

## ASK AHAI



**QUESTION:** What is the difference between the Rules and Ethics Committee and the Suspension Review Committee?

**ANSWER:** The Rules and Ethics Committee, or R&E as it is known, handle "off-ice issues", while the Suspension Review Committee handles "on-ice issues".

Rules and Ethics' off-ice issues are usually about the protection of our players, officials, coaches and fans. They are generally administrative issues, for example, coaches or clubs not following rules, roster eligibility or Zero Tolerance issues (fans or parents that do not behave themselves). In the end R&E is trying to get people to behave themselves in an appropriate and responsible manner.

You can read more in our USA Hockey [Safe Sport](#) manual.

Suspension Review Committee or SRC deals with on-ice issues of the players, coaches and officials; specifically the protection of our players. The objective is to correct the behavior of players, coaches and officials during games and ensure proper enforcement of USA Hockey and AHAI rules that will protect other players from the dangerous actions of a few that may cause injury to another player.

No one wants to suspend anyone. But everyone is responsible for their actions, and sometimes there are consequences to those actions, like suspensions. Hopefully any suspension will teach the player, coach or parent that certain behaviors or violations of the rules is not fair and cannot be tolerated. Ultimately the objective is to correct bad behavior and get players back on the ice. Dealing with coaches and parents can be a little tougher as they are adults. As adults they should "know better". As adults, they should be setting an example for our players; therefore, the suspensions can be a bit more severe. However, the objective is still the same - correct the behavior and get coaches back on the ice and parents back in the stands.

The R&E committee and the SRC are there to protect our players - the single most important part of our game.

**Editor's Note:** Readers may email any questions to [Ask AHAI](#) to be answered in future issues.