

## **RPG Talk's Code of Conduct**

RPG Talk expects that community activities:

1. Are a safe and respectful environment for all participants.
2. Presume the value of others. Everyone's ideas, skills, and contributions have value. We have discussions, not arguments.
3. Respect that RPGs are vibrant and diverse. Do not make fun of people for what they love.
4. Don't assume everyone has the same context, and encourage questions.
5. Encourage members and participants to listen as much as they speak.
6. Do not post controversial, inflammatory or off-topic messages with the primary intent of provoking other users.
7. Respect the copyrights of content creators.

We reserve the right to remove users that contribute to a hostile or unpleasant atmosphere even if they don't violate any of these rules. If any user is making you uncomfortable, and it makes you want to be quiet when they're around, please tell a moderator.

RPG Talk prefers conversation over moderation. We want to be a community that encourages good behavior. However, in the worst of cases we still do moderate and ban. Banning users works on a three-strike rule. First offense results in a warning. Second offense results in a temporary ban. Third offense results in a permanent ban. Depending on the degree of the breach of conduct, permanent bans may be enacted immediately.

## Moderation Guidelines

TL;DR: Please be a good person everywhere. We would like to be able to judge you based on your conduct on RPG Talk solely, but if something awful is brought to our attention then we will address it, particularly if it is affecting the cohesion of the community. We have no intention to police conduct elsewhere.

RPG Talk exists at a time where the internet is becoming an increasingly public place. Although we would prefer to judge members exclusively on their actions on the RPG Talk server, the realities of the current world mean that we cannot.

Therefore, conduct of our members in other communities may be considered when determining if a user has violated the CoC. Hateful ideologies and/or behaviors are not welcome in our community: this includes abuse, harassment, frivolous and false accusations, and discrimination (particularly on the basis of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, or physical or mental ability). Generally speaking, controversial behavior elsewhere alone will not be enough to warrant a ban, but particularly egregious violations of the CoC in other communities may be severe enough to warrant such an action, especially if it likely to result in an unsafe environment here. However, we do not consider it the job of the RPG Moderation team to police or seek out behavior elsewhere on the internet.

If you have concerns about the behaviour of another member of this community, either on RPG Talk or off-site. Please bring them to the moderation team **in private**. 'Calling out' or conducting witch hunts against other users for actual or alleged off-site behaviour or using RPG Talk as a vehicle for revealing personal information about other users is not permitted and will be treated as a violation of the Code of Conduct.

When allegations are made against a user, the RPG Talk moderation team reserves the right to temporarily suspend the user in question from RPG Talk while an investigation is carried out. This investigation can last a maximum of 24 hours, after which a final decision will be made. Unacceptable off-site behaviour can contribute to a user's three strikes and thus result in warnings and/or temporary or permanent bans. That said, we prefer conversation over moderation.

### Tough Topics

There are topics that can cause a lot of contention and it's important that we behave civilly when these come out. First, we have the #outside channel for contentious topics such as politics. However, #outside is still **absolutely subject** to the Code of Conduct. Name-calling, insults and petty behavior are, as always, unwelcome. As moderators, we try to intervene to stop conversations that are getting heated or unproductive. It may be hard to predict which topics are contentious and so a topic that you previously thought safe may be subject to removal. Particularly in #outside, we consider it our prerogative to require topic changes or breaks from the channel.