Overview

Role clarity is the key to effective board governance. Boards of directors that define the scope of their authority and responsibilities are more effective than boards with shifting roles based on current circumstances. The following collection of policies defines a distinct role for the board.

It is important to recognize that policy making, and decision making are two different methods of governance. Board level decision-making tends to place the Executive Director and staff in the role of "proposers" of ideas and the board signs-off or not. In a policy making model, the board describes the circumstances in which the staff and volunteers can best make decisions.

This approach is based on a process that emphasizes the board's role as steward and stakeholder representative. This is a very different role for many boards, which basically manage the organization and are involved on day-to-day decision-making.

Mission

The USBC is the National Governing Body for Bowling. Our mission is to provide services, resources and the standards for the sport.

Vision

Our vision is to continue to be the leading authority to the sport, servicing the needs of bowling.

Promise

Our promise is to celebrate the past, be mindful of the present and ensure bowling's future through thoughtful research, planning and delivery.

Ends Policy

The USBC Board of Directors services its members and the bowling industry by:

1. Representing and protecting the interest of the stakeholders.
2. Providing the long-term direction for the organization.
3. Monitoring performance and ensuring proper management of the organization.
4. Ensuring the organization is operated according to the laws.
5. Exercising reasonable care in safeguarding the organization's assets.
6. Placing limitations on the actions of the Executive Director and staff.
7. Monitoring performance of the organization.

Criteria for Board Action

The following items are guidelines that should be included/addressed prior to board taking action.
1. Do we know, and can we clearly state what success will look like for this project?
2. How does it advance our mission?
3. How important is it?
4. Do we have (or can we get) adequate personnel to implement it?
5. Can/should it be outsourced?
6. Will the Executive Director be accountable for achievement?
7. Is it realistic, with a stretch?
8. Can we afford to do it…find the fiscal resources to do it… or give up something else in order to do it?
9. Can we afford not to do it?
10. Does it have, should it have, or can it have, revenue potential?
11. Will it be a benefit to a significant number of core members?
12. Will it enhance the image of the organization and its members?
13. What is the project's expected completion date?
14. When will the board get its first progress report?