

# Scientific Oversight Committee Charter

## 1. Purpose

The Scientific Oversight Committee (“the Committee”) serves as the independent, evidence-based quality assurance body for the Better Gambling Forum. Its role is to ensure that all research-related outputs — including technical briefs, reports, frameworks, and evidence syntheses — are rigorously aligned with current scientific evidence, internationally recognized best practices, and established ethical principles.

Any policy recommendations or advocacy positions put forward by the Better Gambling Forum are to be informed by the research outputs approved by the Scientific Oversight Committee.

## 2. Authority

The Committee has final approval authority over any research-related deliverable that, in its judgment, does not meet standards for:

- Alignment with current and credible scientific evidence
- Consistency with internationally recognized best practices
- Adherence to accepted ethical principles

All research-related outputs must receive Committee approval before public release, dissemination, or use in informing policy recommendations.

Decisions and required revisions will be documented and summarized in the public version of the deliverable to ensure transparency.

## 3. Functions

- Serve as a safeguard against bias or undue influence, maintaining a clear separation from advocacy or commercial interests.
- Review and approve all research-related deliverables prior to publication or external dissemination.
- Ensure all outputs are evidence-based, methodologically sound, and consistent with internationally recognized best practices in research, public health, and gambling policy.
- Identify gaps in the evidence base and recommend areas for further primary or secondary research.
- Provide methodological and technical guidance for any commissioned research.
- Uphold principles of transparency, neutrality, and public-interest science in all work endorsed by the Forum.

## 4. Membership

- **Size:** 5–7 members with recognized expertise in relevant disciplines (e.g., public health, addiction science, behavioral research, epidemiology, gambling studies, health equity).
- **Selection:** Members are invited based on academic credibility, publication record, and demonstrated commitment to ethical, independent research.
- **Diversity:** Geographic, disciplinary, and lived experience diversity will be prioritized.

Selection will be managed by a small working group appointed by the Steering Committee.

## 5. Responsibilities

- Participate in quarterly (or as-needed) meetings.
- Review draft deliverables on a rotating basis, with reasonable lead time.
- Flag any scientific or ethical concerns and propose revisions or caveats as needed.
- Abstain from reviewing outputs where conflicts of interest may exist.

## 6. Independence and Boundaries

- The Committee operates independently from the Steering Committee and other working groups, reporting directly to the Forum Chair(s).
- While independent, it maintains regular communication with the Steering Committee to ensure alignment on timelines and deliverable scope.
- Members are not engaged in lobbying, advocacy, or political positioning on behalf of the Forum. Their role is to protect scientific credibility and evidence integrity.

## 7. Conflict of Interest

- Members must declare all relevant financial, professional, or organizational conflicts upon appointment and throughout their term.
- Where conflicts are identified, alternative reviewers will be assigned.

## 8. Term and Renewal

- Initial term: 12 months, renewable.
- Membership and participation will be reviewed annually based on engagement, contribution, and adherence to the Committee's principles.

## 9. Operations

- Meetings will be convened virtually, with additional correspondence as required.
- Recommendations will be made by consensus where possible; otherwise, by majority vote.
- A Chair (appointed from within the Committee) will coordinate activities and liaise with the Steering Committee.