

TL;DR:

Hax is permanently banned from all the events ran by the organizations and individuals listed at the bottom of this document for multiple instances of inciting harassment, failing to take sufficient accountability for his actions, and refusing to abide by the terms of his return to local events. This document was made to explain the collective decision of its signatories to permanently ban Hax from Melee tournaments.

Summary

It has been two and a half years since Aziz “Hax” Al-Yami released a series of conspiratorial videos. Following the publishing of those videos, several major tournament organizers indefinitely banned Hax. The undersigned tournament organizers have determined that Hax’s recent actions necessitate extending this ban to permanent status.

Hax’s initial ban was due to the release of several videos, starting with “evidence.zip 2,” which was published on June 6th, 2021. These videos constitute malicious gossip under the Code of Conduct as described by the terms “distribution of graphic, unsolicited imagery or videos to shock, offend, or humiliate the victim.” Using the malicious gossip offense as defined by the Code of Conduct, two counts would warrant “up to a lifetime ban,” and three counts would warrant an explicit lifetime ban. Hax has since explained the event as a prolonged episode of psychosis. However, his most recent videos, including “January Ban Appeal 2024” and “The Truth” clearly constitute multiple repeated infractions in the same nature of his original offense.

The undersigned tournament organizers have reviewed both videos, including Hax’s claims that he should be cleared of any wrongdoing. Hax claims that his videos prove malicious action up to a criminal degree by several community members and should therefore exonerate him from both past and current offenses. Counter to Hax’s claims, the undersigned tournament organizers have found that his videos as presented definitively do not prove malicious behavior; they are instead character-based speculation that in fact constitute additional charges of harassment.

In addition, Hax faces responsibility for fostering a toxic environment that actively jeopardizes the well-being of several members of the community. Hax has issued two sole statements of remorse, one in which he apologized for “extreme language” and a single instance of publicly asking his fans to not commit further harassment. These public apologies have come far after the initial fact and done little to quell harassment. Counter to any expectation that harassment towards the affected parties would die down, it has instead frequently escalated. As an example, shortly following Hax’s reintegration into his local scene, a player was temporarily banned for three months due to sending an incendiary Facebook message to one of the affected parties; before The Big House 11, a statement from Hax also led to death threats directed towards a mentioned player. Hax is not directly responsible for anyone else’s actions, but he created the conditions in which hostile behavior became more likely, and his most recent videos only further incite harassment.

In addition, Hax's videos and statements have targeted several other members of the community than just his primary focus. This has led to harassment for all parties involved and demonstrated Hax's lack of understanding over the responsibility he holds in the community. Any possible reformation process that Hax could take would involve confronting the reality that there are far more people he wronged.

At this point, Hax would need to go above and beyond in his actions to warrant any consideration for re-entry. It would require a documented process of concrete, substantive steps and third-party mediation to undo the harm he brought to the scene and present such proof to TOs. In the period of Hax's indefinite ban, the onus was on him to demonstrate that he wouldn't repeat his offense, take accountability for his actions, and demonstrate sufficient change. He has instead repeated his offense, not adequately taken accountability, and ignored the recommendations of those who he seeks to appeal to. This includes violation of the provisional unban requirements outlined by his local tournament organizers, as described by NYC Melee [here](#).

Hax's lack of sufficient remorse for his actions, incitement of harassment campaigns targeting other people, and his pattern of doubling down when confronted, even by tournament organizers who have tried working with him for years, makes his presence fundamentally toxic to the scene's health. **Although Hax has shown no reason for tournament organizers to believe his presence at events constitutes an active threat to other players, this is not the only reason to permanently ban players. No one has a right to play a video game at a tournament - it's a privilege. The signatories of this document have together determined that Hax's actions have abused this privilege.** He's shown that he cannot be trusted to respect the rules of the Melee community and conduct himself in an appropriate manner.

Conclusion

The high profile and unusual character of this case made creating a ruling especially difficult. **By the end of it, all the TOs agreed that the Code of Conduct, though useful as a resource, was ultimately not the sole factor which led to their respective decisions.** However, all TOs agreed on the following points:

- For banned players to reintegrate into the scene, or any particular tournament, the burden of proof is on them to work with TOs.
- At the same time, TOs are not obligated to work with a banned player on re-integrating them into the scene.
- Any toxic behavior toward Hax, Leffen, or any of the relevant parties involved will absolutely not be tolerated.

Signatories