

Discord Rules (last updated August 17th, 2018) In order to ensure that the discord chat remains a nontoxic environment and ensures the wellbeing of its members, be it enacted that we forge these discord rules to govern the decorum of the ModelUSGov Discord Server.

Article I Discord Supremacy

- A. By membership in this chat, you agree to abide by the rules outlined in this document.
- B. These discord rules extend to and govern all ModelUSGov affiliated chats.
- C. Violation of these rules may result in punishments on the main discord server and the subreddit.

Article II Levels of Decorum

As the line of canon communication and non canon communication have been blurred by the presence of, initially skype, discord; be it enacted that there shall exist levels of decorum to govern respective chats accessible to the general membership.

1. High Decorum

- A. All Federal (Congress, House, Senate, etc.), Executive, and State (Chesapeake, Western, Dixie, etc.) chats are considered canon. Members of the Senate, House, Justice Department, or any state position may request a separate canon channel created for sim-related questioning. This must be approved by a member of the Quad. The Logs will be saved. In addition, These may be adjusted at any point.

2. Decorum

- A. The following chats will fall into the realm of decorum: Modelusgov_chat (aka main chat), any other chats not specifically listed in “High Decorum” or “Lax Decorum”
- B. Under decorum, all chats under this category will be treated as distinct entities subject solely to the rules of discord.
- C. As such, all chats under this category will not be considered canon to the subreddit.

3. Lax Decorum

- A. The following chats will fall into the realm of lax decorum: Spam, bot_chat
- B. Under lax decorum, all chats under this category will be treated as distinct entities subject solely to the discretion of the clerk team and a lax interpretation of rules A and B outlined in Article 3 of the Discord Rules
- C. As such, all chats under this category will not be considered canon to the subreddit.

Article III. Discord Offenses

*Not all offenses on discord are of equivalent severity, as such categorization is necessary to develop guidelines of response. In order to ensure that all punishments are appropriate and justified to the particular response. Be it enacted that punishable offenses are divided into three categories based on the severity and the appropriateness of the moderator response. **ALL members of the sim are subject to fair and equal punishment. This INCLUDES any member of the meta up to and including the Head Mod.***

1. Perma Bannable Offenses (Tier 1)

A. Based on the severity of these offenses to the health and wellbeing of members of the sim, the following offenses will be considered severe enough to warrant an indefinite ban from ModelUSGov and all affiliated subreddits;

- a. Doxxing: search for and/or publish private or identifying information about (a particular individual) on the Internet, typically with malicious intent.
- b. Death threats: the intentional or imminent threat of death against someone or groups.
- c. Blackmailing: The threat of coercion in private messages
- d. Duping: the usage of alternate accounts for political gain, impersonation, or ban/punishment evasion.
- e. Repeated instances of a Term Bannable Offense

B. Based on the severity of these offenses to the health and wellbeing of members of the sim, no statute of limitations shall be placed on these violations. Though it is encouraged to report these offenses in a more timely manner to ensure a prompt response from the discord clerk team.

C. Offenses in this category may only be appealed for a shorter sentence with the consent of the victimized party. The intent of the offender, the context of the situation, and other extenuating circumstances shall be criteria evaluated by the mod team in considering the appeal or leniency on Tier 1 bans.

D. Offenses in this category that happen outside of MUSGov Discord but involve MUSGov players/participants may result in punishment to those players to the extent victims of the offending behavior are also sim participants.

2. Term Bannable Offenses (Tier 2)

A. Based on the nature of these offenses to degrade the quality of the community and dissuade new members from engaging in the discord chat, the following offenses will be considered severe enough to warrant a ban no greater than 3 months or the end of the next State elections, whichever is the latter, from ModelUSGov and all affiliated subreddits;

A. Pornography, printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic or disgusting feelings rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings (includes racy anime and erotica stories).

B. Harassment: directed or targeted toxicity of someone within the chat, or using the chat to harass someone on reddit or another medium of communication.

A. Harassment can include hunting down the posts of individuals outside of the simulation in order to humiliate or berate them, the constant picking on or dogging of a single individual (especially if by many), and many other things.

B. Offenses in this category that happen outside of MUSGov Discord but involve MUSGov players/participants may result in punishment to those players to the extent victims of the offending behavior are also sim participants.

C. Hate speech, speech that threatens or discriminates groups, based on race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. (including, but not limited to, slurs and Holocaust (or other well-established genocide) denial.

D. Any language that excessively denigrates individuals or groups

C. Repeated instances of a Manageable Offense. B. Based on the necessity of a prompt and timely response to ensure appropriate and fair rulings, a statute of limitations shall be put into place to facilitate this goal. All evidence must be submitted to a member of the discord clerk team within 7 days of the incident to ensure fair consideration. Any evidence submitted after this 7 day period will be evaluated on a case by case basis according to the severity and nature of the violation.

3. Manageable Offenses (Tier 3)

A. Based on the quality of these offenses to clutter and increase the difficulty of managing the community, the following offenses will be treated with an escalating series of moderator actions. Punishment from manageable offenses can range from a warning to a 48 hour ban. The offenses qualifying as a manageable offense are as follows.

A. Spam. This includes pinging users, clerks, or members of the meta without a reason

B. Being overly abrasive, toxic, flame baiting, or causing a hostile environment. Toxicity shall be defined as statements that are considered verbal abuse to the individual, that make the community less desirable to be a part of, trolling, flaming an individual, or being overtly negative.

C. Actions that directly and purposely inhibits productive discussion or otherwise negatively impacts the atmosphere of the chat such that it comes to be the defining characteristic of the use and/or their presence. ii. Constantly insulting other people in the chat

D. An insult is something a reasonable person would take as insulting, not necessarily the individual who it was directed at.

E. Selling or advertising products (like Vector nonsense, et cetera).

F. Based on the ephemeral nature of the behavior of these offense, violations of these rules must be reported within 1 day of their occurrence. Any reports given beyond that 1 day period will be disregarded to ensure moderator action is appropriate and fair.

4. Progressive Discipline

A. Manageable offenses (Tier 3) shall be addressed with the following progressive discipline: a warning, followed by muting (not to exceed 12 hours), followed by a 24 hour ban, and capped at a 48 hour ban. After three 48 hour bans for Manageable Offenses, subsequent offenses will be treated as Tier 2 Offenses. It is expected that the discord clerks follow these orders. In addition, these must be documented on the #mod_log channel and on the punishment log

B. Term bannable offenses (Tier 2) shall be addressed with the following progressive discipline: 48 hour ban, 1 week ban, 2 week ban, and capped at a 1 month ban. After three 1 month bans for Tier 2 offenses, subsequent offenses will be treated as Tier 1 offenses. Any ban longer than 48 hours must be approved by the Head Censor. Any ban longer than a month must be approved by a majority of the Quad

C. Perma-bannable offenses (Tier 1) shall not be subject to progressive discipline. However, past

Tier 1 offense bans shall be considered when the moderation team weighs appeals or leniency. More than three Tier 1 offenses lacking exceptional mitigating factors shall result in a non-appealable permaban.

5. Connection to Subreddit

A. Offenses resulting in a ban from Tier 2 or Tier 1 shall coincide with simultaneous bans from the subreddit. If such a ban will result in removal of office due to inactivity, inability to run for office, or other in-sim repercussions to the banned party, those repercussions shall still apply. The existence of these repercussions shall not be considered a mitigating factor in an appeal.

B. Behavior that would result in a Tier 2 or Tier 1 offense on official party or coalition Discord servers and subsequently reported to the Triumvirate and Head Mod shall be considered for punishment by the Triumvirate and Head Mod using the parameters set forth herein.

6. Recording of Punishments

A. In order to ensure that the moderators are able to facilitate their function as enforcers of the community rules, members of the community are forbidden to block moderators and will be removed from the chat until such time as their the block is removed.

B. In order to ensure transparency in the application of moderator power, any time a ban is issued, the following steps will be taken.

C. Moderators will have 24 hours to complete the steps listed below following the usage of bans.

D. The discord clerk issuing the ban must inform the offender of the reason and duration of their ban.

E. Punishments incorrectly logged **OR** not logged at all cannot be used against an individual person in the future.

A. Incorrectly logged is defined as a punishment that does not have evidence of the infraction occurring

B. Not logged means not placed in the punishment log spreadsheet or in the #mod_log channel

Article IV Equal Punishment; As feedback has been received from the community, there must be an equal expectation of punishment from ALL members of the sim. This statement is made to include clerks, the Quad, and Head Mod

A. All clerks are subjected to equal punishment. Mutes or bans are to be handed down by a member of the Quad after review. During this time, the user will have their roles stripped making them unable to speak in any part of the sim

B. All members of the Quad and the Head Mod are subject to equal punishment. Mutes or bans are to be handed down by another member of the Quad after review. Due to the need to have constant communication, it is expected the muted Quad/Head Mod member act in a mature and responsible manner. Communication in Main Chat shall be prohibited and only **necessary** communication in meta channels shall occur.

Article V Appeals As the moderators are human and humans are prone to error, be it guaranteed that all members of the community have a right to appeal a ban.

A. All members of the community have the right to apply to appeal a ban against their person

B. Bans longer than 48 hours may be appealed to the Board of Appeals

C. Members will have the opportunity to appeal their ban by providing evidence of why they were wrongfully banned, if they have changed their character, or if their rejoining the community will not have a negative impact, or as otherwise provided in these Discord rules.

Punishment Log

- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S-yZ8xaiG8_dc3jF4K-T8Gr7ZDO2po8zWJm3KeV6Pmw/edit#gid=0

Use this space for punishment notation prior to spreadsheet entry