

FLORIDA REGION INCIDENT REVIEW POLICY (Due Process)

The purpose of the following policy is to review complaints, policy infractions and incidents within the Florida Region. This shall be done with the utmost fairness, confidentiality and diligence. The Incident Review Committee and the Board of Directors will follow due process and complete the review in a timely manner. All parties will be kept informed of the investigation by the Committee chair.

ARTICLE I - NOTIFICATION OF COMPLAINT

Upon receipt of a complaint by an individual, member, or concerned party to the Board of Directors of the Florida Region, the Incident Review Committee shall be formed as outlined in Article IV of this procedure. A chairperson will be chosen by the committee and that person shall notify the respondent as soon as possible of the investigation. This will be done in writing to the respondent and a copy kept by the chairperson of the committee. This shall be mailed to the respondent by both regular and certified mail. The chairperson, at their discretion, may telephone the respondent if the matter is of considerable urgency. The written and oral notification to the respondent shall include the following:

1. A summary of the complaint.
2. A timeframe in which the respondent must respond in writing to the Incident Review Committee. A statement may be taken over the phone, however, it must be followed by a written letter. The committee shall inform the respondent of the necessary documentation needed by the committee for a complete investigation to occur.
3. A description of any immediate actions (sanctions) taken (see Article II below).
4. The date, time and description of any hearing or conference scheduled. The respondent must contact the chairperson to confirm this meeting.
5. A statement that a penalty or sanction may be imposed as a result of the hearing following the scale outlined in Article III.

ARTICLE II - TYPES OF INCIDENTS/COMPLAINTS

The four types of incidents/complaints which violate Region Policy are:

1. **Discretionary offense:** Those basic infractions whose review falls within the discretionary authority of a specific Region Board Officer. These include incidents involving sanctioning fees, and improper tournament procedures, etc. These would be handled by the appropriate coordinator.
2. **Minor offense:** Those that can wait until the next Board Meeting or Incident Review Committee Meeting. These include minor violations of Region Policy and minor offenses by Region members which occur at National or Junior National events.
3. **Flagrant offense:** Those requiring prompt action (sooner than the next Board Meeting); these generally involve considerations of finance, such as when an individual has paid for a future tournament or a team has improper uniforms.

This would also include violations of a flagrant nature that occur at National or Junior National events.

4. Serious/Major offense: Those requiring immediate action (before and without a hearing); the Chairperson will make a decision with the best interest of the Region and respondent taken into consideration. The Committee must be informed immediately, as soon as humanly possible, about the decision. They will either agree or disagree with the decision. The respondent will follow the recommendation of the Chairperson until the Committee reviews this recommendation. Then, the recommendation of the Committee will be followed. These are serious or major offenses to the Region Policy and guidelines. These generally involve considerations of safety such as child molestation, violence, or significant property destruction; such actions will always be followed by hearing as soon as possible.

ARTICLE III - SANCTIONS

The definition of the term of offense for subsequent offenses is one year. That is, if you receive a letter of reprimand it will be in effect for one year from the date of the reprimand. Therefore, if you have another discretionary offense during that year, it will be your second offense. Your new year for a possible third offense begins from the date of the Written letter of probation, etc.

Sanctions include:

For Discretionary offense(s):

- 1st offense – Written letter of reprimand from the appropriate coordinator. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 2nd offense – Written letter of probation for one year from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 3rd offense – Written letter of suspension for one year from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 4th offense – Written letter of suspension for up to 10 years from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee depending on the Incident Review Committee's decision. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.

For Minor offense(s):

- 1st offense – Written letter of reprimand from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee; however, if the offense is serious enough the first time, the Committee can use the guidelines for a 2nd offense and

- start with a written letter of probation. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 2nd offense – Written letter of probation for one year from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 3rd offense – Written letter of suspension for one year from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 4th offense – Written letter of suspension for up to 10 years from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee depending on the Incident Review Committee’s decision. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.

For Flagrant offense(s):

- 1st offense – Written letter of probation for one year from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee; however, if the incident is serious enough the first time, the committee can use the guidelines for the second offense and start with a written letter of suspension. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 2nd offense – Written letter of suspension for one year from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 3rd offense – Written letter of suspension for up to 10 years from the Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee depending on the Incident Review Committee’s decision. One copy to the respondent, and one copy to the Secretary for record keeping.
- 4th offense – Written letter of a lifetime ban from the Florida Region. A copy will be sent to the respondent, the Secretary for record keeping, and the National office.

For Serious/Major offense(s):

- 1st offense – Written letter of suspension for at least one year and up to a lifetime ban, depending on the severity of the incident. The Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee will send a copy of the letter to the respondent, the Secretary for record keeping, and the National office.
- 2nd offense – Written letter of suspension for at least 5 years and up to a lifetime ban, depending on the severity and repeatedness of the incident. The Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee will send a copy of the letter to the respondent, the Secretary for record keeping, and the National office.
- 3rd offense – Written letter of a lifetime ban from participating in the Florida Region. The Chairperson of the Incident Review Committee will send a copy of the letter to the respondent, the Secretary for record keeping, and the National office. The Chairperson of the Incident

Review Committee will send a copy of the letter to the respondent, the Secretary for record keeping, and the National office.

ARTICLE IV - MAKEUP OF INCIDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The incident review committee will consist of three of the following individuals depending on who the respondent is:

For issues involving the Board of Directors* or Region Employees:

1. The Commissioner.
2. The Adult Coordinator
3. The Official's Coordinator
4. The Girl's or Boy's Coordinator
5. The Secretary – for keeping minutes.

*If one of the members of the committee is the respondent, then that member shall be replaced by another member of the Board of Directors on the list.

For Adult issues, including incidents related to officiating:

1. The Commissioner.
2. The District Representative from the appropriate district.
3. The Adult Coordinator.
4. The Official's Coordinator.
5. The Secretary – for keeping minutes.
6. A neutral team representative from the appropriate district.

For Junior issues, including those involving club coaches and club directors or any adult or junior member of a club:

1. The Commissioner.
2. The District Representative, from the appropriate district.
3. The appropriate Junior Coordinator.
4. The Official's Coordinator.
5. The Secretary – for keeping minutes.
6. A neutral club director from the appropriate district.

ARTICLE V - PROCEDURES FOR HEARING

Upon receipt of complaint, the Incident Review Committee shall determine what immediate action is necessary, if any. A simple majority of the committee is needed to take action. If immediate action is taken, the respondent has the right to a telephonic hearing to present evidence as to why the immediate action should be suspended subject to a regular hearing. Immediate Action Review shall be heard by the entire committee. A decision shall be made within 24 hours of the Immediate Action Review (or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter) as to how long to maintain the immediate action. Once the respondent is notified and indicates a desire for a formal hearing before the Committee, a hearing shall be scheduled at the earliest convenience of all concerned. If all interested personnel are unable to meet in person within a reasonable time, a conference call can be used as the hearing. The cost of the conference call shall be paid by the Region. Any hearing or conference call shall be scheduled at the reasonable convenience of all concerned. The Secretary shall record all minutes for the hearing for Due Process. These files shall be kept confidential and only presented to the Incident Review Committee members for review if necessary.

At the hearing, the respondent shall be presented with the evidence against him/her. The respondent shall have the opportunity to respond to complaints, including the opportunity to confront the complainant. The Committee shall then make its decision as to what action, if any, shall be taken. A simple majority shall be sufficient to make a decision. This does not have to be done on the presence of the respondent, as long as the respondent has had the full opportunity to present his/her side of the story and defense.

Following the decision, the respondent shall be informed of the decision with a phone call, if appropriate and time considerations dictate. The phone call will be followed by a written decision by both regular and certified mail. If the decision includes a notice of sanction, it will clearly explain the terms and reasons for the sanction. The notice letter will also include an outline of the appeal process available to the respondent. A separate letter shall be sent to any other persons affected (e.g. team members) explaining the terms of the sanctions. All copy of all correspondence must be sent to the Secretary for proper record keeping.

ARTICLE VI - APPEAL PROCESS

If the respondent decides to appeal, the appeal must be in writing to the Chairperson and the Board of Directors within 35 days of the mailing of the Notice of Sanction. The Chairperson will acknowledge the appeal and inform the Board of Directors. If the sanction is one that needs expediency, and there is no material evidence to be viewed, the Chairperson may set up a conference call or mail ballot to handle the appeal. The Region will bear the cost of the conference call. If the appeal is one that can wait until the next Board Meeting, the appeal shall be added to the agenda of the Board Meeting. Every attempt shall be made to ensure fairness to the respondent including his/her right to a timely appeal. A simple majority of the Board is sufficient to make a decision on the appeal. After an appeal has been made before the Board of Directors, the Chairperson shall notify the respondent of the decision within three days by both regular and certified mail. If appropriate, the letter may be preceded by a phone call. The written notice shall include the decision and any sanctions taken. The notice shall also outline whether or not any further appeal is available. All copy of all correspondence must be sent to the Secretary for proper record keeping.