

Windy City Storm Hockey

Rules & Ethics Committee

Windy City Storm's Rules & Ethics Committee (R&E) shall investigate alleged violations of Storm policies and rules, including USA Hockey and Amateur Hockey Association Illinois policies and rules applicable to the Storm program, that govern the conduct of players, coaches, team managers, Storm ownership and management, parents and their guests, and anyone else affiliated with the Storm program (together, "participants").

The following explains R&E's procedures.

Reporting: Any participant in the Storm program may report to any member of R&E any suspected violation of Storm rules. He or she may also report suspected violations to any Storm coach, team manager, or Storm management, all of whom are obligated to refer any such report to R&E. There is no formal process for making a report, and it may be orally or in writing.

Investigations: All reports of suspected violations shall be investigated. R&E will assign at least two R&E members to pursue relevant information. Notes shall be kept of the initial report and all subsequent fact gathering, including any interviews. Documents, including video clips, if any, will be collected and preserved, as necessary. All information collected during an investigation shall be kept confidential by R&E, even if otherwise publicly available, with the following exceptions: at the discretion of R&E, information may be shared with Storm management, with AHAI, with USAH, and, if appropriate, with law enforcement officials.

All participants are obligated, if asked, to provide requested information and consent to interviews with R&E. Any player who is a minor shall not be interviewed except with permission of his or her parent or guardian and then only in the presence of his or her parent or guardian. Any refusal to cooperate with R&E in providing requested information and/or consenting to an interview shall be independent grounds for discipline as a violation of Storm policies and rules.

Any R&E member with a direct familial or business connection to the subject of an investigation or any member whose impartiality can reasonably be questioned for a substantial reason shall recuse himself or herself from participation in any part of the investigation and its outcome.

Discipline process: After conducting its investigation, R&E shall consider whether a violation has occurred and whether to impose discipline. R&E shall be guided by relevant USAH and AHAI policies and rules in determining appropriate discipline. If there is a violation, it may impose discipline of whatever form or duration it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Discipline may include expulsion from the Storm program, suspension from some or all Storm activities, probation, or other sanctions as merited by the circumstances.

Disciplinary orders: If R&E concludes discipline is appropriate, it shall prepare a written decision that sets forth in clear terms the nature of the violation, the discipline imposed, and the information relied on in arriving at its decision. In many instances, its decision shall be shared with AHAI's R&E Committee.

Appeals: Any person disciplined by R&E may appeal its decision to the Storm President. His review is limited to whether the committee abused its discretion or applied the governing rules in a manifestly incorrect manner; it is not to re-try the case. In reviewing an appeal, the Storm President shall not consider any information that had been reasonably available but not presented to R&E during its investigation. In appropriate circumstances, he may uphold, reject, or modify any finding of a violation and/or any assessment of discipline.

His or her decision shall be final insofar as Storm's disciplinary process is concerned. An aggrieved person found in violation of Storm, AHAI, or USAH rules may also petition AHAI or USAH for relief to whatever extent AHAI and USAH rules may permit.

An R&E decision shall remain in full force and effect pending any appeal to Storm's President, AHAI, or USAH, unless overturned or modified. If modified, the modified form of the decision shall remain in full force and effect pending all further appeals.

Storm Rules & Ethics Committee members and contact information:

For the 2024-2025 season the Storm Rules & Ethics Committee consists of the following members:

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