

.INDRP Code of Ethical Conduct for Panellists

The purpose of adopting INDRP Code of Ethics for Panellists is not only to serve as a guide to the conduct of Panellists, but also to promote public confidence in .INDRP promoted by NIXI (.IN Registry).

By accepting to serve, Panellists undertake to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the following Rules:

Rule 1

Every chosen Panellist must be and remain independent of the Parties.

Rule 2

Every prospective Panellist shall, for each case given, sign a statement of independence or disclose in writing to the parties, and to the INDRP Secretariat, any such matter which might be of such a nature as to call into question the Panellist's independence in the eyes of the parties.

Rule 3

A Panellist shall immediately disclose in writing to the parties and INDRP Secretariat any facts or circumstances affecting the independence of the panellist, which may arise in the course of such Panellist's tenure.

Rule 4

A Panellist has an overriding obligation to act fairly and impartially as between the parties, at all stages of the proceedings.

Rule 5

A Panellist shall be free from bias and shall disclose any interest or relationship likely to affect his/her impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. This is an ongoing duty and does not cease until the administrative proceedings have been concluded. Failure to make such disclosure itself may create an appearance of bias, and may be a ground for disqualification.

Rule 6

A Panellist shall not permit outside pressure, fear of criticism or any form of self-interest to affect his/her decisions. A panellist shall decide all the issues submitted for determination after careful deliberation and with the exercise of his/her own impartial judgement.

Rule 7

A Panellist in communicating with the parties shall avoid impropriety or the appearance of impropriety. There shall be no private communications between a Panellist and any party, regarding substantive issues in the case. All communications, other than proceedings at a hearing, should be in writing. Any correspondence shall remain private and confidential and shall not be copied to anyone other than the parties to the dispute and the Administrative Body, without the agreement of the parties.

Rule 8

A Panellist shall not accept any gift or substantial hospitality, directly or indirectly, from any party to the INDRP proceedings.

Rule 9

Personal hearing will be conducted only in rare circumstances, and if warranted, will be carried out at the notified address of the panellist.

Rule 10

A Panellist shall not act in any judicial, arbitration or similar proceedings relating to any .IN domain name dispute, whether as a judge, as an arbitrator, as an expert, or as a legal counsel or advisor of a Party, before any Court or Forum, if he has already been appointed as a Panellist by .INDRP Secretariat in the said .IN domain name dispute.

Rule 11

A Panellist shall only accept an appointment if he has time available to proceed with the administrative proceedings. Every Panellist shall endeavour to submit the arbitral award within timeframe given under INDRP proceedings. Failure to follow the aforesaid time period would result in automatic removal from INDRP Panel, and the specific case may also be transferred to another arbitrator.

Rule 12

A Panellist shall be faithful to the relationship of trust and confidentiality inherent in that office.