



## CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY & PROCEDURES

### Introduction

It is acknowledged and accepted that occasionally conflicts of interest may arise. There is no right or wrong approach to handling conflicts of interest, in most cases the issue is about the application of common sense.

### Policy Statement

Officials of the Welsh Pétanque Association (WPA) are required to act in the best interests of the Association and in accordance with its aims and objectives. For that reason, Executive Committee members, volunteers, coaches and others acting on behalf of the WPA must be free from conflicts of interest that could adversely influence their judgment, objectivity or loyalty to the club in conducting WPA activities.

### Why have such a policy?

The WPA is committed to maintaining high standards and conducts its activities in an open and transparent manner. The aim of this policy and process is to protect both the Association and the individuals concerned from any appearance of improper behaviour. Conflicts of interests may arise where an individual's personal, family or business interests and/or loyalties conflict with the objectives of the Association.

Such conflicts may create problems and can:

- Inhibit free discussion;
- Result in decisions or actions that are not in the interests of the WPA; and
- Risk the impression that the WPA has acted improperly

The aim of this policy is to protect both the club and the individuals involved from any appearance of wrong doing. Even the appearance or suggestion of a conflict of interest can damage the reputation of the WPA.

### Policy

Individuals should conduct themselves with integrity, impartiality and honesty at all times and should maintain high standards of propriety and professionalism. They should avoid situations where they, or the WPA, could be open to suspicion of wrongdoing and not put themselves in a position of conflict between their official WPA duty and private interest.

The WPA accepts that people may take part in legitimate financial, business, charitable and other activities outside their WPA roles, but any potential conflict of interest raised by those activities should be disclosed promptly to the Executive Committee.

This policy explains what is viewed by the WPA as a conflict of interest and the procedure to follow where a conflict of interest arises. Implementation of this policy and procedure must be clear and transparent and not subject to any unfair discriminatory practices.

### Key considerations to be taken into account when compiling your procedure:

- ✓ **Define a conflict of interest:** Would there have to be some personal financial interest for a conflict of interest to be considered, or would links to the beneficiary of a decision be enough to trigger the procedures?
- ✓ **Consider the future likelihood of conflicts:** Is the conflict of interest likely to be exceptional in which case the person's role may not be effected, or would it be so frequent that it might be best to consider an alternative role or no role at all?
- ✓ **Agree the method of declaring an interest:** This usually would be a written declaration completed at least annually. In addition, it is usual practice to ask for any current or new declarations to be made at the meeting at which the decision in question will be considered.
- ✓ **Agree the method of addressing the conflict:** Again, there are numerous ways of addressing a conflict of interest and conflicts may come in a number of different forms not always linked to financial interest e.g. coach and athlete, employee and friend, husband and wife etc.

This Policy applies whenever an Executive committee member of the WPA, an appointed officer, volunteer or other official recognises, or should reasonably recognise, that he/she has a Conflict of Interest.

A **Conflict of Interest** is a situation in which a person has an Interest (defined below) which may compromise that person's obligations to the WPA or to any other person or body with which the WPA has a relationship (*e.g. Local Authority, Sport Wales, a sponsor*). A Conflict of Interest includes perceived and potential conflicts as well as actual conflicts of interest. A *perceived* conflict of interest is one which a reasonable person would consider likely to compromise objectivity. A *potential* conflict of interest is a situation which could develop into an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

An **Interest** is a financial or non-financial interest involving the person, or a Connected Person (defined below). A *financial interest* refers to anything of non-trivial monetary value including but not limited to salary, commission, consultancy fees, contractual interest, discounts, property and royalties. A *non-financial interest* refers to any non-financial benefit or advantage including but not limited to access to privileged information or services, property or intellectual property rights and enhancement of a career, education or professional reputation, selection of an athlete/team or similar.

A **Connected Person** is anyone with whom the individual in question has a relationship which is likely to appear to a reasonable person to influence the individual's objectivity including but not limited to close family, their partner and close personal friends.

**If an individual has a Conflict of Interest, they are expected to disclose it under the procedure set out below.**

### The declaration of interests

All Association Executive Committee members, appointed officers, coaches and other officials must declare their interests in connection with their role in the WPA. A declaration of interest should be presented in writing.

It is the responsibility of the National Secretary to ensure that a declaration of interests received is reviewed and retained by the Association.

The declaration of interests needs to be revised or updated at least annually and also immediately if any changes occur.

If anyone is not sure what to declare, or whether/when your declaration needs to be updated, please err on the side of caution. If anyone would like to discuss their concerns, please contact the National President for confidential guidance.

Interests will be recorded on the WPA's register of interests, which will be maintained by the National Secretary. The register will usually be accessible by the Executive Committee only.

Where it is subsequently discovered that one or more persons involved in a decision had not declared their conflict of interest to the meeting or equivalent, the National President will decide whether the matter needs to be reconsidered and may so direct.

On receipt of a written declaration of conflict of interest, the Secretary will update the register with the information declared by each individual.

### **Data Protection**

The information provided will be processed only to ensure that the best interests of the WPA are maintained. The information provided will not be used for any other purpose.

### **Managing Conflict**

The National Secretary and the National President shall be responsible for reviewing the declarations of interest register and advising on any action required to manage any particular conflict. If a conflict can be managed the process must be clear and reported in the register.

Conflict of Interest can arise in various ways; the most likely is in a meeting situation or a playerselection process, therefore the WPA has set up the following process to be followed:

a) at every meeting:-

The Chair of the meeting is required to ask those attending to declare any interest(s) linked to any item on the agenda. All notifications (including "none") must be reported in the minutes of the meeting along with the actions taken by the Chair to manage the conflict.

b) at a selection meeting/coaching session or competition the Director of Development will identify any potential conflict of interest.

If a conflict decision is challenged all information must be referred to the Executive Committee who will be responsible for reviewing the decision made and providing written recommendations for any action.

### **What to do if you face a conflict of interest?**

You should declare your interest at the earliest opportunity.

Below are examples of how an individual may manage conflict themselves or how a Chair might manage a particular meeting situation:-

- not taking part in discussions of certain matters
  - either staying in the room or
  - vacating the room until the particular item is finished;
- not taking part in decisions relating to certain matters
  - either staying in the room when the decision is made or

- vacating the room until the decision is made having stayed for the discussion;
- if the conflict relates to the Chair of the meeting, he/she must vacate the chair and the room until the particular item is finished;
- stepping aside from any involvement in a particular task or selection decision;
- declaring an interest linked to a particular sponsor or third party

### **Conflicts That Cannot Be Managed**

Situations may arise where the Chair decides it is not possible to manage the conflict, in these circumstances the Chair will request a meeting with the individual concerned to discuss and agree the way forward. The register should be noted accordingly with the date of the agreement; the full details may or may not be included as determined by the agreement and level of confidentiality.

WPA Executive

February 2020

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