The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation considers the positive, respectful, and ethical conduct of all students, teachers, mentors, parents, and other event attendees an important and essential component of all REC Foundation-sanctioned events.

We expect the following behavior and ethical standards at all REC Foundation-sanctioned events:

- Act with integrity, honesty, and reliability
- Behave in a respectful and professional manner with event staff, volunteers, and fellow competitors
- Exhibit maturity and class when dealing with difficult and stressful situations
- Respect individual differences
- Follow all rules as listed in the current game manual(s)
- Student-centered teams with limited adult assistance
- Safety as a top priority
- Good sportsmanship, which includes supporting your alliance partners

These expectations apply to all team members and all adults associated with a team including, but not limited to, teachers, mentors and parents. This Code may also apply to behavior outside of REC Foundation-sanctioned events where inappropriate actions are related to an event or participating individuals.

Judges will consider team conduct and ethics when determining awards.

Repeated or egregious violations of the expectations in this Code may result in consequences up to the disqualification of the team or organization from the current event and/or future events, and potentially removal from the program after review by the REC Foundation.
The REC Foundation Rules and Conduct Violations Resolution Process is outlined in this flow chart. This process will be followed in the event of a major rules or Code of Conduct allegation. The process does not apply to competition matters governed by the Game Design Committee, such as in a match or tournament disqualifications.

A Regional Support Manager (RSM) receives report of possible rules/Code of Conduct violation. RSM collects facts concerning the issue from Referees, Event Partners, REC Foundation Staff, and others at the event. RSM discusses preliminary findings with their Director of Regional Operations (DORO).

Is the reported violation validated?

No

RSM takes no further action. Reporting party is told the matter is closed.

Yes

The RSM, with DORO approval, will write to the primary team contact listed on RobotEvents.com via email. The email will include a summary of the complaint received as well as a list of relevant rules or section of the Code of Conduct that the allegations, if true, would violate. Possible sanctions will be listed in this email. The email notice will request a response to the allegation within a defined time frame.

Following a review of the response to the allegations, the REC Foundation will issue the findings of the investigation. This will include a summary of the allegations, reference to the relevant rules and/or Code of Conduct.

Will there be a sanction?

No

In cases where the team response has adequately clarified the alleged rules violation such that no sanction or warning is warranted, the RSM will issue a finding to the team that the matter has been resolved. In cases where the violation does not warrant a sanction, but does warrant a formal warning, the RSM, with DORO approval, will issue a written warning.

Yes

The REC Foundation Rules and Conduct Committee, which is comprised of Senior Management, will review the appeal and make a recommendation to the CEO who will make the final determination to uphold, overturn, or modify the imposed sanction. Notifications will be made in writing once the CEO makes a final decision, which should be within 14 days of receipt of the appeal. Once this decision is issued the matter is closed.

Is there an appeal?

No

The sanction remains and the matter is closed

Yes

Notes:
- It is REC Foundation policy that REC Foundation staff may only interact with adults during the rules and conduct violations resolution process. In cases where the primary contact is determined to be a minor, REC Foundation staff will insist upon communicating with an adult.
- Where a team is found to have committed a serious violation, the team cannot keep the benefits that occurred, such as bid to higher qualification levels.
- In all cases where an allegation is validated the Senior Director for Program and CEO shall be informed of all proceedings.
- REC Foundation protocols will be followed by staff when handling Code of conduct violations.