



The Committee of Ethics

1. The Immediate Past President of IAPCO automatically takes up the post of the Chair of the Committee of Ethics and remains in post until a new Immediate Past President of Council is in place. The Immediate Past President appoints a Co-Chair from the members of the IAPCO Council as well as one other Council member to sit on the Committee of Ethics.
2. The Committee of Ethics focuses on ethical issues and does not handle financial or business process disputes.
3. IAPCO HQ will notify the Member of any complaint regarding an ethical issue that is received by IAPCO HQ. At this time, the IAPCO Member is asked to provide comment in response to the complaint.
4. The complaint and Member response is then presented by HQ to the Chair of the Committee of Ethics and notification of this is sent to the complainant.
5. The Committee of Ethics will consider all complaints about Members using IAPCO's Code of Conduct as approved by the IAPCO Council in Athens in September 2009.
6. The Committee of Ethics shall make a decision as to whether or not there is a case to answer having reference to the IAPCO Code of Ethics. The Committee of Ethics must have no contact with either the client or the Member. Any contact with the client or Member shall only be through IAPCO HQ.
7. If the Committee of Ethics finds that the complaint is unjustified then:
 - a. The Chair will advise and provide HQ with a response that should then be sent by HQ to both the Member and the complainant.
 - b. In doing so HQ will advise the complainant that the Committee of Ethics has found no case to answer. It shall not be necessary for the President to give reasons unless the matter is of such a nature that the Committee of Ethics considers important to do so in which case the Committee of Ethics shall provide the President with such reasons.
8. If the Committee of Ethics finds that there is a case to answer which is not of a serious nature then it shall:
 - a. Endeavour to suggest ways in which the complaint can be resolved by the President. The recommendation shall be sent to the President and Council for the President to act upon and to discuss the matter with both the complainant and the Member to resolve the issue.

- b. If the President and Council are unable to resolve the situation based on that recommendation then the matter shall be referred back to the Committee of Ethics to complete their finding based on the information before the Committee.
 - c. If during this consideration, the Committee of Ethics considers that it requires further information it shall seek that information, through communication from HQ, from either the complainant or the Member and shall then make its findings and recommendation to the President and Council based on that information.
 2. If the Committee of Ethics finds that a complaint is of a serious nature it shall either:
 - a. Seek further information from the complainant and the Member through communications via HQ,
 - b. Consider the information and then make a finding and recommendation to the President and Council as to whether the Member should be suspended from membership from IAPCO for a period of time and state what the period of time should be,
 - c. or whether the membership should be terminated.

(Note: To terminate a membership the proper IAPCO procedures need to be followed once the recommendation is received by Council).
 3. In any instance where further information is sought from the Member or the complainant a time limit of no more than one month shall be given for a response to be received, with advice that should, the response not be received within that period, then a decision will be made based on the information already held.
11. The President may empower the Chair to undertake the appropriate action directly with the complainant and/or member if felt required and appropriate to do so.
12. Any decision made by the Committee of Ethics shall be by simple majority vote of the Council. The Chair shall not have a casting vote.
13. Any findings of the Committee of Ethics shall be communicated only by the direction of the Council.

HQ/SECRETARIAT

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISERS ("IAPCO") has a registered office at c/o Prager Dreifuss, Muhlebackstrasse 6, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland, [registration no. CH-020.6.900.220-3/](#). Administration and secretariat services are provided by outsourced contractors based in UK and Belgium. Contact details: info@iapco.org

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