

AMS Ethics Report
Reporting Period January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024

Background: The American Meteorological Society (AMS) is providing this Ethics Report as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards in professional and scientific conduct, including intellectual honesty and integrity. The Committee on Ethics was established in 2019 with a charge to promote high standards of professional and scientific conduct by both members of the Society and those who participate in Society activities. In addition to the Committee on Ethics, other AMS bodies (e.g., the Publications Commission and the Professional Affairs Commission) are responsible for promoting professional and scientific conduct in their respective areas of endeavor

On November 18, 2024, the AMS Council adopted a newly revised [Code of Conduct](#) and associated [Procedures for Implementation](#). These documents apply to all categories of members of the Society and all other individuals, groups, and entities that participate or are involved in Society activities. This [article](#) in the Bulletin of the AMS (Volume 106-1, page 43) highlights the major changes in the Code and Procedures. A key change was to no longer accept anonymous complaints as such complaints cannot be adequately investigated.

The Society takes Code of Conduct complaints very seriously and investigates each one to the best of our ability. The Committee on Ethics strives for transparency in all ethics related activities. This report is the first of its kind for AMS, however moving forward AMS will be providing a report to members on an annual basis.

Complaints received in 2023-2024¹. In total, 11 complaints were received. Six of them were submitted anonymously which prohibited investigation. Note this is no longer possible under the CoC that went into effect in January 2025.

Each complaint is classified as to its setting, type of violation and outcome of the case. The definitions of the classifications and the number of cases in each classification are given below.

Setting Associated with the Complaint: The following settings for incidents are identified below. Some complaints may apply to multiple settings. In this regard, the case is classified as the setting most appropriate for the complaint.

1. Meetings: Issues arising from AMS-sanctioned events, such as meetings or conferences. Three (3) cases in this time period.
2. Social Media: Various applications. Three (3) cases in this time period.
3. AMS Certifications: During the certification process (e.g., testing) or use of certification in business. Two (2) cases in this time period.
4. Publications: Issues related to the scientific publication process, including peer review and attribution. One (1) case in this time period.

¹ Note that complaints were submitted and adjudicated under the old Code of Conduct.

5. Home institution of the alleged perpetrator. Two (2) cases in this time period.

Types of Violations: Potential violations are summarized in CoC under General Conduct and Professional Conduct. The following 6 types of violation are summarized as follows:

1. Disrespect including discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Eight (8) cases in this time period.
2. Knowingly making false accusations of CoC violations
3. Retaliatory actions against complainants
4. Misuse of official seal of AMS or misrepresentation of AMS Certifications or Certificates. Two (2) cases in this time period.
5. Research misconduct
6. Actions incompatible with public good such as spreading disinformation. One (1) case in this time period.

Determinations of Violations: The following determinations are possible.

1. Violation found. One (1) case in this time period.
2. Violation not found. One (1) case in this time period.
3. Informal settlement. Four (4) cases in this time period.
4. Inconclusive investigation. Four (4) for this time period. Most of these most were a result of an anonymous complainant hampering investigation.
5. Outside of the scope of the CoC. One (1) case in this time period.

Context: For this two year period, AMS was very active in convening AMS members and others to advance weather, water and climate sciences. AMS membership is more than 12,000 but with the Code of Conduct definition of AMS Affiliate - *anyone participating in AMS activities* – it is estimated that the actual number of people subject to the CoC is more than two-fold the number of members.

As an indication of AMS activity, the following statistics are provided.

- AMS held two national and 15 specialty meetings;
- There were frequent and numerous AMS committee and board meetings conducted in person and on-line convened by AMS chairs: and
- 5581 manuscripts were submitted.

Summary

As this is the inaugural report, there is no trend information to provide. The Committee on Ethics has been monitoring the implementation of new procedures and expects to refine the procedures based on experience. The Committee is also looking for opportunities to promote

ethical behavior in our community as well as exploring how we might be better able to support complainants. The Committee is open to other suggestions for areas of work in the coming months and years.

Respectfully submitted: AMS Associate Executive Director, Stephanie Armstrong and
Chair, AMS Committee on Ethics, Mary Glackin