



---

## Schools

12<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Members Interests – Clarification and Disclosure

Dear Officers,

I write to you today to outline any interests that I currently have and to seek clarification that these do not contravene the interests of the England Rugby Football Schools Union, in accordance to the ERFSU PROTOCOLS REGARDING MEMBER INTERESTS.

The two examples given in the process are:

- The individual, the individual's family, those living with them or close friends stand to gain financially.
- The individual is associated with an organisation, such as a school or club, which will benefit from the decision or recommendation.

I am a co-founded of the Sport Collision Injury Collective (SportCIC.com) for which has the following three aims:

- Empirically evaluate the outcomes of, and attitudes toward, injuries and sport collision through academic scholarship.
- Educate parents and sport stakeholders as to the necessity of removing contact or collision sports, in order to reduce the risk of injury.
- Advocating changes in policy, organisation, governance and attitude regarding the impacts of collision in sport for children.

The focus of the work in this organisation is to improve player-safety in a number of sports that involve physical contact and collisions. This organisation receives no funding and members of this organisation also receive no funding. I, therefore, definitely do not have any pecuniary (financial) interests that would or could conflict with the England Rugby Football Schools Union.

The second clause suggests that for there to be a conflict of interest, an organisation must "benefit from the decision or recommendation". Decisions based upon player-safety may indeed align to the aims of the Sport Collision Injury Collective. Yet, as an organisation, they and I, will not benefit from such decisions. In fact, the beneficiaries would be member schools, participants, coaches, referees and so on. It is in my view that this does not amount to a conflict of interest.

Additionally, in a political sense, a non-pecuniary interest must be disclosed but would allow for contribution to discussions. As such, is there a reason why a higher standard has been implemented within the ERFSU, for which may have the unintended outcome of silencing important voice?

---

Teamwork Respect Enjoyment Discipline Sportsmanship

An Industrial and Provident Society Registered Number 27981R whose registered office is at the above address.

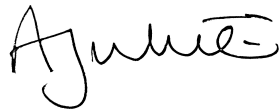
The RFU Rose device is a registered trade mark of the Rugby Football Union and subject to extensive trade mark registration worldwide.

If, however, you have a different perspective, please could you respond in writing to ensure openness and clarity in the matter.

My assumption is that the only conflict of interest would be the usage and disclosure of internal documentation. Of course, this may, indeed, be more relevant discussion in terms of whistleblowing and confidentiality. I have not, yet, seen a policy related to confidentiality. As the "ERFSU is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability", may I suggest that we now start to publish minutes, reports and decisions for our members to read, with only the most sensitive business matters being exempt.

I look forward to hearing from you in response to the above matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam White', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Adam White**

Honorary Secretary, Oxfordshire Rugby Football Schools Union  
ERFSU Representative (Oxfordshire)