SUPREME COURT OF NORTH DELTAS

RULES OF THE COURT

MUST READ · IN FORCE FROM 8 NOVEMBER 2026

These Rules govern how punishments and lawsuits are decided, appealed and reviewed. Every member is bound by them. Where a Rule and a decision conflict, the Rule prevails unless the Supreme Court has ruled otherwise.

1. THE THREE LEVELS OF JUSTICE

First instance. The Administrator decides all punishments (bans, mutes, timeouts, role removals) and all lawsuits between members. Every decision must be in writing on Form 17: the facts, the rule applied, and the sanction. A decision not recorded in writing may be set aside on appeal.

Appellate Panel. Any party may appeal within **3 days** by filing a Notice of Appeal (Form 14). The Supreme Court assigns a panel of three members to hear it. The appeal is **guaranteed**. Panel members may not be a party to the case or the person who decided it, and the Court will not assign anyone with an interest in the outcome. The Panel decides within 7 days of assignment on Form 16.

Supreme Court. Within **3 days** of the Panel's decision, either party may petition the Supreme Court (Form 4). Review is **not guaranteed**: the Court chooses the cases it hears. If it declines, the Panel's decision is final. If it accepts, the Supreme Court's judgment is final. Nothing sits above it. Where the Administrator is himself a party, the Court may remove the case to itself at once by writ of certiorari.

2. WHAT AN APPELLATE COURT CAN DO

Both the Panel and the Supreme Court may:

- **Confirm** the decision — it stands as made.
- **Change** it — the ruling or punishment is varied.
- **Send it back** — the lower court decides again, following the directions given. The new decision may itself be appealed.

Findings of fact below are disturbed only if clearly wrong. Questions of interpretation are decided afresh. A punishment is varied only if disproportionate or imposed on a wrong principle.

3. PRECEDENT

An appellate ruling is **binding precedent** on every case below it. Panel rulings bind the first instance. Supreme Court rulings bind the Panel and the first instance. Only the Supreme Court may depart from its own precedent, and only with stated reasons. Only the holding stated in a judgment's syllabus binds; the reasoning explains it.

Judgments are cited as **[2026] SC 1**, **[2026] SC 2**, and so on, and are published by the Court. Denial of review sets no precedent and expresses no view on the merits.

4. HOW TO PETITION THE SUPREME COURT

File a **Petition for a Writ of Certiorari (Form 4)** in **#submit** within 3 days of the Panel's decision. Attach the Panel's decision and the first-instance decision. State one clear **question of law**: the Court reviews questions, not outcomes.

The Court is likely to grant review where:

- the question matters to the whole server;
- the Panel departed from binding precedent;
- Panel decisions conflict;
- the process below was seriously unfair;
- the punishment is grossly disproportionate.

It will not grant review merely to re-argue the facts. You will receive a sealed Order granting or denying review. If granted, you will be given dates for written briefs and, if needed, a hearing.

5. STAYS

A punishment stays in effect while you appeal unless a **stay** is granted. Apply on Form 15, at any time while an appeal or petition is pending, and mark it urgent if the punishment is running. The Court weighs whether the appeal raises a serious question, the harm to each side, and whether the punishment would be spent before the appeal is heard. Urgent applications are decided within 24 hours.

6. WRITS

The Supreme Court may issue:

- **Certiorari** — calls a case up for review, or removes it to the Court before judgment.
- **Mandamus** — compels an official to perform a duty.
- **Prohibition** — stops a lower court or official from overstepping.
- **Habeas corpus** — tests whether a ban or mute is lawful; the Administrator must produce the member and state the cause.

7. CONDUCT

Orders, writs and mandates of the Supreme Court **must be obeyed**. Disobedience leads to an Order to Show Cause and may be punished as contempt. Anything bearing the Seal of the Court is an act of the Court; imitating it is itself a contempt. Parties address the Court respectfully and file only what is true.

8. FORMS AND FILING

All filings go to **#submit**. Member forms: **Form 14** Notice of Appeal · **Form 4** Petition for a Writ of Certiorari · **Form 15** Application for Stay. Lower-court forms: **Form 17** First-Instance Decision Record · **Form 16** Decision of the Appellate Panel. All other forms are issued by the Court and are not to be filled in by members. Deadlines are counted in whole days from the time the decision was published.

Adopted under the Seal of the Court at North Deltas, this 8th day of November, 2026. *Fiat Iustitia.*

SUPREME COURT · FIAT IUSTITIA · NORTH DELTAS

SOLUS
Chief Justice of North Deltas