



MPA Publisher Membership Code of Conduct

Adopted by the MPA Board of Directors on 6 February 2019

1) Purpose

It is the role of the Board of Directors of the Music Publishers Association to determine the terms and conditions of membership of the MPA, in accordance with the MPA Articles of Association. This document forms part of those terms and conditions from the date above.

2) Definition of Music Publisher

Article 16(a) requires that “No person or corporation and no nominee of a firm shall be admitted to membership unless he/she or such corporation or firm is a **Music Publisher**.”

“**Music Publisher**” means a company, person or other legal entity who has entered into agreement(s) with songwriters and/or authors and/or composers and/or other music publishers or owners of rights to take an assignment, a licence or other grant of rights including, but without limitation, of copyright and/or authors’ rights in their musical works and/or lyrics for the purposes of the publication, exploitation and administration of them by any means now known or hereafter created.

The MPA needs to be satisfied that an applicant is already trading as a music publisher in order to accept a membership application. This is usually signified by publisher membership of PRS for Music or other CMO and accordingly MPA will usually require a CAE/IPI number. For those to whom this is not applicable (for instance, printed music publishers), MPA may require other evidence of engagement in publishing activities (i.e. the publication, exploitation and administration of the relevant rights) before admission to membership.

3) Member conduct

Without prejudice to other remedies, under Article 18 the Board may invoke a disciplinary procedure to suspend or remove membership where minded to do so (which procedure includes rights of appeal and a hearing in accordance with the principles of natural justice). Circumstances where this may be invoked include where an MPA member’s conduct falls short of the Board’s expectations.

In particular, MPA members are required to collect and distribute money to writers in an honest manner in accordance with their agreements. In proven instances of deliberate non-payment, underpayment, improper accounting and undercollection of applicable monies to writers, the MPA Board is highly likely to invoke the disciplinary procedures under Article 18.

4) Use of MPA Logo

MPA members who continue to be members (including but without limitation to have paid membership fees) and to meet the membership criteria and terms and conditions may use the MPA logo to communicate their membership of MPA in connection with their member business activities, so long as such use (and any other related content) is not offensive or obscene or derogatory in nature or defamatory of any party. The MPA will reserve the right in relation to each member to require a member to stop using the MPA logo following a Board decision to that effect at the Board’s discretion.