

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

### **Definition**

Conflicts of interest may arise where an individual's personal, business or family interest and/or loyalties conflict with those of the organisation. Such conflicts may create problems; they could for instance:

- inhibit free discussion;
- result in decisions or actions that were not in the interests of the organisation;
- leave an impression that the organisation had acted improperly.

### **Purpose**

This policy is designed to protect the organisation from the consequences of decisions being made because there was a conflict of interest. It is important to understand that the policy is focussed on how to manage conflicts of interest because it is impossible to get rid of them completely.

Within the organisation examples of conflicts of interest may include where a Board member is a supplier of equipment/services or where a Board member has a close connection with a group within the sport such as players, officials, or a club, league or regional association within the structure.

### **Action**

Board members must:

- 1 Act in the best interests of the organisation;
- 2 Comply with the governing document;
- 3 Declare any potential conflict of interest upon appointment as a Board member and at the start of each Board meeting if items on the agenda may present a conflict;
- 4 Not take part in or vote on any issues where their conflict of interest may influence their input.

The Board minutes should record the conflict of interest, including:

- the nature and extent of the conflict;
- an outline of the discussion;
- actions taken to manage the conflict.