

Policies 101

A key responsibility of the Board is to set, implement, review, and revise policies. Policies flow from the bylaws and the mandate of the Board, and guide the manner in which the Board and its directors operate. Policies generally clarify who does what and how they do it.

For example, a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy tell directors how to act responsibly as a director, what kind of behavior is expected of them, and how to ensure they comply with these expectations.

Policies usually provide high-level direction to ensure consistency and clarity in decision making for all directors. They also include a review date that allows directors to evaluate and update policies as needed to ensure they are current and applicable. Well-written policies help ensure every director is on the same page.

At a minimum, it is a good idea to implement the following policies:

1. [Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest](#)
2. Hiring
3. [Privacy](#)