

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Article I Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the interest of the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund® when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of director, chair, or team member of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. 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.

Article II Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, chair, or team member with 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 the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund or with any entity or individual with which the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. A potential ownership or invested interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Bobcat Pride Scholarship is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

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 the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all

material facts to the directors, chairs, and members of committees with board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the board meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a.** An interested person may make a presentation at the board meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b.** The director of the board shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c.** After exercising due diligence, the board shall determine whether the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d.** If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund'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 into the transaction or arrangement.
- e.** These steps shall be exercised prior to granting compensation and only if the disinterested directors agree to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a.** If the board 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 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:

- a.** 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 committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b.** 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 V
Compensation

- a.** A voting member of the board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b.** A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c.** No voting member of the board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Article VI
Annual Statements

Each director, chair, or team member with board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a.** Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b.** Has read and understands the policy,
- c.** Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d.** Understands the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

VII
Periodic Reviews

To ensure the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a.** Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b.** Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII
Use of Outside Experts

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

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Date _____

Name

Position

Please describe below any relationships, transactions, positions you hold (volunteer or otherwise), or circumstances that you believe could contribute to a conflict of interest between the Bobcat Pride Scholarship® and your personal interest, financial or otherwise:

_____ I HAVE NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

_____ I HAVE THE FOLLOWING CONFLICT OF INTEREST to report (please specify other nonprofit or for-profit boards you (and your spouse) sit on, any for-profit businesses for which you or an immediate family member are an officer or director, or a majority shareholder, and the name of your employer and any businesses you or a family member own):

1)

2)

I hereby certify that the information set forth above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have reviewed, and agree to abide by, the Policy of Conflict of Interest of the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund.

Signature _____

Date _____