

VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES CODE OF DISCIPLINE

Section 1. CREATION - Pursuant to Republic Act 2640, as amended, in relation to Article V, Section 2, paragraphs (d) and (e) and Article IX, Sections 1 and 2, of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, there is hereby created a Court of Honor (COH) that shall adjudicate complaints against any member organization, officer or individual member of the Federation, electoral protests in the election of any National or District or Post Officer, and cases inimical to the unity and integrity of the Federation.

Section 2. COMPOSITION - The Court of Honor (COH) shall be composed at

2.1 National Level: a Chairman and two (2) members who shall be preferably members of the Executive Board appointed by the National President with the concurrence of the Executive Board.

2.2 Regional Level: the Regional Vice President and two (2) District Commanders appointed by the Regional Vice-President of the Region.

2.3 District Level: the District Commander with two (2) Post Commanders appointed by the District Commander.

Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For purposes of and when used in this Code of Discipline, the following terms shall be construed in the sense indicated therein unless the context of a particular section clearly indicates that a different sense is intended.

3.1 Person shall include not only natural but also juridical persons, such as VFP Posts, Districts, and Regions of the Federation;

3.2 Bonafide member means any person who has paid his annual dues to the Federation during the current year;

3.3 Officer is a bonafide member of the Federation who has been elected or appointed to any position or office in the Federation.

Section 4. OFFENSES AND VIOLATIONS - The following are considered among the offenses inimical to the interest, unity, integrity of the Federation and respect accorded to an officer or member of the Federation.

- 4.01 Dishonesty
- 4.02 Oppression
- 4.03 Misconduct/Slander
- 4.04 Abuse of authority
- 4.05 Disgraceful or immoral conduct
- 4.06 Discourtesy in the performance of official duties
- 4.07 Falsification of documents
- 4.08 Perjury
- 4.09 Insubordination
- 4.10 Conduct or other ground or grounds which are inimical or prejudicial to the interest and unity of the Federation, to include patent violation of the Constitution and By-Law
- 4.11 Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude by any competent Court of Justice
- 4.12 Commission, association with and/or tolerance of subversive activities against the Republic of the Philippines
- 4.13 Other acts or omissions analogous to the foregoing

Section 5. CONCEPT - The Court of Honor (COH) is a purely administrative body and an internal defense of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) tasked to deal with abusive or errant members and misfits within the organization. The members of the Court of Honor (COH) must be men of highest integrity, probity, and ethical standards who place the welfare of the organization beyond and above any individual consideration.

Section 6. PROCEDURE.

6.1 Any bonafide member of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines may file a written complaint under oath, verified or accompanied by an affidavit against an errant member to the Court of Honor (COH), through the National President specifying the offenses and/or violations. Other complaints addressed to the Veterans Federation of the Philippines authorities may be entertained if referred officially to the Court of Honor (COH). Said complaint must also be written, under oath and verified in the same manner as provided for herein.

6.2 Upon receipt of the complaint, it shall be served either by registered mail or by personal service to the respondent or adverse party within the next working day. Said respondent shall file his answer within five (5) days from receipt thereof which answer thereto shall, likewise, be under oath or verified with only one (1) extension of another five (5) days together, with the affidavits of his witnesses setting forth his defense, otherwise his failure to submit the answer and affidavit of witnesses shall be considered as a waiver of his right to present evidence on his behalf.

6.3 Rules and procedures for the actual deliberation of the case are internal matters of the Court of Honor (COH), since the deliberation is essentially a fact finding activity designed to ferret out the truth or falsify of the complaint. All proceedings shall be informal and confidential in the interest of privacy, decency or public morale. In all such proceedings of the Court of Honor (COH), the parties must appear in person without the assistance of counsel/representative. However, the Court of Honor (COH) may summon witnesses should it be deemed necessary to shed light on or clarify any matter pertinent to the case.

6.4 When the issues are joined the Court of Honor (COH) shall convene not later than three (3) days there from to hear both parties and their witnesses and simplify issues. Such hearing/investigation must be terminated and decided within twenty (20) days thereof and its findings, decision and recommendation shall be submitted to the President.

Section 7. DECISION. The decision of the Hearing officers of the District Commanders or Regional Vice Presidents or of the Court of Honor (COH) shall be final and executory within fifteen (15) days from service thereof unless appealed to the Executive Board within ten (10) days from receipt thereof. Decision of the Court of Honor (COH) of cases filed directly with the National Headquarters and confirmed by the Executive Board shall be final and non-appealable.

Section 8. PENALTIES. - An officer or member organization or individual member of the Federation who is adjudged guilty may be reprimanded, suspended or separated from the organization without prejudice to the filing of the appropriate charges in the Court of Justice, if warranted.

Section 9, EFFECTIVITY. This Code of Discipline and Procedure, as amended, shall take effect upon approval by the Executive Board.

Revised Code of Discipline approved by the Executive Board on 12 December 2002 pursuant to Resolution No. EB 02-62.