Fair Rubber Association (FReV)

Membership Application and Termination Policy

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1. Purpose

This Policy defines the principles, eligibility framework, and governance rules governing admission to and termination of membership in the Fair Rubber e.V. ("FReV").

It ensures that membership decisions:

a) Support the statutory purpose of FReV as set out in § 2 of the Constitution;

b) Protect the credibility, integrity, and reputation of the Fair Rubber system and logo;

c) Are conducted in a transparent, impartial, accountable, and non-discriminatory manner.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all applications for membership and all forms of membership termination across all membership categories defined in § 4 of the Constitution.

It is binding on the Board, the Secretariat, and any delegated bodies involved in membership matters.

3. Definitions

Applicant: A natural or legal person applying for membership in FReV.

Board: The governing body of FReV as defined in §8 of the Constitution.

Commercial Interest: Direct economic involvement in the trade in, or processing of, natural rubber.

Commercial Member: A legal person **with a commercial interest in the trade in natural rubber**, who has been admitted as a member with voting rights in accordance with § 4(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Member without Commercial Interest: A natural or legal person **without a commercial interest in the trade in natural rubber,** who has been admitted as a member with voting rights in accordance with § 4(1)(b) of the Constitution.

Non-Compliance: Failure to meet applicable requirements of the Fair Rubber Constitution, policies, standards, or contractual obligations.

Secretariat: The operational management body of FReV, acting under delegation from the Board.

Supporting Member: A natural or legal person admitted as a supporting member **without voting rights**, in accordance with § 4(1) of the Constitution.

4. Principles Governing Membership Admission

Membership admission shall be guided by the following principles:

a) Alignment with the purpose and Fair Trade principles of FReV;
b) Contribution to the development and expansion of sustainable natural rubber practices in agriculture, manufacturing or trading;
c) Protection of FReV against legal, reputational, operational, and financial risks;
d) Equal treatment of applicants within the same membership category;
e) Respect for the legitimate interests of existing members and the integrity of the system;
f) Decisions taken free from conflicts of interest and based on documented and objective considerations.

5. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

a) Recognize and commit to the Constitution and applicable FReV policies and standards;

b) Demonstrate the willingness and capacity to comply with Fair Rubber requirements, including those related to premium payment, reporting, and logo use where applicable;
c) Refrain from conduct that may undermine Fair Trade principles, environmentally responsible sourcing, or consumer trust in claims.

Specific eligibility requirements may apply depending on membership category, including commercial involvement, logo use, or non-commercial mandate.

6. Membership Termination

6.1. Grounds for Termination

Membership ends because of death for natural persons or deletions from the relevant register for legal entities or the dissolution of the Association.

Membership may be terminated in accordance with § 4(3) of the Constitution by:

a) Voluntary withdrawal by the member in writing, subject to applicable notice periods;
b) Exclusion for non-payment of membership fees following due notice;
c) Expulsion due to conduct likely to harm the reputation, credibility, or integrity of FReV, including misuse of the Fair Rubber logo or non-compliance with Fair Rubber requirements or contractual obligations. Reasons for expulsion may result from substantiated findings under the Fair Rubber Allegations Policy.

6.2. Effect of Termination

Upon termination:

a) All rights associated with membership, including logo use, cease immediately;
b) Fees and contributions already paid are not refundable, in accordance with § 3(4) of the Constitution.

7. Decision-Making Authority

The Board is the primary authority responsible for approving or rejecting membership applications, in accordance with §4 of the Constitution.

The Members' Assembly shall decide on applications only where constitutionally required following objections.

The Secretariat manages the application and termination process under delegation from the Board and ensures documentation, consistency, and due process.

8. Transparency and Non-Discrimination

FReV commits to a transparent and non-discriminatory membership system.

Decisions shall not be based on nationality, geographic origin, size, or organizational form, provided eligibility criteria are met.

An updated list of membership shall be published on the Fair Rubber website.

9. Review and Oversight

This Policy shall be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier if required due to legal, regulatory, or system changes.

Insights from allegations, audits, or systemic risks may trigger an earlier review.

Amendments require Board approval and shall be documented and communicated in accordance with FReV governance procedures.

End of Policy Document