

NSE Clearing Limited Board Evaluation Policy

Name of Policy	Board Evaluation Policy
Description of Policy	Performance evaluation of Board, Committees, Individual Directors including Public Interest Directors (Independent Directors)
Policy applies to	NSE Clearing Limited
Policy status	Revision of existing policy

Approval authority	Board
Policy Owner	Mr. Ravin Tank, Company Secretary

Last Approval date	January 22, 2025
Frequency of review and approval	Once a year

Revision History:

Version	Revision Date	Nature and Reasons of Change	Approved by
1	May 12, 2015	Policy was approved by the Board.	Board of Directors
2	February 21, 2019	Policy was reviewed to align with the changes in the SEBI Circular of February 05, 2019	Board of Directors
3	April 30, 2019	Policy was reviewed to carry out the changes as suggested in the SEBI Circular of February 05, 2019	Board of Directors
4	May 05, 2021	Policy was reviewed and amended in order to align the policy with NSE group level policy and to clarify certain points w.r.t. to evaluation of the performance of PIDs as specified by SEBI vide its Circular dated February 5, 2019, to carry out the changes suggested by the Internal Auditors, relating to Version Control and to combine various aspects of the policy defined in various places to make a complete policy document.	Board of Directors
5	February 02, 2022	Policy was reviewed to align with the changes in the applicable laws and in order to align with the best practices followed in the Industry.	Board of Directors
6	January 30, 2023	Policy was reviewed and amended in order to align the policy with NSE group level policy	Board of Directors
7	January 20, 2024	Annual Review - No Changes	Board of Directors
8	January 22, 2025	Policy was reviewed and amended to include IEP's for Performance Evaluation	Board of Directors

NSE Clearing Limited

Board Evaluation Policy

1. Introduction

NSE Clearing Limited (hereinafter referred to as “NCL” or “the Company”) is governed by the Companies Act, 2013 (“the Act”) and rules notified thereunder; the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 read with rules notified thereunder and the Securities Contract (Regulation) (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018 [“SCR(SECC) Regulations, 2018”] including disclosure requirements and corporate governance norms as specified under the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations) for listed companies to the extent applicable to clearing corporations.

This Policy has been framed with an objective to ensure individual directors of the Company and the Board as a whole and also its committees, work efficiently and effectively in achieving their functions for the benefit of the Company and its stakeholders. Accordingly, this Policy provides guidance on the evaluation of the performance on an annual basis to be done either by the Board or by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) or by an independent external agency of: (i) Individual Directors (including the Chairperson and Public Interest Directors of the Company); (ii) the Board as a whole; and (iii) various committees of the Board under the ‘Act’, Listing Regulations & SCR (SECC) Regulation, 2018 (“Board Committees”).

The Board shall also be guided by the Guidance Note on Board evaluation issued by SEBI on January 05, 2017 and SEBI circular dated February 05, 2019 and such other circulars / guidance as may be issued/applicable from time to time on a performance review of the Directors, Board and the Board committees (including the IEPs on the respective committees).

Accordingly, the NRC hereby formulates the criteria for evaluation of Chairman and every Director’s performance individually, the Board as a whole and that of its Committees (including the IEPs on the respective committees).

2. Definitions

- (i) **“Board of Directors”** or **“Board”** shall mean the collective body of Directors of NCL.
- (ii) **“Committees”** or **“Committees of the Board”** shall mean the following Committees of the Board of Directors of NCL, constituted under provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Listing Regulations and SCR (SECC) Regulations, 2018 and presently includes the following:-
 - (a) Audit Committee;

- (b) Stakeholders' Relationship Committee;
- (c) Nomination and Remuneration Committee;
- (d) Corporate Social Responsibility Committee;
- (e) Risk Management Committee;
- (f) Investment Committee;
- (g) Member Committee;
- (h) Standing Committee on Technology; and
- (i) Regular Oversight Committee.

(iii) “**Director**” means a Director appointed to the Board of NCL;

(iv) “**Independent Director**” shall have the meaning as defined under the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules and SEBI Listing Regulations;

(v) “**Nomination and Remuneration Committee**” or “**NRC**” shall mean a Committee of Board of NCL, constituted in accordance with the provisions of Section 178 of the Act and Regulation 27 of SCR (SECC) Regulations, 2018.

(vi) “**Policy**” means this “**Board Evaluation Policy**.”

(vii) “**Public Interest Director**” means an Independent Director, representing the interests of investors in securities market and who is not having any association, directly or indirectly, which in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”), is in conflict with his role;

Words and expressions used but not defined herein, shall have the same meaning respectively assigned to them in the Act read with relevant rules, SEBI Listing Regulations and SCR (SECC) Regulations, 2018 or other relevant provisions, as may be applicable.

3. Interpretation

In any circumstance, where the terms of this Policy differ from any existing or enacted law, rules, regulation governing NCL, the law, rules or regulation will take precedence over the provision of this Policy.

4. Frequency of performance evaluation

Performance shall be evaluated annually. In addition to this, the performance of PIDs shall be evaluated at the time of renewal of their tenure. PIDs shall also be subject to an external evaluation during the last year of their term in the Clearing Corporation, by a management or a human resources consulting firm.

5. Objective

NCL aims to achieve a balance of merit, experience and skills amongst its Directors. The objectives of this policy are to define the criteria, principles and broad framework for performance evaluation of Directors, the Board as whole and its Committees.

6. Legal and Regulatory provisions for performance evaluation of Directors, the Board and its Committees

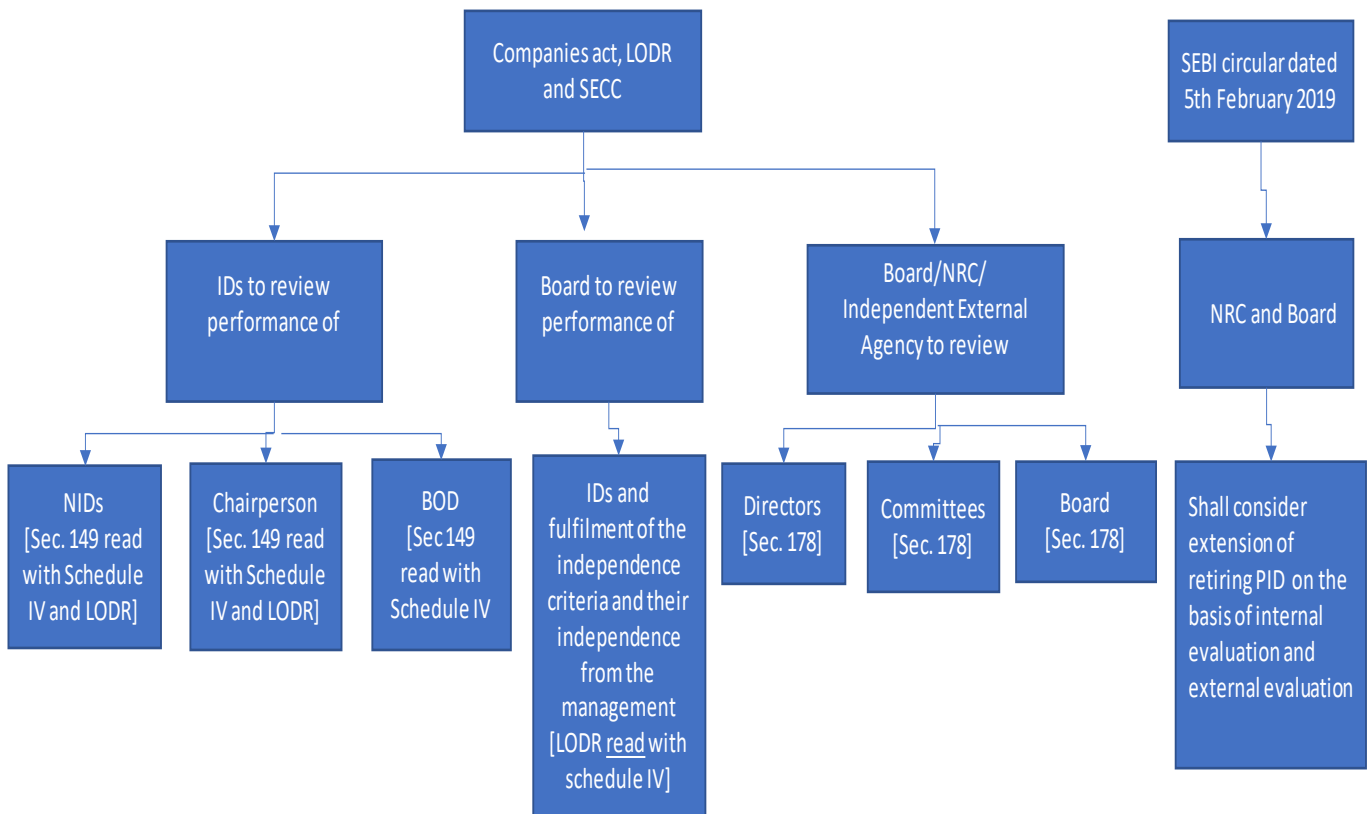
The provisions contained in the Act read with Rules made thereunder, Schedule IV of the Act, SEBI Listing Regulations and SCR (SECC) Regulations, 2018 stipulates the performance evaluation of Directors, the Board and its Committees.

Furthermore, the SEBI circular dated February 5, 2019, addressed to MII's relating to the performance review of PIDs requires that the Public Interest Directors shall be subject to Internal evaluation every year and external evaluation during their last year of the term in MII, by a management or a human resources consulting firm.

The circular inter-alia states that while developing a framework for performance review of PIDs, NCL needs to consider the Policy for Performance review of PIDs, Guiding criteria of Performance Review, Evaluation mechanism – Internal and External, etc. The performance of the PID shall be considered for the entire tenure served in a given MII, at least up to 4 months before the expiry of the term.

After taking into account the performance of a PID, on the basis of internal evaluation and external evaluation both carrying equal weightage, NRC shall consider and recommend the extension of his / her tenure to the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall in-turn consider and recommend to SEBI if the tenure of the PID is desired to be extended by another term of three years.

In a nutshell, a pictorial representation of the evaluation requirement as envisaged under various sections of the Act, Listing Regulations and SCR (SECC) Regulations is given below:



Note:-

ID- Independent Director

NID- Non-Executive Director

LODR- SEBI Listing Regulations 2015

NRC- Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Board- Board of Directors

In order to avoid possible overlapping, the following procedure may be followed:

- (a) Independent Directors may, at their meeting, review the performance of the Chairperson, the Non-Independent Directors and the Board as whole;
- (b) The Board may evaluate the performance of the Board as a whole, the Committees as defined in this Policy and each Director and while doing so, may take into account the inputs received from the review by NRC and the review by Public Interest Directors, the NRC shall review its implementation and compliance.
- (c) The performance of Public Interest Directors shall also be evaluated during the last year of their first term in MII, by a management or a human resource consulting firm.

7. Criteria for evaluation

The criteria for evaluation are laid out in the Annexure attached herewith.

8. Methodology for Evaluation of PID whose term is due for extension /re-appointment:

The following method for evaluation of performance is to be adopted:

- a. Internal Assessment and/or
- b. Assessment by external persons

The internal assessment to be conducted in the following manner:

- a. A detailed Questionnaire to be circulated to individual directors and Committee members
- b. Oral assessments, if any, provided by the person on interviews

If deemed fit, the questionnaire may enable written answers to be submitted on a confidential basis. If due to various reasons, members are not willing to provide written inputs, the Chairperson or any other person may take initiative and obtain views of such members on a confidential basis to the Chairperson of NRC.

The external assessment can be conducted in the following manner:

- a. External assessment to be done basis the questionnaire/interview or a combination of the two.
- b. The purpose of conducting such an external assessment is to complement the internal assessment and adds an objective to the evaluation process.
- c. It is to be ensured that the external assessor is not a related party or conflicted due to closeness of the Board to ensure impartiality.

9. Assessment process including analyzing of results

- (i) Questionnaire to be sent individually to all the Directors to assess the performance of all the other Directors, the Board and its Committees and assign appropriate scores.
- (ii) The Chairperson of NRC may club the scores of each Directors and take out an average to determine the results of performance evaluation.
- (iii) The scores obtained by the Non-Independent Directors will be placed before the meeting of Independent Directors (ID) and their views will be obtained.
- (iv) The scores obtained by the Individual Directors, the Board and the Committees and the inputs received from the meeting of ID will be placed before the NRC (only

for PID's) and the Board and their views will be obtained to evaluate its performance, that of its committees and each of the Director.

- (v) Summary of Board evaluation shall be placed before the NRC in its later meeting to review its implementation and compliance.

10. Feedback

- a) Feedback is crucial for success of Board Evaluation and hence feedback, if any, should be provided to the individual directors.
- b) On collation of all the responses, the feedback may be provided in one or more of the following ways:
Orally given by Chairperson/ external assessor or any other suitable person to
- i) each Member separately.
 - ii) To the entire Board; and
 - iii) To the Committees.
- c) The active role of the Chairperson is desirable in providing feedback to the members. If members are not comfortable to open individual assessments and provision for confidentiality may be made where possible.
- d) For effectiveness of the evaluation, it is essential that the feedback be given honestly and without bias.

11. Action Plan

- a) NRC to review the implementation of the Board evaluation and its compliance.
- b) Based on the analysis of the evaluation, the Board to prepare an action plan taking into consideration any of the following factors:
- Areas of improvement required for the Board.
 - Training to be imparted, skill building etc.
 - Listing of actions to be taken.
 - Timeline for implementation of these actions.
 - Person responsible for its implementation.
 - Resources required to implement the plan.
 - Review of the actions within the prescribed timelines.
 - Any other actions, as may be required/necessary.
- c) The suggestions received under external assessment, individual member feedback etc. to be taken into consideration while drafting the action plan.
- d) The action plan to be prepared in a comprehensive manner.
- e) Board shall take necessary steps to implement the action plan.

12. Evaluation of Managing Director /Executive Directors

While evaluating the performance of the Managing Director/Executive Director and the Whole time Director, the Nomination and Remuneration Committee shall always consider the appropriate benchmarks set as per industry standards, the rules, circulars, guidelines and procedures, if any, issued by SEBI in this regard and shall also keep in mind the policy, if any, framed for performance review of Managing Director/Executive Directors besides this policy.

13. Evaluation of Independent External Persons in Committees of MII:

The independent external persons forming a part of Committees/Board shall be from amongst the persons of integrity, having a sound reputation and not having any conflict of interest. They shall be specialists in the field of work assigned to the committee; however, they shall not be associated in any manner with the MII and its members.

Extension of the tenure may be granted to independent external persons at the expiry of the tenure, subject to performance review in the manner prescribed by SEBI for PIDs. Further, the maximum tenure limit of Independent external persons in a Committee/Board of the MII shall be at par with that of PIDs, as prescribed under Regulation 24(3) of the SECC regulations 2018.

14. Amendment

Any amendment or modification in the Act, SCRA, 1956, SCR (SECC) Regulations, 2018, Rules, Regulations, Circulars and directives issued under the respective statutes (which include SEBI Listing Regulations) and any other applicable provision relating to Board evaluation shall automatically be applicable to NCL, to the extent applicable.

15. Review of the policy

This Policy shall be reviewed annually, unless an earlier review is required to ensure that it meets the regulatory requirements or latest industry practice or both. Changes, if any, made to the policy therein shall be approved by the NRC and the Board.

16. Disclosure

In accordance with the requirements under the SEBI Listing Regulations and the Act, disclosure regarding the manner in which the performance evaluation has been done by the Board of its own performance, performance of various Board Committees and individual Directors will be made by the Board in the Board's report. Performance evaluation criteria for PIDs shall be disclosed in the Annual Report as well as on the website of NCL.

Annexure 1

Criteria for performance evaluation of the Board, its Committees, Individual Directors, the Chairperson and PID's

I. Guiding principles for performance evaluation of the Board

A. Governance related

- Corporate Governance standards adopted by the Board such as board composition, board diversity etc. and its implementation
- Understanding roles and responsibilities of Directors
- Code of conduct and Ethics and adherence thereto
- Independence of Board functioning
- Commitment to highest ethical standards of integrity and probity.
- Implementation and periodic review of policies and procedures for risk management, financial controls and statutory / regulatory compliance.
- Number and adequacy of meetings, discussion on strategic matters having substantial effect on the functioning of the Company.
- Accountability for decisions taken.
- Stakeholder relationship management.
- Adequacy on flow of information to the Board.

B. Business related

- Understanding of the objectives, values, vision and business of the Company
- Provision of entrepreneurial leadership
- Setting up of Company's strategic aims and financial goals
- Guidance to drive financial and business performance of the Company and periodic review of the same
- Ensuring necessary financial and human resource support to achieve Company's objectives
- Strategic and business risk evaluation, assessment and timely action.

C. Others

- Board processes for ensuring optimum size, composition, diversity and delegation of authority
- Adequate reporting mechanism to stakeholders and redressal of their grievances.
- Engagement with the executive management (formal or informal) on issues/concerns having effect on the Company's functioning.

II. Guiding principles for performance evaluation of Committees

In addition to the principles stated above for evaluation of Board to the extent applicable to the respective committee, following may be taken into consideration for performance evaluation of Committees:

- Constructive recommendations made by the Committee(s) to the Board may also be kept in mind
- Engagement with executive management (formal or informal) on information required by the Committee to effectively discharge its statutory responsibilities.

III. Guiding principles for performance evaluation of individual Directors

The individual director's performance may be largely evaluated based on his/her level of participation and contribution to the performance of Board/Committee(s) in respect of the above areas.

- Understanding of roles, responsibility, regulatory systems, laws and regulations applicable to the Company and performance of duties in independent and objective manner.
- Understanding of objectives, values, vision and business of the Company.
- Level of participation and devotion of time to Board meetings and Committee meetings, if any.
- Skills, knowledge, experience, application of subject matter expertise.
- Adherence to Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics of the Company.
- Disclosure of conflict of interest or material pecuniary relationships with the Company, its subsidiaries and associates or any proposed contract or arrangement.
- Engagement with executive management for efficient discharge of responsibilities.

III. A - Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer:

- Long-term vision for the Company and business acumen.
- Entrepreneurial leadership to the Company and its business segments and setting up of strategic vision.
- Clear understanding of Company's business, industry dynamics, competitive trends including global trends and inherent business and operational risks.
- Willingness to experiment and adopt innovative strategies for changing the Company's business landscape.
- Execution of policies and procedures put in place by the Board.

IV. Guiding principles for performance evaluation of Chairperson

In addition to the above, the following principles may be kept in mind while evaluating the performance of the Chairperson:

- Efficient leadership qualities and determination of delivery of the Company's strategy.
- Guidance to Board for formulation of annual work plan against agreed objectives and goals.
- Ensuring adequate flow of information to all Directors on any issue where a decision is required.
- Enhancing of Company's image in dealings with major stakeholders.
- In-depth knowledge of the industry and business.
- Enjoys trust and confidence of Board members.
- Ensuring that every Board member has an opportunity to be heard and to present his/her views without any constraint.
- Encouragement to Independent Directors to bring diverse perspectives on the table.
- Ensuring that Directors are fully informed as possible on any issue where decision is required.

V. Guiding principles for performance evaluation of the PID's

- Qualifications:** The PID's qualification in area of law, finance, accounting, economics, management, administration or another area relevant to the financial markets, including any recent updates in this regard.
- Experience:** The PID's prior experience in area of law, finance, accounting, economics, management, administration or any other area relevant to the financial markets, including any recent updates in this regard.
- Knowledge and Competency:**
 - Whether the PID has sufficient understanding and knowledge of the entity in which it operates and the applicable regulatory norms.
 - Whether the PID has sufficient understanding of the role, responsibilities and obligations of PID under the relevant regulatory norms.
 - How the PID fares across different competencies as identified for effective functioning of Board of the concerned MII.
 - Whether the PID has sufficient understanding of the risk attached with the business structure.
- Fulfilment of functions:**
 - Whether the PID understands and fulfils the functions as assigned to him/her by the Board and the regulatory norms.
 - Whether the PID gives views and opinion on various regulatory matters when comments are invited by SEBI through various means.
- Ability to function as a team:**

- Whether the PID is able to function as an effective team- member.
- Whether the PID listens attentively to the contributions of others and gives adequate weightage to the views and perception of other Board members.
- Whether the PID shares good interpersonal relationship with other directors.

f. Initiative:

- Whether the PID actively takes initiative with respect to various areas.
- Whether the PID insists on receiving information necessary for decision making.
- Whether the concerned PID keeps himself well informed about the functioning of MII and the external environment in which it operates.
- Whether the PID remains updated in terms of developments taking place in regulatory areas.
- Whether the PID has identified any important issues concerning any matter which may involve conflict of interest for the concerned MII, or may have significant impact on their functioning, or may not be in the interest of securities market, and whether the PID reported same to SEBI.
- Whether the PID appropriately deals with critical matters.

g. Availability and attendance:

Whether the PID is available for meetings of the Board and attends the meeting of Governing board and Committees regularly and timely, without delay. It must be ensured that the concerned PID hasn't remained absent for three consecutive meetings of the governing board and has attended seventy-five per cent of the total meetings of the governing board in each calendar year; failing which the PID shall be liable to vacate office.

h. Commitment: Whether the PID is adequately committed to the Board and the MII.

i. Contribution:

- Whether the PID has contributed effectively to the entity and in the Board meetings.
- Whether the PID participates in the proceedings of Board meetings keeping in mind the interests of various stakeholders.
- Whether the PID actively deliberates and contributes on proposed business propositions and strategic decisions taking into consideration pros and cons of such propositions, long term outlook, business goals, cost-benefit analysis, etc.

j. Integrity:

- Whether the PID demonstrates highest level of integrity (including conflict of interest disclosures, maintenance of confidentiality, etc.).

- Whether the PID strictly adhere to the provisions of the SEBI SECC Regulations, 2018 and any other regulatory provision, as applicable, along-with the code of conduct and code of ethics prescribed under other applicable regulatory norms.
- Whether disclosures such as dealing in securities and other regulatory disclosures are provided by the PID on timely basis.
- Confirmation on the PID being a Fit & Proper person.
- Confirmation that the PID doesn't disclose confidential information, including technologies, unpublished price sensitive information, unless such disclosure is expressly approved by the Board of directors or required under the applicable laws.

k. *Independence:*

- Whether the PID is independent from the entity and the other directors and there is no conflict of interest.
- Confirmation as to non-association of the PID with relevant MII and its member.
- Whether the PID keeps regulators informed of material developments in the concerned MIIs functioning, from time to time.

l. *Independent views and judgment:*

- Whether the PID exercises his/ her own judgment and voices opinion freely.
- Whether the PID's participation in decisions taken during meetings are unbiased, based on ethical judgment and are in strict conformity to the applicable regulatory norms.
- Whether the PID raises his/her concern if anything is observed contrary to regulatory norms and the expected norms of ethical conduct.
- Whether the PID is committed to ensure that there is fairness and integrity in MIIs system, in letter as well as spirit.

While carrying out performance evaluation as above, the Board may take into account the inputs received, if any, from the review by Independent Directors.