



## Conflicts of Interest Policy

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## 1 Purpose

This policy details how Valutrades Limited (the Firm) will identify and manage conflicts of interest in respect of its business activities.

The Firm is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and, as such, will act in accordance to the Conflicts of Interest rules as defined in the FCA Handbook, which will take precedence over the requirements of this policy.

## 2 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly, at least once a year, and amended as considered necessary by the Firm's Management Body in the event of changing circumstances or regulations.

## 3 Responsibilities

The CEO of the Firm is responsible for ensuring that its systems, controls and procedures are able to identify, manage and control or prevent any potential and actual conflicts of interest that may arise.

## 4 Definition

A conflict of interest is a situation in which someone in a position of trust to the client has competing professional or personal interests. Such competing interests can make it difficult for individuals to fulfil their duties to their clients impartially. A conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical or improper act results from it.

Conflicts of interest arise when in the course of providing a service to a client, the Firm or its employees:

- Are likely make a financial gain or avoid a loss at the expense of the client
- Have an interest in the outcome of the service provided which is distinct from the client's interest
- Have a financial or other incentive to favour the interests of another client over the interests of the client
- Carry on the same business as the client
- Receive, from a person other than the client, an inducement in relation to the service provided to the client, other than the standard commission or fee for that service

## 5 Identifying, managing and preventing conflicts of interest

The Firm has reviewed its business model and has identified the following potential conflicts of interest:

- Employee Roles and Responsibilities
- Management of Employees
- Remuneration
- Business interests

- Connected persons
- Inducements including Gifts and Hospitality
- Personal account dealing
- Customer orders versus firm business

The Firm will regularly review its business model to ensure any new potential conflicts of interest are noted and managed or prevented effectively.

The Firm is a member of a group and, as such, will take into consideration circumstances where conflicts of interest may arise as a result of the structure and business activities of the group.

#### 5.1 Employee Roles & Responsibilities

The Firm maintains a clear segregation of roles and responsibilities within the Management Body to maintain an effective control environment and to avoid conflicts of interest in roles wherever possible. The governance structure is as follows:

Role	Responsibilities
CEO	Oversight of the day to day operations of the firm; Also responsible for Compliance and Financial Crime prevention
CEO	Oversight of the finance function; Client Money Processes

#### 5.2 Supervision and Management of Staff

Staff will be based in the Firm's main offices at 51 Eastcheap, London, EC3M 1JP. Due to the number of UK based employees, it is not possible to physically segregate staff with access to sensitive data that may give rise to conflicts of interest at this time, however, as the business grows the requirement to establish such controls will be considered.

Employees involved in carrying out activities or providing services to clients will have a different management reporting line to employees carrying out activities or providing services to other clients who have different, potentially conflicting interests or activities for the Firm itself.

Employees will receive training on understanding their obligations in this area.

#### 5.3 Remuneration

The remuneration of staff will be assessed annually in accordance with the Firm's appraisal process and usually consists of a base salary and performance related variable compensation. The Firm strives to ensure our employees remain motivated whilst at the same time ensuring that this remuneration scheme does not encourage inappropriate behaviour. In order to prevent a conflict of interest, the remuneration of employees is not linked to sales and the remuneration structure takes into account a number of different factors including a good standard of compliance. The Firm's Remuneration Policy is in place and will be adhered to.

#### 5.4 Business Interests

The Firm recognises that our current and future employees may have an interest, relationship or arrangement whereby they act as a trustee, hold power of attorney or have a Directorship that may potentially create a conflict of interest. The Firm requires its employees to declare any such interests and will take the appropriate steps to manage or prevent any conflicts of interest that are identified. To manage such conflicts, the Firm requires its employees to disclose Directorships and interests in other companies and to disregard the interest, relationship or arrangement concerned when acting on behalf of clients.

#### 5.5 Connected Persons

The Firm is aware of its duty to avoid a conflict of interest arising where an employee has an indirect interest through a connected person (e.g. adult child or spouse). Relevant employees are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest through connected persons. To manage such conflicts the Firm requires its employees to disclose the interests and to disregard the interest when acting on behalf of clients.

The Firm is not aware of any such conflicts at this time.

#### 5.6 Inducements including Gifts and Hospitality

The Firm has a strict policy, which specifically prohibits employees from soliciting or accepting any inducements to conduct business in a specific manner that would give rise to a detriment to a client or to favour the interests of one client over another.

The Firm recognises that Gifts and Hospitality can lead to potential conflicts of interest. Employees are not permitted to accept, or give to, any person any gift or other benefit that cannot properly be regarded as justifiable in all circumstances or may give rise to the perception that in doing so, decisions may be influenced or may not be impartial. All employees are expected to act with the highest standards of integrity to avoid any allegations of conflicts of interests.

The Firm requires any employee who is offered any kind of gift or payment over an agreed limit from either inside or outside the Firm to report this to the Firm's Nominated Officer for recording on the Gifts & Hospitality Register. In addition, any indications of expectation of support following a gift or hospitality of any value should be reported to the Nominated Officer.

The Nominated Officer will regularly review the Gifts & Hospitality Register to identify any conflicts of interest that may be occurring.

The Firm's Gifts and Hospitality Policy contains further information and the agreed value limits set by the Management Body.

#### 5.7 Personal Account Dealing Policy

The Firm recognises that employees dealing on their own personal account may present conflicts of interests. The Firm is an execution only STP broker with no dealing desk intervention, this reduces the risk of potential conflicts of interest. In order to manage actual or potential conflicts that may arise from personal account dealing, the Firm has a Personal Account Dealing Policy in place.

## 5.8 Customer Orders

The Firm's Best Execution Policy requires employees to take all sufficient steps to achieve the best overall trading result for clients; to exercise consistent standards; and operate the same processes across all markets, clients and financial instruments in which it operates.

There may be occasions when clients' orders may have a material effect on a relevant price. In order to ensure that a broker does not take advantage of the situation by dealing on his/her own account or encouraging a third party to deal, the Firm has a strict "no front running" policy.

In order to ensure a fair and orderly dealing environment within the market, the Firm requires its employees to comply with its Market Conduct Policy, as well as the relevant FCA Rules, which aim to prevent insider trading, the misuse of information and market manipulation.

Clients will be informed of the possibility that an order may be routed to a counterparty who is another Group Company, however no preference is given to the related counterparty and so no conflict will arise from the relationship in this context.

## 6 Recording conflicts of interest

The Firm will record all conflicts of interest that arise, or may arise, on the Conflicts of Interest Register. It will be updated on a regular basis. The register will include the actual and potential conflicts in the business and the means by which they are mitigated.

Conflicts will be reviewed by senior management on a regular basis.

## 7 Disclosure or declining to act

Conflicts of interest that the Firm cannot manage or prevent will be logged on the Conflicts of Interest Register (Annex 1) and the Firm will either inform the client or decline to act for the client. The Conflicts of Interest Register will be provided to the Management body for review at least annually.

### 7.1 Disclosure

As a last resort, where there is no other means of managing the conflict or where the measures in place do not, in the view of the Firm, sufficiently protect the interests of clients, the conflict of interest will be disclosed to clients, to enable an informed decision to be made by the client as to whether they wish to continue doing business with the Firm in that particular situation.

The disclosure will be in writing and will include:

- A statement that the arrangement in place by the Firm are not sufficient to ensure that the risk of damage to the interests of the client will be prevented
- A description of the specific conflict of interest
- An explanation of the risks to the client that arise as a result of the conflict of interest
- Sufficient detail to enable the client to make an informed decision as to whether to proceed or not.

### 7.2 Declining to Act

Where the Firm considers that it is not able to manage the conflict of interest in any other way, it may decline to act for a client.

## 8 Breaches of Conflicts of Interest Policy

Any breaches of the Conflicts of Interest rules will be recorded on the Firm's breach log in conjunction with its Regulatory Breach procedure.

1.     **Annex 1: Conflicts of Interest Register**

Date identified	Name of staff notifying of the conflict	Details of conflict	How notified	Action taken to manage the conflict	Follow up required (Y/N)	Date resolved