

EDF Conflict-of-Interest-Policy

For Committee and Executive Council Members

Version 1.1

Purpose:

This policy establishes guidelines for managing conflicts of interest within EDF for members of committees and the Executive Council to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of EDF and its member national federations.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of committees and the Executive Council

Definition of Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest arises when a member's private or personal interest interferes with their ability to make objective or impartial decisions that are in the best interests of EDF and its member national federations. Additionally, a conflict of interest may arise when a member is affiliated with multiple countries, as this can create uncertainty about their primary allegiance and may pose a risk of conflict of interest.

Types of Conflict of Interest:

There are several types of conflicts of interest that can arise for members of committees and the Executive Council, some of the most common include:

Financial interests: This includes any situation where a member has a financial stake in a particular country or region that could influence their decisions.

Personal or professional relationships: This includes any situation where a member has a close personal or professional relationship with someone who is involved in an issue being considered by EDF and that could influence their decisions.

Country representation: This includes any situation where a member represents the same member national federation on multiple EDF committees, as this can create an imbalance of power and influence that may not be in the best interests of EDF and its member national federations.

To ensure impartiality and fairness within the EDF governance structure, no member of the EDF Council can simultaneously serve on any EDF committee, including the Protest & Corrections Committee. This policy prevents potential conflicts of interest arising from the Council's oversight and appeal roles.

Here's the rationale behind this rule:

Oversight and Appeal: The Council functions as the ultimate authority for all committees, including the capacity to review and potentially overturn their decisions. Having Council members directly involved in committees could create situations where they are both judge and jury.

Neutrality and Fairness: To maintain public trust and ensure all parties receive fair treatment, committee members should be independent of any potential influence or bias. Excluding Council members removes this concern and upholds the integrity of the committees' proclamations.

National Allocation:

The goal of national allocation is to ensure balanced representation of member nations within EDF bodies by limiting national presence to 2 individuals.

Allocation criteria (applied sequentially):

1. National organisation affiliation: Primary consideration.
2. Nationality: If multiple affiliations exist.
3. Residence: If nationality is inconclusive.
4. Any other affiliation: Used only as a tiebreaker.

UK exception: The UK can utilise five allocations – England (ENG), Wales (WAL), Scotland (SCO), Northern Ireland (NIR), and the United Kingdom (UK). UK allocation encompasses all four home nations.

Example:

- Person A (UK) and Person B (ENG) are already on a committee.
- Person C (ENG) applies. Application is rejected as this would surpass the 2 ENG limit (UK is counted towards ENG limit).
- Person D (SCO) applies. Application accepted as this maintains balanced representation (2 ENG, 2 SCO).

Additional notes:

- Specific details and exceptions might exist based on the context of each EDF body.

Responsibilities:

Members of committees and the Executive Council have a responsibility to:

- Identify and disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the relevant Committee Chair or the Executive Council.
- Refrain from participating in any voting on an issue where there is a conflict of interest.

- Be transparent about their interests and recuse themselves from any proceedings where their interests are at stake.
- Be mindful of their own biases and seek guidance from the relevant Committee Chair or the Executive Council when making decisions.
- Consider the interests of EDF and its member national federations when making decisions.

Procedure for Addressing Conflicts of Interest:

If a member of a committee or the Executive Council believes that there is a conflict of interest related to national federation or country affiliation, they should immediately disclose this to the relevant Committee Chair or the Executive Council. The relevant Committee Chair or the Executive Council will then determine whether the conflict is actual or perceived and whether any action needs to be taken.

Requirement for Primary Affiliation for Committee Members:

Members of committees who are affiliated with multiple countries must declare their primary affiliation which should be supported by the affiliated country when applying for committee positions. This declaration will be considered when determining a member's eligibility for service on committees.

Enforcement:

Failure to comply with this policy, including the limitation on national federation representation and the requirement for primary affiliation, may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the committee or the Executive Council.

Review and Revision:

This policy will be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure that it remains effective in addressing conflicts of interest related to national federation representation and country affiliation for members of committees and the Executive Council.

Effective Date

2024-02-06