

**Sawgrass Foundation, Inc. (SGF)**

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

**For Directors and Officers and  
Members of a Committee with Board Delegated Powers**

**Article I -- Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Board Conflict of Interest Policy is to protect SGF's interests when it is contemplating entering a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interests of an officer or director of SGF or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction.
2. This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace, any applicable state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.
3. This policy is also intended to identify "independent" directors.

**Article II -- Definitions**

1. **Interested person** -- Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
2. **Financial interest** -- A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
  - a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which SGF has, or is contemplating, a transaction or arrangement,
  - b. A compensation arrangement with SGF or with any entity or individual with which SGF has a transaction or arrangement
  - c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.
  - d. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Board or Executive Committee decides that a conflict of interest exists, in accordance with this policy.
3. **Independent Director** -- A director shall be considered "independent" for the purposes of this policy if he or she is "independent" as defined in the instructions for the IRS 990.
  - a. is not, and has not been for a period of at least three years, an employee of Sawgrass CC or any entity in which SGF has a financial interest.
  - b. does not directly or indirectly have a significant business relationship with SGF, which might affect independence in decision-making.
4. **Nonfinancial interest**—is a nonfinancial interest that might influence an officer's, directors, or committee member's participation or vote in an action of their duties:
  - a. The person's relationship as an unpaid volunteer, officer or director of an organization that may be affected, directly or indirectly, by action to be taken, or not taken, by SGF.

- b. The person's personal, political, religious, friendship, or personal relationships which may be affected by an action to be taken, or not taken, by SGF.

### **Article III – Procedures**

1. **Duty to Disclose** -- In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of any financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Board or Executive Committee.
2. **Disclosure of nonfinancial interests.** Directors shall disclose nonfinancial interests generally in their annual statement, and specifically as individual interests arise. Nonfinancial interests are expected and shall not be reviewed unless a Board member (including the affected member) requests that the interest be reviewed under the Conflict of Interest Policy.
3. **Recusal of Self** – Any director may recuse himself or herself at any time from involvement in any decision or discussion in which the director believes he or she has or may have a conflict of interest, without going through the process for determining whether a conflict of interest exists.
4. **Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists** -- After disclosure of the financial interest all material facts will be disclosed and reviewed, including discussion with the interested person. Upon request by a Board member the material facts of a nonfinancial interest will be reviewed, including discussion with the interested party. Then the potentially conflicted Member shall leave the Board or Executive Committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board or Executive Committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
5. **Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest** - If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a financial conflict of interest, the Board or Executive Committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in SGF's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter the transaction or arrangement.
6. **Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy**
  - a. If the Board or Executive Committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
  - b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Board or Executive Committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

### **Article IV – Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the Board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

1. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the Board's or Executive Committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
2. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

#### **Article VI – Annual Statements**

1. Each director, principal officer, and member of a committee with Board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:
  - a. Has received a copy of the conflict-of-interest policy,
  - b. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
  - c. Understands SGF is charitable and, to maintain its federal tax exemption, it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.
2. Each voting member of the Board shall annually sign a statement which declares whether such person is an independent director.
  - a. If at any time during the year, the information in the annual statement changes materially, the director shall disclose such changes and revise the annual disclosure form.
  - b. The President shall regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with this policy by reviewing annual statements and taking such other actions as are necessary for effective oversight.

#### **Article VIII – Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, SGF may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the Board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

##### Revision History

Initial Conflict of Interest policy adopted April 1, 2020; Restated June 2, 2022

Revised and approved June 2, 2022

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Thomas H. Petersen, President SGF

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William Palmer, Vice President, SGF