



Montana Amateur Hockey Association

Conflict of Interest Policy



It is in the best interest of the Montana Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) to be aware of and properly manage all conflicts of interest. This **Conflict of Interest Policy** is designed to help board members, staff and volunteers of the MAHA identify situations that present possible conflicts of interest and to provide MAHA with a procedure whereby such potential conflicts may be reviewed by an appropriate party when necessary. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

1. **Conflicts of Interest Defined.** In this Policy, a person with a conflict of interest is referred to as an "Interested Person." For purposes of this Policy, the following circumstances shall be deemed to create a Conflict of Interest:

- a. A director, officer, staff or volunteer, including a board member (or family member of any of the foregoing) is a party to a contract, or involved in a transaction with MAHA for goods or services.
- b. A director, officer, staff or volunteer, (or a family member of any of the foregoing) has a material financial interest in a transaction between MAHA and an entity in which the director, officer, staff or volunteer, or a family member of the foregoing, is a director, officer, agent, partner, associate, employee, trustee, personal representative, receiver, guardian, custodian, or other legal representative.
- c. A director, officer, employee or volunteer, (or a family member of the foregoing) is engaged in some capacity or has a material financial interest in a business or enterprise that competes with MAHA.

Other situations may create the appearance of a conflict, or present a duality of interests in connection with a person who has influence over the activities or finances of MAHA. All such circumstances should be disclosed to the board or staff, as appropriate, and a decision made as to what course of action the organization or individuals should take so that the best interests of MAHA are not compromised by the personal interests of stakeholders in the organization.

Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment. Accepting gifts, entertainment or other favors from individuals or entities can also result in a conflict or duality of interest when the party providing the gift/entertainment/favor does so under circumstances where it might be inferred that such action was intended to influence or possibly would influence the interested person in the performance of his or her duties. This does not preclude the acceptance of items of nominal or insignificant value or entertainment of nominal or insignificant value which are not related to any particular transaction or activity of MAHA.

2. **Definitions.**

- a. A "Conflict of Interest" is any circumstance described in Part 1 of this Policy.
- b. An "Interested Person" is any person serving as an officer, member of the Board of Directors, staff or volunteer of MAHA or a major donor to MAHA or anyone else who is in a position of control over MAHA who has a personal interest that is in conflict with the interests of MAHA.
- c. A "Family Member" is a spouse, parent, child or spouse of a child, brother, sister, or spouse of a brother or sister, of an Interested Person.

d. A "Material Financial Interest" in an entity is a financial interest of any kind, which, in view of all the circumstances, is substantial enough that it would, or reasonably could, affect an Interested Person's or Family Member's judgment with respect to transactions to which the entity is a party.

e. A "Contract or Transaction" is any agreement or relationship involving the sale or purchase of goods or services, the providing or receipt of a loan or grant, the establishment of any other type of financial relationship, or the exercise of control over another organization. The making of a gift to MAHA is not a Contract or Transaction.

3. **Procedures.**

a. Prior to board or committee action on a Contract or Transaction involving a Conflict of Interest, a director or committee member having a Conflict of Interest and who is in attendance at the meeting shall disclose all facts material to the Conflict of Interest. Such disclosure shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. If board members are aware that staff or other volunteers have a conflict of interest, relevant facts should be disclosed by the board member or by the interested person him/herself if invited to the board meeting as a guest for purposes of disclosure.

b. A director or committee member who plans not to attend a meeting at which he or she has reason to believe that the board or committee will act on a matter in which the person has a Conflict of Interest shall disclose to the chair of the meeting all facts material to the Conflict of Interest. The chair shall report the disclosure at the meeting and the disclosure shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

c. A person who has a Conflict of Interest shall not participate in or be permitted to hear the board's or committee's discussion of the matter except to disclose material facts and to respond to questions. Such person shall not attempt to exert his or her personal influence with respect to the matter, either at or outside the meeting.

d. A person who has a Conflict of Interest with respect to a Contract or Transaction that will be voted on at a meeting shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum for purposes of the vote.

e. The person having a conflict of interest may not vote on the Contract or Transaction and shall not be present in the meeting room when the vote is taken, unless the vote is by secret ballot. Such person's ineligibility to vote shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the Board of Directors of MAHA has a Conflict of Interest when he or she stands for election as an officer or for re-election as a member of the Board of Directors.

f. Interested Persons who are not members of the Board of Directors of MAHA or who have a Conflict of Interest with respect to a Contract or Transaction that is not the subject of Board or committee action, shall disclose to the Chair, or the Chair's designee, any Conflict of Interest that such Interested Person has with respect to a Contract or Transaction. Such disclosure shall be made as soon as the Conflict of Interest is known to the Interested Person. The Interested Person shall refrain from any action that may affect MAHA's participation in such Contract or Transaction.

In the event it is not entirely clear that a Conflict of Interest exists, the individual with the potential conflict shall disclose the circumstances to the Chair or the Chair's designee, who shall determine whether full board discussion is warranted or whether there exists a Conflict of Interest that is subject to this policy.

4. **Confidentiality.** Each director, officer, employee and volunteer shall exercise care not to disclose confidential information acquired in connection with disclosures of conflicts of interest or potential conflicts, which might be adverse to the interests of [Name of Nonprofit]. Furthermore, directors, officers, employees and volunteers shall not disclose or use information relating to the business of [Name of Nonprofit] for their personal profit or advantage or the personal profit or advantage of their Family Member(s).

5. **Administration of Policy.** Each board member, staff and volunteer shall be provided with and asked to review a copy of this Policy and to acknowledge in writing that he or she has done so.

a. Annually each director, officer, employee and volunteer shall complete a disclosure form identifying any relationships, positions or circumstances in which he or she is involved that he or she believes could contribute to a Conflict of Interest.

b. This policy shall be reviewed annually by each member of the Board of Directors. Any changes to the policy shall be communicated to all staff and volunteers

6. **Acknowledgement of Conflict of Interest Policy.** The undersigned hereby acknowledges that he or she has read MAHA's Conflict of Interest Policy, has had an opportunity to ask any questions that he or she may have about the policy, and understands and agrees to comply with the policy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Position: _____