POLICY ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST & DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THE CLUB

The purpose of the Policy is to balance the considerations of ensuring decisions are not made on the basis of vested interests or family loyalties, of ensuring there is not an appearance of such in the perception of reasonable people, yet to ensure expertise and perspectives bought to debate by office-bearers are heard by the relevant decision making bodies, even principles from those who may have a vested interest.

1. Declaration of interests must be made in any club decision-making authority when the members of the body may not know or may need reminding that one of its members has such an interest.
2. Abstention from vote should occur in the case of a person benefiting directly from a decision except where the benefit is general to a large category of members. This abstention shall be recorded in any minutes.
3. Resources are not always allocated in equal shares throughout the Club and this may occur for quite sound reasons. (For instance access to a subsidised coach's convention may be allocated disproportionately to long serving coaches of championship teams) The coincidence of such allocation with the interest of some members of the decision making body should not invalidate such decisions provided they are approved by the members of the decision making body who will not benefit.
4. Where a specific contested appointment is being considered, or a position is a paid position, any applicant for that position or member of the applicant's family should not be present during the considerations.
5. Not with standing the above there should be ample opportunity for the decision-makers to be informed by the expertise and experience of any person with a vested interest. Where a policy is under consideration that person should be entitled to participate in any debate on the topic provided a declaration of interest has been made. Where a specific appointment(s) and/or selection(s) are to be made any person with a vested interest and relevant information or perspective, considered relevant, before debate takes place and the person leaves the meeting.
6. In the case of awarding of contracts or the purchase of goods and services any person with a personal or family financial vested interest shall abstain from voting.

Implementation

1. The Executive, the General Committee and each decision-making body within the club shall adopt the principles listed above.
2. A declaration of relevant form shall be completed by members of General Committee, and those with paid positions which entitles them to make more than trivial purchases. These forms shall be held by the President who shall also on any relevant information to a convenor of an area of Club activities. Only interests likely to be relevant need to be declared.