

In the past disagreements that have been posted on the board have inevitable escalated into hurtful and alienating assaults. This is almost entirely due to the nature of the electronic forum we use to communicate. Words taken without the intimations and body language, tone of voice and other subtle clues humans subconsciously use to mitigate harsh words to allow them to be said without pain are completely unusable in email. This means statements we feel to be fairly analytical can come across as harsh and bitchy. This phenomena is known as flaming. Every board has a policy about flaming. We have never had one. We are now instituted one. This policy is not retroactive.

Here is the policy. If you receive an email that you feel constitutes a flame immediately forwarded it to Gloria or myself. Gloria and I will review it to determine both the intent and actual presentation of the email. If we agree that the party that sent the email is guilty of flaming we will institute immediate disciplinary action.

If you do receive a flame and then reply to it you will be subject to the same disciplinary action. Adding fuel to the fire is not acceptable. It is turning small camp fires into huge conflagrations.

Any member found to be flaming will for the first offense be place on probation. They will be given a warning reminding them of our policy and a break down of the offending email to demonstrate where it is offensive. For the second offense the member will be expelled from the board and any contact with romance junkies will be severed.

Remember that this policy is for you protection as well as the protection for the rest of the members. You should feel that this is a safe and friendly environment.