that you please periodically review the most up-to-date version of this document. Your continued use of our services after the new document becomes official following the notice and review period constitutes an acceptance of this CoC on your part. For the protection of WFG and other users like yourself: if you do not agree with this CoC, then you may not use our services.

We will provide this document, as well as any substantial future revisions, to the community for comment. If a future proposed revision is made, we will provide additional time for comments. The community will be encouraged to translate the proposed revision in other languages as appropriate. For changes for legal or administrative reasons, to correct an inaccurate statement, in response to community comments, or for any other reason, there should be at least three (3) days' notice.

* is that short/long or ok?

* is that too short/long period ?

* This is a comment

* This is a comment.

* This is a comment.

* This is a comment

* Must specify where these are published, otherwise it's meaningless. Anyway, responsible users should be reading all referenced documents, as well.

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