

Eligibility Criteria for Appointment to the NSRDDA Board and Statutory Committees

Policy Number:	Next Review Date:
Approved by: NSRDDA Board	Approval Date: August 14, 2025; amended Sept. 26, 2025

1. Purpose

Board appointments to the NSRDDA Board or Statutory Committees are vital to ensuring effective governance, public protection, and the integrity of the professions of dentistry and dental assisting. In order to maintain a diverse, qualified, and impartial membership on the Board and the Statutory Committees, eligibility criteria for such appointments have been established by the Act, Regulations, By-laws and Board governance policies.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all nominations and Board appointments to the NSRDDA Board or Statutory Committees.

3. Policy Statement

(a) General Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for appointment to the Board or a Statutory Committee, candidates must meet the following criteria:

(b) Legal eligibility

- a. Be at least 18 years of age
- b. Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- c. Reside in Nova Scotia

(c) Professional and public representation

- a. For Registrant Board Members – hold current, active licenses, be in good standing with the Regulator, have been licensed for a minimum of five years in their profession in Nova Scotia or at the discretion of the Board, and meet the professional profiles outlined in Article 8.1 of the Bylaws
- b. For Public Representative Members – must not be or have ever been registered with the NSRDDA
- c. Demonstrated understanding of or interest in health profession regulation, public service and ethical standards

(d) Good character and integrity

- a. No history of licensing sanctions, criminal convictions, or any other conduct that could negatively affect the reputation of the Board or Regulator
 - b. Ability to act impartially, maintain confidentiality, and exercise sound judgment
- (e) Capacity to serve
 - a. Ability to commit sufficient time to attend meetings, training, and related activities
 - b. Willingness to actively contribute to the work of the Board and its Committees
 - c. No conflicts of interest that would interfere with fulfilling duties

(b) Additional Criteria for Board Members

- Experience in leadership, governance, or management roles is preferred
- Knowledge of health professions regulation, public policy, or legal framework
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including government, professionals and the public
- The Governance and Human Resources Committee will identify skills gaps or diversity needs, which will be used in conjunction with the Competency Matrix to determine Board member appointments.

(c) Additional Criteria for Statutory Committee Members

- Relevant professional expertise or lived experience pertaining to the Committee's specific mandate, in keeping with the Committee's desired competencies
- Commitment to fair and unbiased decision-making processes
- Ability to understand and apply relevant legislation, standards and policies

(d) Exclusions and Disqualifications

Under s. 8 of the Act,

- No employees of the NSRDDA may serve on its Board or any of its Committees
- Subject to the regulations, no current or former Board member of a professional association may serve on the Board or a Statutory Committee or Joint Panel for that profession until 24 months have elapsed since the member's last day as a Board member of the professional association
- Subject to the regulations, members of the Board may not serve as a member of a Statutory Committee
- Subject to the next bullet, registrants of another regulated health profession may not serve as a public representative on the NSRDDA Board or Statutory Committees
- For further clarity, a member of the Board may serve on the Registration and Licensing Committee or the Complaints Committee provided that no more than one Board member serves on a panel of those Committees (as per Section 17 of the *Regulated Health Professions General Regulations*)
- Former license-holders of a regulated health profession in Nova Scotia or any jurisdiction may serve as a public representative on the NSRDDA Board or Statutory Committees or Joint Panels if:
 - There is no more than one former license-holder or equivalent on the Board, Committee or Joint Panel; and

- The former license-holder or equivalent is not a former license-holder or equivalent in a dentistry or dental assisting profession.

Furthermore, individuals are ineligible if they:

- Are currently an undischarged bankrupt
- Are involved in ongoing legal proceedings that may impair their ability to serve
- Hold a position that creates a direct conflict of interest with the Regulator's work
- Have been removed or resigned from a regulatory Board or Committee for cause within the past 5 years

(e) Commitment to EDIRA Principles

The NSRDDA is committed to embedding Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Accessibility (EDIRA) in all aspects of our governance, including appointments to our Board and Statutory Committees. We believe that embracing these principles reflects the diverse communities we serve, strengthens our ability to regulate effectively, and protects the public.

We encourage applications from all qualified candidates, including those from underrepresented and equity-deserving groups.

5. Monitoring and Policy Review

The Chair of the Governance and Human Resources Committee will ensure that this policy is reviewed in accordance with the Board's policy review cycle or as required by significant operational or environmental changes.

6. Accountability

The Board Chair and the Chair of the Governance and Human Resources Committee are accountable for ensuring compliance with this policy.