

Professional Code of Conduct

In achieving membership of the Association of Play Industries - API, all members have to meet the required standards for operational proficiency and integrity plus demonstrate they possess the relevant commercial acumen required by the Association. The members are bound by this Professional Code of Conduct, and by The Federation of Sports and Play Associations' Articles of Association, all intended to maintain a high and improving standard of service to the industry.

1. Criteria for Membership

In order to be admitted to the Association of Play Industries, all members must meet the required standards of experience, proficiency and commercial competence which is appropriate to their section of membership. Member Companies may be required to demonstrate that they continue to comply with these membership criteria on an annual basis.

2. Financial Stability

All members within API are required to comply with the Association's criteria for financial stability. The Association will from time to time request management accounts or where necessary copies of audited accounts. The Association will carry out financial checks on its members randomly, or where they have reason to believe that financial stability of a member is in question. All financial information will be treated in confidence.

Members are required to provide such information on a timely basis. Where such information is not provided the Association reserves the right to suspend membership for up to 3 months and if deemed appropriate expel the member.

Members are required to provide annual play related turnover on an annual basis.

3. API Membership

3.1 Membership Sections

Members should not claim, infer or imply that they belong to any other membership Section for which they have not applied or been accepted.

Members who expand their business activities and subsequently become eligible to apply for membership of the additional section should notify the Association if they wish to be registered under additional sections. The application procedure laid down by the Association and relevant Section would apply.

3.2 API Logo

Members of the API are encouraged to promote their membership of their Association, on stationery, website(s) and promotional material. Members shall abide by the current guidelines published for the correct use of the API Logo.

4. Marketing

Members are encouraged to provide the Association with material which the Association can use to promote its members. This material will be used to promote the membership as a whole and will not favour any one member. Site specific material will carry the members Logo should the member agree and the Association agree, but any general photography and generic material will remain anonymous.

5. Customer Service

Member companies of the API have committed themselves to maintain a high standard of quality and service to their customers. All member companies shall comply with the recommendations of the relevant British and European Standards.

Quotations, specifications and other pre-contractual information should aim to be clear and helpful to the customer.

6. Technical Mediation Service

The API maintains a Mediation Panel to assist in providing impartial assistance in resolving disputes between member companies and their customers. This service is restricted to technical rather than contractual aspects.

Parties requesting and agreeing to mediation are expected to be bound by the findings.

The Association does not act in any legal capacity in such events but will draw on the experience of the panel and relevant members to seek a satisfactory resolution.

Any reasonable costs incurred by the mediation service are to be met by the member company.

7. Regulations

Members endorse and affirm their responsibilities to their clients under current legislation and must comply fully with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and recommended British and European Standards.

8. Education & Training

Members are encouraged to support any training activities provided by the Association for the industry and continually develop their Staff.

9. Annual Return

Payment of the annual membership fee is confirmation that the API member company agrees to the following:

- Renewal of the members' agreement to abide by the Professional Code of Conduct
- Provide annual turnover figure (see below)
- Provide monthly order entry statistics (including historical data where applicable)
- Confirmation of compliance with the Association's current membership criteria
- Acceptance of the Association's Constitution
- Confirmation that the relevant Insurances are in place

10. Conduct

Members and their officers and partners shall not act in such a way as to bring the Association or the Federation of Sports and Play Associations or Industry into disrepute. Members shall not maliciously or recklessly damage or attempt to damage the reputation or prospects of others.

11. Past Members

After a member has ceased to be a member of the Association for any reason; it shall not indicate any ongoing association or connection with the Association or, for the purpose of obtaining or retaining any business or custom, claim, represent or otherwise indicate any past association with the Association.

Declaration

We agree to abide by API's Professional Code of Conduct.

Play Related Turnover for the preceding year amounts to £ _____

Company: _____

Name of signatory: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

The Association of Play Industries operates under the umbrella of the Federation of Sports and Play Associations' (FSPA); the national trade body responsible for representing 13 Associations in the UK's sport and play industries.

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