

The Three D's of Governance Overview

Nonprofit corporation law has three overriding standards board members need to follow when serving their organization. To simplify the legal and fiscal requirements, board members can reference the Three D's of governance.

These three principles will help guide all board activities, decisions and strategic planning.

1. Duty of Care

Utilize your best judgment when making decisions that impact the association. Board leadership needs to be responsible for their decisions by being reasonably informed and having their members' best interests in mind.

Tips for exercising the Duty of Care

1. Be an active participant with the board and their meetings
2. Be diligent in providing oversight and with the decision making process
3. Act in good faith
4. Consider the facts
5. Review meeting minutes
6. Have a working knowledge of the association's bylaws, policies and procedures
7. Be fiscally responsible
8. When needed, utilize qualified experts
9. Know the benefits provided to USA Hockey associations and their respective volunteers



2. Duty of Loyalty

Prioritize the organization's best interest when making decisions, put aside professional and personal interests.

Tips for exercising the Duty of Loyalty

1. Conflicts of interest
 - a. Disclose any and all conflicts
 - b. When a conflict does arise, disclosure of the conflict needs to be made and that individual should abstain from decisions relating to that item
2. Don't use information obtained from your role within the association for personal gain
3. Association assets should never be utilized to benefit another organization
4. Always act in the best interests of the association
 - a. Prioritize the needs of the association first

3. Duty of Obedience

Follow the association's mission statement when making decisions. Additionally, have the association operate within the scope of the law, the association's mission and bylaws.

Tips for exercising the Duty of Loyalty

1. Build trust that the association is being fiscally responsible
2. Board members must act on activities that he or she believes to be illegal
3. Abide by the rules of USA Hockey and the local governing District and Affiliate
4. Act consistently with the association's mission statement

USA Hockey provides the foundation for the sport of ice hockey in America; helps young people become leaders, even Olympic heroes; and connects the game at every level while promoting a lifelong love of the sport.



