

Washington Capital United

Rules & Discipline Committee

Policy & Procedures

The Rules and Discipline Committee (R&D) is charged by the Board of Washington Capital United (WCU) to investigate alleged soccer-related violations of the letter or spirit of established WCU, league, MSYSA, and USYSA rules, policies and procedures by WCU players, teams, coaches, parents, and administrators. Further, the R&D Committee is authorized to discipline those determined to be guilty of such infractions. Importantly, the fact that a league or higher authority may discipline a team, player, coach, or parent or that a coach may discipline a player does not preclude the R&D Committee from levying additional discipline for an infraction.

RULES & DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The R&D Committee will consist of two permanent members, the WCU Vice President and the WCU Director of Operations. The R&D Committee will appoint one ad-hoc, rotating member of the R&D Committee to create an odd number for voting purposes. The WCU Vice President serves as Chair of the Rules & Discipline Committee.

PROCESS

Allegations may come to the R&D Committee from both external, i.e. league or higher authority or internal sources. External sources will typically notify WCU that an infraction of their rules has occurred and that the penalty assessed. The external source may also ask for the Club's position on an allegation and supporting evidence. , This means that WCU can either review the issue internally to the higher authority's satisfaction or the higher authority will take charge. In these cases, the R&D Committee will review the allegation and supporting evidence, meet with the alleged violator(s), and make a determination which will be transmitted to – and sometimes negotiated with - the higher authority.

Internal allegations may be made by any person or persons associated with the club. However, an internal allegation of a matter deemed appropriate for review and action by R&D must be:

- a. Submitted to the committee chair in writing - by hand, mail, or electronically within 14 days of the alleged violation; and,
- b. Signed by the person(s) making the allegation.

After preliminary fact-finding, the committee will determine if a hearing is warranted. If so, the chair will inform the individual(s) making the allegation and the individual(s) against whom the allegation was been made of the time and location of a hearing on the matter.

HEARINGS

At a hearing, the person(s) making the allegation must be present or the issue may be voided. Similarly, if the person(s) against whom the allegation was made is not present, the allegation may be considered affirmed.

At a hearing, both parties shall have the opportunity to: 1) state their position – the accuser followed by the accused; 2) present relevant documents; 3) have their position corroborated by others; and, 4) answer questions from R&D members. The accuser and the accused will only be allowed to address each other directly at the discretion of the R&D Committee.

R&D hearings will be closed to **all** persons who are not necessary to the conducting of the hearing. In all instances in which a player is involved, the player's parents may accompany the player but may not participate in the hearing unless their participation is clearly relevant to the issue before the committee.

DECISIONS

After a hearing, R&D will decide if an infraction has occurred. If the committee determines there has been an infraction, it will decide what, if any, disciplinary action will be taken against the offender. These actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. **Players:** Disciplinary actions may range from a warning to requiring the player to "sit" one or more games. In extreme cases, a player may be dropped from his or her team roster
- b. **Teams:** Teams who violate league or Club rules may be subject to probation, fines, or, in very serious cases, prohibited from playing under the Club's banner
- c. **Coaches:** Discipline for coaches may include a warning or a requirement to "sit" for a specified number of games. Any WCU coach, upon being required to "sit" a second game in a season will automatically sit an extra game. Gross misconduct, e.g., assaulting a referee or intentionally registering or attempting to register an ineligible player-is cause for the immediate dismissal of a coach
- d. **Parents:** Parents who violate rules or policies of WCU, the leagues, VYSA, MSYSA, or USYSA are also subject to disciplinary action by the Club. Normally, these actions will range from a warning to being banned from the sidelines (home and away) for a specified number of games. In extreme cases, e.g., an assault on a referee-the parent may be required to forfeit any association with the Club
- e. **Administrators: WCU Board Members and Staff** who are alleged to have violated WCU, league, VYSA, MSYSA, or USYSA rules, policies, or

procedures will have the same rights as any other person accused of a violation and will be subject to the appropriate range of disciplinary actions described above.

APPEALS

All decisions of the Rules and Discipline Committee may be appealed to the WCU Board of Directors who were not involved in the earlier decision on a given matter. If the decision by the WCU Board of Directors not involved in the initial decision is not accepted, an appeal can be made to the WCU President. The President's decision is final and binding.