

## **Part 1: Information on Blocked Players and Case**

### *Introduction:*

We, the affected players and representatives of the poker community, would like to bring to the attention of the Poker Integrity Council concerning incidents of player account blocks on GGPoker. Several players, including reputable coaches and members of various poker schools, have recently experienced unexplained account suspensions.

### *Case Overview:*

The affected players, known by their online aliases "GodspeedYou!" (PS: Hofr, WPN: ArkaduktusFrRM) and "Shavermaskrabom" (PS: Wemetagain), have been actively participating in the MTT tournaments on various poker platforms. They have always committed to fair and ethical gameplay, never endorsing rule violations or engaging in fraud.

### *Block Reasons:*

However, GGPoker blocked the accounts of mentioned players with allegations of "USE OF REMOTE DESKTOP & SCREEN SHARING PROGRAMS and/or USE OF VIRTUAL MACHINES & EMULATORS." The accused players deny their misconduct, emphasizing that they have always followed the platform's rules and never used prohibited software during gameplay.

### *Lack of Clarity:*

Players were requested to provide personal verification documents, which they complied with promptly. However, despite players' cooperation, GGPoker blocked their accounts without clear explanations or allowing presenting defensive evidence.

### *Impact on the Community:*

Described actions taken by GGPoker have raised significant concerns among the poker community members. These players' contributions as coaches and mentors have not only improved the skills of other players but also played a vital role in boosting tournament guarantees and prize pools. Blocking their accounts without proper justification threatens the fairness and inclusivity of the poker ecosystem.

### *Relevant Discussions:*

These incidents have sparked discussions and inquiries within the poker community. For instance, discussions have taken place on prominent poker forums, such as:

2+2 Forums: [Blocking MTT Coaches on GGPoker](#)

Gipsyteam Forums: [GGPoker Blocked Players Topic](#)

### *Call for Transparency:*

We urge the Poker Integrity Council to investigate these cases thoroughly. Transparent and reasonable outcomes are essential to maintain players' trust in the platform's security measures. As representatives of the poker community, we seek answers and reassurance that the GGPoker platform remains committed to integrity and fairness.

## **Part 2: Allegations Concerning Remote Desktop**

### *Remote Desktop Usage for Solver Analysis:*

One of the primary allegations against the coaches relates to operating Remote Desktop to access Virtual Private Server (VPS) environments, where players conduct in-depth analysis using solvers to refine their poker strategies. Such practices were uncommon in the past as players performed calculations in solver software on personal computers. However, due to the high computational demands of such analyses, players turned to VPS servers to conduct heavy poker calculations 24/7, avoiding the overload on personal computers.

### *Duration of Solver Calculations:*

The duration of these solver calculations can vary significantly, depending on the complexity of the scenario. For example, simple calculations might be conducted within several minutes, such as solving the flop action in shorter stacks using Simple Postflop. On the other hand, pre-flop solution for an 8-max table may take several days due to computational complexity.

### *Intention and Non-Real-Time Use:*

It is crucial to emphasize that solver calculations are never intended for real-time use or as in-game assistance. First, using solver calculations in real-time games is unethical and can cause tremendous damage to the poker ecosystem in MTTs. Second, operating with solver calculations in real-time is nearly impossible due to the technical sophistication. Setting the solver's parameters and receiving the solution would take too long. Instead, solver solutions are utilized for post-game analysis and strategy refinement to enhance future gameplay performance.

### *Human Error and Incident:*

An essential point of disagreement arises when coaches unintentionally forget to close their Remote Desktop after computing solver calculation before launching the poker client. While players know that running solvers simultaneously with poker clients is against the rules, the human factor may lead to occasional unintentional errors. It is possible that the GGpoker security algorithms detected the Remote Desktop launch and took action without thorough investigation, which led to the account suspension.

### *Request for Warning Message:*

It would be beneficial for the GGpoker platform to implement a warning message to prevent such unintentional incidents in the future. By alerting users when a Remote Desktop session is detected, players could take corrective actions to avoid any unintended violations.

### *Conclusion:*

We hope that the Poker Integrity Council will consider the possibility of human error in described scenarios. As mentioned above, players had no intention of using the solver's analysis in real-game sessions. As a part of the poker community, we understand and respect the principle of integrity and fair game. Hence, we aim to encourage a fair and transparent gaming environment that values coaches' contributions and supports the poker community's growth.

### **Part 3: Concerns Regarding the Investigation Process**

#### *Unrelated Questions in the Investigation Process:*

We wish to address concerns regarding the investigation process. After submitting the requested documents, players reported that they were asked questions unrelated to the specific situation in addition to providing the necessary documents. Questions such as personal background, poker journey, favourite poker variant, and achievements were posed, despite the focus of the investigation being the alleged breach of the Security & Ecology Policy.

#### *Rushed Decision-Making:*

Players have expressed concerns that decisions were made hurriedly without adequately considering the provided information. After sharing comprehensive details about their poker journey and background, players obtained an accusation and permanent ban, with subsequent communication reaffirming the decision's absoluteness. This rapid decision-making process raises concerns about the thoroughness of the investigation.

#### *Inconsistent Blocking Incidents:*

Remote Desktop and similar tools are commonplace in the poker community for legitimate purposes, including analysis and strategy development. However, the network's security measures may not always consider the unintentional nature of players' actions. As a result, legitimate players, including respectable coaches in the poker community, who engage in solver analysis for educational purposes, are unfairly affected.

#### *Impact on Poker Ecosystem:*

The perceived urgency in decision-making and the absence of consideration for legitimate analysis practices may lead to an increasing number of inaccurate account suspensions. Coaches, who contribute significantly to the poker ecosystem by helping players improve their skills, may face unjustified penalties, potentially affecting the overall growth and quality of the community.

#### *Call for Improvement:*

We strongly urge the Poker Integrity Council to consider a more robust and thoughtful investigation process that considers solver analysis for educational purposes and the unintentional errors that might occur via human factors. By ensuring a fair and accurate assessment, the network can uphold its commitment to a secure and enjoyable gaming environment for all players.

#### *Compliance with Rules:*

It is worth noting that under the network's Security & Ecology Policy (SEP), minor breaches are subject to warnings or suspensions, not immediate permanent bans. Given this, we seek clarification on why presented cases involving coaches who primarily utilize solver analysis for educational purposes are met with permanent bans instead of warnings or temporary suspensions for what could be considered minor violations.

#### *Conclusion:*

The Poker Integrity Council can foster a more transparent and equitable investigation process by addressing these concerns and ensuring compliance with the network's rules.

Such improvements will safeguard players' interests and contribute to the overall integrity and reputation of GGPoker Network.

#### **Part 4: Player Appeals and Willingness to Collaborate**

We are writing to bring your attention to the recent account suspensions on GGPoker that have affected players, GodspeedYou! and shavermaskrabom. Both players have expressed their concerns and appeals regarding the bans they received, and they have shown a strong willingness to cooperate with the Poker Integrity Council and the security team.

GodspeedYou!, a professional player with over 7 years of poker experience and a coach in two Russian-speaking projects, was banned without a specific reason or further investigation. They emphasize their extensive history on GGPoker and their significant winnings approaching one million dollars. They explain that the use of "remote desktop" for educational purposes could have inadvertently led to the ban and express their readiness to undergo any checks to prove their innocence. They acknowledge an error in their initial response during the account freeze and express a desire to provide comprehensive information about their poker background.

Similarly, shavermaskrabom, another professional player with 7 years of experience in various games, was banned due to the use of "remote desktop" and simulations for coaching purposes. They express their commitment to playing honestly and transparently, offering to record sessions with cameras and provide additional evidence. They also mention their use of Discord and Zoom for educational broadcasts, unaware that such broadcasts were prohibited, and they promise to cease these broadcasts if unblocked.

Both players genuinely seek cooperation with the Poker Integrity Council and the security team to resolve the issues and clarify their situations. They understand the importance of fair play and the efforts to combat cheaters on the GGPoker platform. Their cases present an opportunity to improve security algorithms and ensure the protection of honest players from false positives.

As representatives of the poker community, we respectfully request the Poker Integrity Council's thorough review of the appeals made by GodspeedYou! and shavermaskrabom. A fair and transparent assessment, along with open channels of communication between players and the security team, will contribute to a more just and equitable gaming environment on GGPoker.

We hope that you will consider these appeals seriously and engage in a constructive dialogue with the affected players. Collaboration with the players involved will help in achieving a fair resolution and maintaining the integrity and fairness of the poker community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

## **Part 5: Clarification on Screen Sharing for Educational Purposes**

We want to address the issue of screen sharing during educational sessions, particularly in the context of coaching and streaming practices on the GGPoker platform. Our goal is to seek clarity on whether screen sharing for educational purposes, including private coaching sessions and streaming, is permissible under GGPoker's rules and policies.

As we have reviewed the rules, it is evident that screen sharing, when used to gain an unfair advantage by a more skilful player accessing the screen of a weaker player, is a clear violation of GGPoker's Security & Ecology Policy. Such actions compromise the integrity of the games and adversely affect the player experience.

However, we seek clarification regarding the scenario where a weaker player views the screen of a more skilful player during an educational setting, such as private coaching sessions or streamed content intended for instructional purposes. In these situations, the intention is to learn and improve gameplay rather than gain an unfair advantage during actual games.

As representatives of poker communities and educational platforms, we recognize the significance of educational content and its contribution to the growth and development of players. Many players, particularly those in coaching programs, rely on the guidance and insights of experienced players to enhance their skills and understanding of the game.

We request the Poker Integrity Council to guide whether GGPoker allows screen sharing for educational purposes, subject to certain conditions. For example, if such sessions are conducted in a private and non-public setting, accessible only to registered students or coaching participants, would this practice be permissible under GGPoker's guidelines?

We acknowledge the importance of maintaining fair play and safeguarding the integrity of the games on the platform. We aim to ensure that educational practices align with the rules and policies while facilitating a helping environment for players' learning and improvement.

A clear stance from the Poker Integrity Council on screen sharing for educational purposes will bring transparency and understanding to players, coaches, and poker educational institutions operating on GGPoker. Hence, such a statement from the Poker Integrity Council will foster a positive relationship between the platform and the poker community, allowing for responsible educational initiatives.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your response.

## **Part 6: Similar Cases in the Future and Hope for Reconsideration**

We want to bring to your attention the cases of several other players affected by recent account suspensions on the GGPoker platform, similar to the situations of GodspeedYou! and Shavermaskrab. While we understand that some players may prefer to remain anonymous, it is essential to highlight their experiences as they reflect the concerns raised in our previous communications.

One such player is a friend of Anatoly Filatov, who also experienced an account suspension this week. While he chooses not to disclose his identity publicly, his case aligns closely with GodspeedYou! and Shavermaskrab. Additionally, we have been informed about an incident involving Moglipoker, a high-stakes cash game player, who received a similar account suspension. Unfortunately, we could not contact Moglipoker directly to gather more details about his experience.

These instances indicate that the problem might extend beyond isolated incidents and deserves a thorough examination to ensure fairness and transparency in decision-making policy.

We continue to gather information on other players who have encountered similar issues and remain hopeful that the Poker Integrity Council will consider reevaluating the decisions made in these cases. The integrity of the poker community is best served by a transparent and accountable process for investigating potential policy violations.

In light of these recent events, we also request that GGPoker adopts a more open and cooperative approach with players affected by account suspensions. Clear communication, detailed explanations, and an opportunity to provide additional evidence could lead to more reasonable and correct resolutions.

We appreciate the efforts of the Poker Integrity Council in ensuring a fair and secure playing environment for all players. As part of the poker community, we look forward to contributing to improving GGPoker's policies and procedures to protect both the integrity of the games and the rights of honest players.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we hope for thorough attention in addressing these concerns.