



Suspension of timelines under Article III

The Dominion Executive Council has amended Article III of the General Bylaws on 4 April 2020 and that article is to be interpreted in light of the following:

The current COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impact on all Canadians and others around the world. To prevent the further spread of this infectious disease we have all had to curtail our normal activities and put life “on hold” until it is safe to return to our regular daily lives.

To respect the directives that governments have asked us all to follow, the governing body of the Legion (Dominion Executive Council) has taken steps to put all matters under the complaints and appeal procedures in Article III of the General By-Laws, on hold. It is not an option to continue with complaints in progress or to accept newly lodged complaints or appeals under current circumstances.

As of 20 March 2020 all timelines under Article III were suspended and will cease to be operative until the Dominion President has determined that the COVID-19 crisis has sufficiently diminished to allow for a return to normal.

The effect is that all timelines under Article III have been “frozen in time” and time will not count towards time periods during this suspension. Once the Dominion President has determined that it is appropriate to lift the suspension, notice will be provided in advance and a date will be set for the timelines to start running again.

To be clear, the suspension will neither shorten, nor lengthen, time periods provided in Article III. Instead the time period between 20 March and the date on which there is a return to normal, will not be counted. This applies to **all processes** in Article III such as lodging a complaint, processing a complaint, holding hearing or filing appeals. As an example, if on 20 March, 5 days remained in the time period allowed to lodge a complaint, then 5 days will remain from the date of the lifting of the timeline suspension by the Dominion President. Any infraction for which a member wishes to lodge a complaint and which occurs on or after 20 March 2020 but before the date set to lift the suspension of the complaint process, will be deemed to have occurred on the date the suspension is lifted, for the purposes of Article III.

For extraordinary matters of great urgency while the complaint and appeal process is held in abeyance and that require immediate action, the authority provided under GBL 137 g. (Special Sections), 418 (Dominion President), 505 (Provincial Presidents), or 708 b. (International Zone Commanders) as applicable, may have to be used.