



National Inshore Fishermen's Association CLG.

Code of Conduct for members, directors, employees and contractors

Introduction

In compliance with best practice and corporate governance requirements, and in order to ensure the highest standards of probity and accountability, this Code of Conduct sets out the minimum standard required of all members, directors, employees of and contractors to, the National Inshore Fishermen's Association CLG (NIFA). This Code applies in addition to, any statutory requirements, particularly those set out in the 2014 companies act and any other rules or procedures in place.

Purpose of NIFA

The purpose of NIFA is outlined in its constitution and articles of association as follows:

“To support the Inshore Fisheries Forums in a non-compete manner on issues of mutual interest and importance. To represent, protect and promote the interests of Inshore Fishermen operating Irish Registered fishing vessels. This definition of Inshore is solely that as of, the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) definition of Small Scale Coastal Fishers (SSCFs).”

Objectives of this code of conduct

The objectives of this Code of Conduct are:

1. To set out an agreed set of ethical principles for members, directors employees of and contractors to NIFA
2. To promote and maintain confidence and trust in the work of the Association
3. To prevent the development or acceptance of unethical practices within the Association.

General Principles

The members of the NIFA shall ensure that the core values of integrity, transparency, accountability and fairness are adhered to within NIFA

Integrity

1. Members, Directors, employees of and contractors to NIFA, shall disclose outside business or employment interests which they consider may be in conflict or potential conflict with the business of NIFA. Those declaring an interest must take no part in any decision where there is a conflict of interest.
2. Members of NIFA shall not use their position or the reputation or the resources of the NIFA (including time) to primarily benefit themselves or others with whom they have family, business or other ties



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Information

1. Directors of NIFA shall provide access to information on activities of NIFA in a way that is open and enhances accountability to the general membership.
2. Members of NIFA shall protect the confidentiality of all sensitive information, except where disclosure is authorised. This includes information circulated by email and other electronic format.

Policy for forming policy positions

1. The board will endeavour to reach a consensus on key policy issues for NIFA members and to record such policy positions.
2. Policy positions can be agreed at board meetings or between meetings by passing of written resolutions. The secretary will bring all policy positions to the attention of the general membership
3. Directors will have a mandate to represent agreed policy positions where directors are delegates on behalf of NIFA.
4. If a consensus cannot be reached on an issue, then majority/minority positions may be recorded as the NIFA position.

Obligations for directors

1. Directors of NIFA shall fulfil all regulatory and statutory obligations to which they are subject.
2. Directors shall use all reasonable endeavours to attend all meetings of the board
3. The secretary will advise the board when these meetings are taking place and directors will table proposals as required regarding any substitutions in advance of the meeting
4. Where the board is seeking to reach a position in advance of a meeting at which the position is required, members will reply as expediently as possible.

Responsibility

1. This Code of Conduct shall be provided to and retained by all members of the NIFA.
2. Members, directors employees and contractors to NIFA, will seek practical guidance and direction of the board of directors as required on ethical considerations which may arise.

Collective Responsibility

1. Since NIFA functions as a collective unit, individual members of NIFA other than any duly nominated members, should not make representations, issue statements or take any other action on behalf of NIFA, without the express authority of the board.
2. Members, directors, employees of or contactors to NIFA must not seek to obtain any personal advantage, fees or services by virtue of their status in relation to NIFA.



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Breaches of the Code of conduct, complaints and sanctions

Where a member feels the code of conduct has been breached, or any rules, statutory or otherwise, relevant to NIFA have been broken, they should notify the board in writing of the same. The board must then consider the issue within one month of the notification. Should the board decide that the code has been breached or rules have been broken it may decide to administer sanctions, at its discretion and as it sees appropriate. These sanctions may include expulsion from the association. Any decision by the board in such matters is final.

Review

The application and development of this Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually at the AGM, amendments to this code will require a 2/3 majority decision at a general meeting and must be proposed in advance of the same.