

SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RADIOLOGY

ETHICS POLICY & PROCEDURE

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Society for Pediatric Radiology ("SPR") is dedicated to fostering excellence in pediatric healthcare by supporting a professional community dedicated to advancing safe imaging and image-guided care for all children through innovation, research, and education. SPR fulfills this mission through member engagement, publication of scholarly research, and provision of continuing education.

SPR is a professional membership organization and is not a credentialing or licensing body. SPR does not regulate the practice of medicine, issue medical licenses, or exercise disciplinary authority over physicians' or other healthcare providers' ability to practice their profession.

SPR nonetheless expects its voting members to maintain high standards of professional care and ethical conduct, both in their practice of medicine and in their engagement with SPR programs and the SPR community. This Policy establishes standards of conduct for SPR's voting members and sets forth the process by which complaints regarding a member's conduct will be reviewed.

II. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A. Professional Conduct

All Active Members are expected to:

1. Adhere to the professional code of ethics applicable to physicians in their jurisdiction, including:
 - a. For physicians practicing in the United States: The American Medical Association's Principles of Medical Ethics (<https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/principles>)
 - b. For physicians practicing in Canada: The Canadian Medical Association's Code of Ethics and Professionalism (<https://www.cma.ca/cma-code-ethics-and-professionalism>)
 - c. For physicians practicing in other jurisdictions: The applicable national or regional medical ethics code
2. Comply with all applicable state, provincial, federal, or national laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine, including medical licensing requirements.

3. Comply with any applicable standards established by their relevant specialty boards or credentialing organizations.

B. Conduct Related to SPR Participation

SPR encourages everyone in its community to uphold these standards, and all Active Members are expected to:

1. Conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner when participating in SPR programs, events, communications, and activities.
2. Comply with all applicable SPR policies and procedures, including but not limited to policies regarding:
 - Conduct at educational events and conferences
 - Submission and publication in the Society's official journal and other publications
 - Behavior, anti-harassment, and non-discrimination
 - Conflicts of interest
 - Use of SPR resources, intellectual property, and reputation
3. Act with integrity and honesty in all interactions involving SPR, including but not limited to research, authorship, peer review, and professional communications.

Where SPR has established specific policies or procedures governing programs or activities (such as journal publication policies or event conduct policies), those policies are incorporated by reference, and members are expected to comply with them.

III. COMPLAINT AND REVIEW PROCESS

A. Complaint Submission

Any Active Member may submit a written complaint alleging that another Active Member violated the standards of conduct set forth in this Policy. Complaints must:

1. Be submitted online using the online submission form [accessible here](#).
2. Describe the alleged violation with sufficient specificity to allow the Ethics Committee to understand the nature of the complaint.
3. Include any available supporting documentation or information.

Anonymous complaints are not accepted. Complaints from the public are not accepted.

B. Types of Complaints

Complaints may generally fall into two categories:

1. **External Findings:** Complaints based on determinations made by other entities, such as:
 - Criminal charges or convictions
 - Sanctions or disciplinary actions by medical licensing boards or regulatory bodies
 - Civil findings of liability (e.g., in malpractice, fraud, or abuse cases)
 - Findings by other professional organizations or credentialing bodies
2. **SPR-Specific Conduct:** Complaints alleging violations of SPR-specific policies or misconduct occurring in connection with SPR programs, events, or activities.

For complaints based on external findings, the Ethics Committee will generally rely on the factual determinations made by the other entity. For complaints regarding SPR-specific conduct, the Ethics Committee may conduct an internal investigation as it deems necessary. The Committee may request assistance from relevant SPR committees, staff, or advisors in investigating the complaint.

C. Committee Authority, Voting, and Possible Actions

1. The Ethics Committee has the authority to review complaints, conduct or delegate investigations as needed, and determine appropriate action. Following review of a complaint, the Ethics Committee may recommend one or more of the following actions:
 - a. **No Action:** A finding that no violation occurred or that no action is warranted.
 - b. **Suspension:** Temporary suspension of membership pending resolution of external proceedings or pending final determination by the Committee and Board.
 - c. **Termination:** Permanent termination of membership for good cause as defined in SPR's Bylaws.
 - d. **Other Remedial Action:** Any other action as the Committee deems appropriate under the circumstances, which may include but is not limited to:
 - Written warning or reprimand
 - Temporary restriction from participation in specific SPR programs or activities
 - Requirement to complete specified education or training
 - Any other measure designed to address the violation and protect SPR's mission, reputation, members, or staff.
2. **Voting Requirements**
 - a. **Committee-Determined Actions:** The Committee has final authority to enact any of the following after a simple majority vote of the Committee:

- Suspension of an Active Member
- Imposing other remedial action on an Active Member

These decisions are effective immediately and do not require Board approval.

b. Board-Determined Action: Active Members may only be terminated by a Board vote. The Committee may recommend termination of an Active Member after a 2/3rds supermajority vote. Active Member termination recommendations must be presented to the Board of Directors for ratification.

D. Conflicts of Interest and Recusal

All Ethics Committee members are subject to SPR's Conflicts of Interest Policy. Additionally, any Committee member must recuse themselves from participation in a complaint review if they have:

- A personal, family, or close professional relationship with the complainant or the member who is the subject of the complaint
- Previously been involved in the matter giving rise to the complaint
- Any other relationship or circumstance that would reasonably call into question their ability to review the complaint impartially

Committee members must promptly disclose any potential conflict to the Committee Chair. If there is a question about whether recusal is required, the remaining Committee members (excluding the potentially conflicted members) will decide by majority vote.

If recusals reduce the Committee below five members for a particular matter, the remaining Committee members may proceed with the review, or the Board may appoint temporary alternate impartial committee members to serve for that specific matter.

E. Timeline and Process

The Committee will operate on the following timeline:

- 1. Complaint Acknowledgment:** Within 10 business days of receiving a complaint, the Committee will send a written acknowledgement of receipt to the complainant and advise the complainant that the Committee is taking the matter under advisement.
- 2. Investigation and Review:** The Committee will conduct its investigation and review on a timeline the Committee deems appropriate, given the facts and circumstances. At the discretion of the Committee, review and investigation may include contacting the member. A reasonable timeline may include tabling an investigation until a pending third-party adjudication is completed.

3. **Committee Vote:** When the Committee review is complete, then it will vote on the appropriate action or recommendation.
4. **Notice to Leadership:** After the Committee votes, it will notify the Board of the Committee's findings as follows:
 - a. **Board Action on Active Member Termination:** In the event of a recommendation to terminate, the Board must be notified that a vote to ratify is required.
 - b. **Active Member Suspension or Remedial Action:** In the event of a suspension, the Board will be notified that a suspension or remedial action was taken.
5. **Notice to Member:** The Committee will provide written notice to members as follows:
 - a. **Active Members:** As required by the bylaws, the Committee will provide notice to the member at least 15 days prior to the effective date of the suspension or termination, stating the decision, the reason, and the effective date. Active Members will be invited to submit any written response to SPR at least 5 days before the effective date, and the written response will be provided to the board.
6. **Post-Effective Date Action:** Prorated dues will be refunded to any member upon request within 30 days of the effective date of any action affecting a members dues paying status.

F. Board Action Required for Termination

When the Ethics Committee recommends termination of Active Membership, the Committee's determination and recommendation will be presented to the Board of Directors as required by the Bylaws.

1. The Board will give substantial deference to the Committee's determination and recommendation.
2. If the Board ratifies the Committee's decision to terminate, then the action is carried out as the act of SPR.
3. If the Board does not ratify the decision to terminate, then the matter is remanded to the Committee with a written explanation of the Board's concerns or specific direction regarding what the Committee should reconsider. The Committee will then review the matter again.

Suspensions or other remedial decisions made by the Ethics Committee are effective immediately upon the Committee's determination and do not require a Board vote.

IV. FINALITY OF DECISIONS AND PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK

SPR is a professional membership organization, not a credentialing or licensing body. Membership in SPR is entirely voluntary and does not affect a member's ability to practice or

maintain professional credentials. Accordingly, the review process outlined in this Policy is designed to be proportionate to the nature of SPR membership.

The Ethics Committee review process provides members with consideration by a committee of peers. This process is sufficient and appropriate given the voluntary nature of SPR membership and SPR's role as a professional society rather than a regulatory body.

Formal adversarial proceedings, including the right to legal representation, presentation of witnesses, cross-examination, court reporters, or formal evidentiary hearings, are not required or appropriate for membership decisions in a voluntary professional organization.

Decisions of the SPR through its Board of Directors or Ethics Committee are final. There is no right of appeal within SPR.

V. CONFIDENTIALITY

Ethics complaints and Committee proceedings are generally confidential. However, SPR reserves the right to disclose information regarding complaints, proceedings, or membership actions, including but not limited to circumstances where disclosure is:

- Required by law
- Necessary to respond to public inquiries or media coverage
- Necessary to protect SPR's reputation, interests, or tax-exempt status
- The underlying conduct that is the subject of the complaint is already public (such as published criminal convictions, licensing sanctions, or civil judgments)

SPR may issue public statements regarding a member's suspension, termination, or other membership status as SPR deems appropriate. Nothing in this Policy restricts SPR's ability to share information with legal counsel, insurers, or other advisors as necessary.

VI. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP DETERMINATIONS

The standards of conduct set forth in this Policy may be applied if necessary to non-voting members in the event of a non-voting member ethics issue.

The Ethics Committee is authorized to impose any remedial action, suspension, or termination on a non-voting member at any time, with or without cause, and without any procedural requirements (i.e. advance notice, hearing) or board vote.

SPR may, in its discretion, elect to provide non-voting members with notice and opportunity to respond prior to termination, but is not required to do so.

The Committee will provide notice of its final determination to the non-voting member stating the decision, the reason, and the effective date of the action.

In the event of any action affecting a non-voting member, the Committee will notify the Board of the action taken.

Approved and adopted:

Leann Linam, MD

5/31/2026

Secretary

Date