



Board Advisory Think Tank for Professional Circuits Accreditation

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Table of Contents

1. Establishment and Status.....	3
2. Purpose.....	3
3. Authority & Reporting.....	3
4. Scope	4
5. Composition.....	4
6. Conflicts of Interest.....	5
7. Ways of Working.....	5
8. Deliverables and Sequence	6
9. Duration and Review.....	6
10. Approval	6

1. Establishment and Status

The EPF Board establishes the Board Advisory Think Tank for Professional Circuits Accreditation (the "Think Tank") as a **strictly advisory** working group. The Think Tank holds no delegated decision-making authority. It does not accredit, sanction, approve or reject any circuit, operator or event.

2. Purpose

The Think Tank is asked to prepare, for the Board's consideration, a proportionate and credible framework through which EPF may recognise responsible professional and semi-professional circuits operating in Europe. Its work should:

- establish minimum European standards for circuit organisation, integrity and player protection;
 - protect players and the integrity of competition;
 - define how national federations are engaged, and preserve their authority in their own territories;
 - support calendar coordination and cooperation between circuits and federations;
 - strengthen EPF's institutional position without conferring commercial advantage on any operator.
-

3. Authority & Reporting

Body	Role
EPF Board	Approves the accreditation policy, the standards, the final framework, and any delegation of decision-making authority. Approves these Terms of Reference and any amendment to them.
Executive Committee	Supervises implementation within Board-approved policy, and transmits the Think Tank's recommendations to the Board.
Think Tank	Prepares recommendations, drafts, evidence and options. Advises only.
Operator advisory group	Consulted on feasibility and operational burden. No vote, no drafting authority, no role in assessment.

Board approval points

1. These Terms of Reference, before substantive work begins.
 2. The draft accreditation criteria, before any pilot assessment is undertaken.
 3. The final framework, before it becomes operational.
-

4. Scope

Within scope. Definitions of accreditable circuits; minimum standards; the assessment method; procedural safeguards; the role of national federations; the design of a pilot; and recommendations on structure, resourcing and any future fees.

Expressly reserved to the Board and outside the Think Tank's scope. The following are reserved and are not to be treated as settled by any Think Tank output:

- the sanctioning or recognition of individual events, which is distinct from circuit accreditation;
- the licensing or conditions of use of EPF branding and marks;
- any grant of exclusivity, official championship status, or preferential commercial treatment to any operator;
- governance representation for circuit operators within EPF structures;
- any commercial, sponsorship or media arrangement between EPF and an operator.

Accreditation, if later adopted, does not imply exclusivity, official status, or automatic approval of every event a circuit operates.

5. Composition

Composition

Membership is defined by role rather than by named individual. The core group comprises five to seven members:

- Chair, independent of any circuit operator;
- EPF Board representative;
- national federation representative;
- player representative;
- tournament or competition operations representative;
- legal or governance adviser, where available.

The Chair reports to the Board via the Executive Committee. Subject-matter experts may be invited to individual meetings without becoming members.

No circuit operator holds a core seat while standards affecting operators and their competitors are being developed. Operators contribute through the operator advisory group, to which every existing and future circuit is invited on identical terms.

6. Conflicts of Interest

- Every member declares, on appointment and thereafter as circumstances change, any direct or indirect interest in a circuit, tournament organiser or commercial partner.
 - Declarations are recorded in a register held by the Chair and are a standing first item at each meeting.
 - No member participates in the consideration of a matter affecting their own organisation or a direct competitor.
 - A member who acquires a disqualifying interest withdraws from the relevant work, and from membership where the conflict is structural.
-

7. Ways of Working

- **Meetings.** Every four to six weeks, by videoconference, normally 60–75 minutes.
 - **Quorum.** Two members, together with either the Chair or the EPF Board representative. A deliverable submitted to the Board additionally requires that all core members have had a reasonable opportunity to comment on it.
 - **Recommendations.** Reached by consensus where possible. Where consensus is not reached, the recommendation records the alternative view so that the Board sees both.
 - **Records.** The Chair maintains meeting notes, an action list, the draft framework, the interests register and a record of stakeholders consulted.
 - **Confidentiality.** Deliberations, drafts and any commercial information supplied by operators remain confidential. Members do not speak publicly on behalf of the Think Tank; external communication is a matter for the Board.
 - **Equal treatment.** All operators receive the same information, the same invitations and the same opportunity to be heard.
 - **Resources.** Members serve voluntarily and without remuneration. The Think Tank operates without an allocated budget, save for the legal, governance and insurance review at paragraph 8.
-

8. Deliverables and Sequence

Stage	Deliverable to the Board
Establishment	These Terms of Reference
Market review	Overview of circuits operating in Europe
Drafting	Draft framework: scope boundaries, national federation role, minimum standards, assessment method and procedural safeguards
Pre-pilot gate	A focused legal, governance and insurance review, addressing competition-law, liability and reputational exposure. This must be completed and considered before any pilot assessment begins.
Pilot	Private assessments against draft criteria. No accreditation is granted or announced publicly at this stage
Final	Final framework, procedure, proposed permanent structure, resourcing and any fee recommendation

9. Duration and Review

The Think Tank is constituted until the Board has determined whether to adopt a permanent accreditation framework. The Board reviews these Terms of Reference, and the Think Tank's progress against them, six months after approval or before any pilot assessment commences, whichever is the earlier. On adoption of a permanent structure, the Think Tank is dissolved and its functions transfer to the body the Board establishes. The Board may amend or revoke these Terms of Reference at any time.

10. Approval

Approval	
Approved by	EPF Board
Date of approval	4 th September 2026
Version	1.0
Next review	Six months from approval, or before the pilot commences