

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

## **ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND POOLING AGREEMENT**

*(As Amended and Restated in 2018)*

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and among the ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND (the "IPRF" or "Fund"), an Illinois not for profit corporation organized and operating as an intergovernmental joint insurance pool, and each of the members of the Fund (individually referred to herein as a "Member" and collectively as the "Members").

### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Fund is to establish an intergovernmental joint insurance pool providing for the defense and payment when due of all compensation and other benefits under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act and the Illinois Workers' Occupational Diseases Act (hereinafter referred to as the "Workers' Compensation Laws"), on behalf of "public agency members," as such term is defined by section 6 of the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/6), and other units of local government and public entities within the State of Illinois which may become eligible for membership from time to time according to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, or Article VII, Section 10 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

WHEREAS, the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act expressly authorizes public agencies to enter into intergovernmental contracts to jointly self-insure and utilize their funds to protect, wholly or partially, themselves and any public agency member of the contract against liability or loss in a designated insurable area; and

WHEREAS, the IPRF was established in 1985 to provide a means by which the public agency Members of the Fund could contract with each other pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act in order to protect each other against liability or loss under the Workers' Compensation Laws; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement intend to create a valid, enforceable intergovernmental contract pursuant to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act by execution of this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

### **AGREEMENT**

#### **I. FUND OPERATIONS AND CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION.**

The IPRF will pay promptly when due the compensation and other benefits, including medical benefits, required of the Member by the Workers' Compensation Laws. The affairs of the Fund shall be managed by or under the direction of its Board of Trustees which shall provide

for the efficient administration of claims under the Workers' Compensation Laws and otherwise under any applicable law of the State of Illinois imposing employer liability for bodily injury by accident or disease. In that regard, the Board of Trustees shall be vested with all powers necessary to properly manage and direct the affairs of the IPRF, including but not limited to the power, as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees in its full and complete discretion, to:

- A. Provide for the efficient administration of claims by either employing or contracting for the services of an independent third party claims administrator (the "Fund Claims Administrator" or "Fund Administrator"), or by employing or contracting for the services of claims administration personnel or staff, (the "Fund Claims Administration" or "Fund Administration"). The Fund Administrator or Fund Administration, as the case may be, shall have the responsibilities for claims processing and administration; the investigation and adjustment of claims; the management and reporting of claims; compensation, claims, and benefits payments; and, risk data management and reports, including the establishing and monitoring of reserves, among other duties as may be authorized, directed, or delegated from time to time by the Board of Trustees;
- B. Provide or contract for safety and loss control programs and services for the benefit of the Fund and its Members;
- C. Employ or contract for the services of an independent accountant (the "Fund Accountant") who, at the direction of the Board of Trustees and the Treasurer, shall be responsible for IPRF's day-to-day financial matters, including the collection of Members' current, past due, and delinquent accounts, premiums, contributions, assessments, and penalties; the keeping and maintenance of the Fund's financial records, statements, reports, and books of account; and, the satisfaction and payment of the Fund's bills, debts, and other financial obligations;
- D. Employ or contract for the services of an independent, fiduciary investment advisor (the "Fund Advisor"), if deemed necessary by the IPRF's Board of Trustees, to provide advice and management concerning the Fund's assets and investments in accordance with the purposes and investment guidelines established by the IPRF, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, and all other applicable duties and policies, standards, guidelines established, created by law, regulation, or resolution of the Board of Trustees;
- E. Employ or contract for the services of an exclusive Marketing Agent who shall be responsible for the promotion and marketing of the Fund, and its program and services;
- F. Authorize and direct the Fund Accountant and the Marketing Agent in the collection of delinquent accounts resulting from any unpaid premiums, contributions, assessments, or penalties;
- G. Cause each Member to execute this Pooling Agreement, governing, among other matters and things, the liability of all Members for claims against the Fund;
- H. Obtain excess reinsurance coverage along with errors and omissions liability (E&O) and directors and officers (D&O) liability coverages for the Fund's Board of

Trustees, officers, and employees with insurance companies acceptable to the Board of Trustees, and in amounts considered reasonably adequate to cover the liabilities of the Fund, its Board of Trustees, officers, and employees, and to keep and maintain such insurance policy coverages in full force and in effect at all times along with such other insurance coverages as the Board of Trustees may determine to be reasonably prudent and necessary to protect the Fund and its assets; and, to procure and maintain a fidelity bond covering the IPRF's Board of Trustees, individually and collectively, the Fund Treasurer, the Fund Accountant, and any other person required by law or deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees, having any responsibility respecting the IPRF's monies and securities, in an amount sufficient to protect the Fund against loss, misappropriation, or misuse of any monies or securities;

I. Set standards for the admission of Members to the Fund which shall include such requirements, guidelines, and precautions as the Board of Trustees from time to time shall deem to be reasonable and appropriate to promote the safe, prudent, proper, and responsible operation of the Fund for the benefit of duly qualified and financially suitable Members that are seriously committed to sound safety practices, risk management, and loss control programs;

J. To employ or contract for the services of such other persons, parties, providers, vendors, or consultants as the Board of Trustees may from time to time deem reasonably necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the Fund and to assure the continuous, efficient, and cost-effective operations of its programs.

## **II. COST OF MEMBERSHIP.**

The Member's cost will be determined by the Board of Trustees. The Member's contribution or premium will be developed by an examination and audit of all the Member's records that relate to the coverages provided by this Agreement, including ledgers, journals, registers, contracts, tax reports, payroll and disbursement records, and programs for storing and retrieving data (the "payroll audit"). Rates, classifications, experience modification factors, and discounts approved by the Board of Trustees will be used to determine the Member's contribution or premium subject to the payroll audit.

## **III. ASSESSMENT PROVISIONS.**

Whenever the Board of Trustees determines by means of an audit, annual certified financial statements, actuarial opinion, or otherwise that the assets of the Fund are less than the reserves which prudently should be maintained by the Fund, or which are required to be maintained by any applicable law, rule or regulation, then the Fund shall direct its Treasurer and the Fund Accountant (as defined in the Fund's By-Laws) to assess each Member of the Fund that was a Member during the Fiscal Year (as defined below) in which the events or occurrences giving rise to such assessment occurred, the amount necessary (in the aggregate) to correct the deficiency. Members will be assessed pro rata based upon their annual contributions, provided that, in no event shall the annual total of any Member's assessment exceed the greater of ten percent (10%) of that Member's gross annual premium or contribution to the Fund for the most recent Fiscal or Fund Year, as such terms are defined herein and by the IPRF's By-Laws, or the amount required under the applicable rule, law or regulation giving rise to the assessment. In the event of the inability of one or more Members, by reason of insolvency or otherwise, to pay such assessments, the Fund's Treasurer shall assess the other Members of the Fund for such unpaid

amounts. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Member's liability under this Section for assessments shall be limited to the period of such Member's membership in the IPRF and the later of either the three (3)-year period commencing with the close of the most recent Fiscal Year during which the events, occurrences, or claims giving rise to such assessments happened, or the three (3)-year period beginning with the close of the Fiscal Year during which such Member's membership in the Fund was terminated.

#### **IV. MEMBERS, TERMS, WITHDRAWAL, TERMINATION.**

A. Membership in the Fund is limited to "public agency members" as such term is defined by section 6 of the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/6), and other units of local government and public entities within the State of Illinois which may become eligible for membership from time to time according to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, or Article VII, Section 10 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970. Membership in the Fund is subject to the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees, the Fund Administrator, and the Fund's excess reinsurance carrier.

B. The initial minimum term of IPRF membership is one (1) year, unless terminated earlier pursuant to this Agreement or Article VIII of the Fund's By-Laws.

C. After the initial one (1) year minimum term, a Member may withdraw or resign its membership in the Fund for any year thereafter upon the giving of not less than ninety (90) days written notice to the IPRF Board of Trustees of its intent to withdraw or resign and, such resignation shall take effect no sooner than ninety (90) days from the date such notice is given. The ninety (90) day written notice required by this section shall be given, at least, 90 days prior to the expiration of the Member's then-current term. It is paramount for the Fund to receive the written notice required by this section ninety (90) days in advance of the end of the withdrawing Member's term because the Fund must know which of its Members are covered on an annual basis. The Fund cannot carve out shortened timeframes for members who terminate on any lesser amount of time as such shortened termination timeframes may lead to ambiguities in coverage.

D. A Member's written notice tentatively terminating such Member's membership must be rescinded, if at all, by subsequent written notice received by the IPRF no later than the final day of the then-current policy term. If the tentative termination is not rescinded, the Member's membership in the IPRF will be terminated as of 11:59 PM on the final day of the Member's then-current term. If the Member does timely rescind its tentative termination as provided in this paragraph, such Member's membership shall be renewed in the ordinary course, with no interruption in coverage.

E. A Member may be terminated from the IPRF under rules set forth in the Funds By-Laws for reasons which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) When the Member fails to pay the premium, contribution, assessment, or other amounts due and payable to the Fund in full;
- (2) When the Member fails to cooperate with the Fund, or with its Trustees, Marketing Agent, officers, employees, contractors, or agents, in regards to audits, payments, financial and claims reporting, safety, loss control, and prevention, or any other subject having to do or connected in any way with the operations and

purposes of the IPRF as determined by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion;

(3) When the Member fails to carry out the recommendations of any safety, loss control, or prevention survey, inspection, or examination, or fails to adhere to generally accepted accounting or financial practices, or fails to follow the IPRF's safety, loss control, risk prevention, or claims reduction standards, policies, or programs as determined by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion;

(4) When the Member fails to meet the membership eligibility requirements set forth in Paragraph IV(A) above, as determined at any time by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion;

(5) When the Member engages in conduct detrimental to the integrity, stability, or strength of the IPRF or any of its programs as determined by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion; or

(6) When the member fails to meet other requirements for continued participation that may be determined by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion to preserve the stability and strength of the Fund and which are consistent with the provisions of the By-Laws, including participation in the programs or efforts designed to reduce losses or adjust claims in order to carry out the purposes for which the IPRF was established.

**F. REGARDLESS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ANY MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY OR INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE FUND, PAID PREMIUMS WILL NOT BE REFUNDED OR PRO-RATED.**

**V. COVERAGE INDEMNITY AND DEFENSE.**

In consideration of payment of the Member's contributions as described in this Agreement in general, and as set forth in Part II in particular, the Fund agrees:

A. Coverage: The Fund will pay promptly when due all compensation and other benefits, including medical benefits, required of the Member by the Workers' Compensation Laws and as such Laws may be amended from time to time.

B. Defense. Settlement. Supplementary Payments: As respects the coverage afforded by the other terms of this Agreement, the Fund shall:

(1) Defend any proceeding against the Member seeking such compensation and other benefits and any suit against the Member alleging work-related accidental injuries or occupational diseases, as those terms are defined under the Workers' Compensation Laws and seeking damages on account thereof, even if such proceeding or lawsuit is groundless, false, or fraudulent, but the Fund may make such investigation, negotiation, and settlement of any claim or suit as it deems expedient or necessary.

(2) Pay all expenses incurred by the Fund, all costs taxed against the Member in any such proceeding or suit, and all interest accruing after entry of award or judgment until the Fund has paid, tendered, or deposited such part of such judgment as does not exceed the limit of the Fund's liability thereon; provided, however, that in no event shall the Fund be responsible for payment of any fines, penalties, or interest thereon imposed upon a Member as a result of such Member's violation of or misconduct under the Workers' Compensation Laws or otherwise.

C. Applicability of Coverage: The coverage, compensation, other benefits, defense, and payments provided under this Agreement apply or is accorded only to accidental injuries, disablements, exposures, and fatalities (as those terms are defined under the Workers' Compensation Laws) occurring during the membership term. All states coverage will be provided by the Fund.

D. Conditions: Classifications, rates, modification factors, and discounts, shall be determined by the Board of Trustees in its sole discretion. Each Member shall maintain records of the information necessary for contribution or premium computation, and the IPRF, its Board of Trustees, the Fund Accountant and its duly authorized agents and representatives shall be allowed to examine and audit all of the Member's records that relate to the coverage, indemnity and defense provided by this Agreement, including ledgers, journals, registers, vouchers, contracts, tax reports, payroll and disbursement records, and programs for sharing and receiving data. The IPRF may conduct the audits during regular business hours during the membership or coverage period and within three (3) years after such membership or coverage period ends. Information developed by audit will be used to determine the amount of any final premium or contribution due under this Agreement subject to the right of the Fund through its Board of Trustees to determine and set the amount of any premium, contribution, assessment, debt, penalty, or other amount due to be paid the IPRF in its full and sole discretion.

## VI. MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS.

Each Member agrees to be bound by all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, any subsequent amendments, revisions or alterations of this version of the Agreement (each version to be retained in IPRF's books and records), the IPRF's By-Laws, as they may be amended from time to time, and to abide by any rules, resolutions, and regulations that are promulgated by the Board of Trustees for the administration of the Fund, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

A. Each Member agrees to initiate and maintain a safety program to give its employees safe and sanitary working conditions and agrees to follow the general recommendations of the IPRF, its Board of Trustees, and their duly authorized agents and representatives to promote the general welfare of such Member's employees. Each Member, however, shall remain solely responsible for all decisions concerning its safety program and practices and may not rely upon evaluations or recommendations made by the IPRF, its Board of Trustees, or their duly authorized agents and representatives in making decisions concerning such Member's safety program and practices.

B. When an injury or disablement to an employee of a Member covered by this Agreement occurs, the Member shall immediately provide for immediate emergency and other medical services as provided by Sections 8(a) of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act (820 ILCS 305/8(a)), and shall immediately notify the IPRF of the loss or claim and cause to be prepared and transmitted to the Fund Administrator or Fund Administration, as the case may be, an Employers First Report of Injury (Form 45) as prescribed by the IPRF, the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission and the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

C. If a claim is made or suit or other proceeding is brought against the Member, then the Member shall immediately forward to the IPRF every demand, notice, summons, claim form, suit or other legal or administrative process received by it.

D. The Member shall cooperate with the IPRF and, upon the Funds request, shall attend all hearings and trials and shall assist in effecting settlements, securing and giving evidence, obtaining the attendance of witnesses, and otherwise cooperate in the conduct of all suits, hearings, or proceedings. The Member shall not, except at its own cost, which shall not be reimbursed by the Fund, voluntarily make any payment, assume any obligation, or incur any expense other than for such immediate medical and other services at the time of the injury as are required by the Workers' Compensation Laws or otherwise.

E. Each Member shall make prompt payment of all contributions, premiums, assessments, and other amounts due as required under this Agreement and the Fund's By-Laws.

F. Each Member does hereby appoint the IPRF as its agent to act in the Member's behalf to file reports and to make or arrange for payment of claims, medical expenses, and all other things required or necessary insofar as they affect the Member's liability under the Workers' Compensation Laws or such Member's obligations under the rules, regulations, and orders of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission or any other administrative agency or court having jurisdiction.

G. Each Member agrees that in the event of the payment of any compensation, other benefits, defense or other payments by the IPRF under this Agreement, the Fund shall be subrogated to the extent of such payment to all rights of the Member against any person or other entity legally responsible for such damages or losses, and in such event, the Member hereby agrees to render all reasonable assistance, other than pecuniary assistance, to effect recovery.

H. The IPRF, its Board of Trustees, and any of their duly authorized agents, employees, and attorneys, and a representative shall be permitted at all reasonable times to inspect the Member's work places, plants, works, machinery, and appliances covered by this Agreement, and shall be permitted at all reasonable times and within three (3) years following termination of membership to examine the Member's books, vouchers, contracts, documents, and records of any and every kind which show or tend to show or verify contributions, premiums, or other amounts which are due or payable, or which were paid to the Fund.

I. In consideration of the rights, privileges, and benefits of IPRF membership, the Member agrees and consents that it may be sued by the Fund in any Illinois court having jurisdiction for any premiums, assessments, contributions, debts, penalties, or other monies that are not paid to the Fund on the due date thereof, including but not limited to all reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred by the Fund in the collection process through litigation, arbitration, or otherwise. Each Member further specifically agrees, consents, and submits to the jurisdiction, venue, and service of process of the Circuit Court of DuPage County, Illinois.

**VII. EFFECTIVE TIME AND DATE.**

The Fund shall operate on a fiscal year consistent with the calendar year beginning on the first day of January and ending on the last day of December (the "Fiscal Year" or "Fund Year"), and effective date of this Agreement shall be the date the parties entered into this Amended and Restated Pooling Agreement as set forth below.

**VIII. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.**

This Amended and Restated Pooling Agreement supersedes any prior Pooling Agreement between the parties.

**IX. NO PRESUMPTION ARISES.**

This Amended and Restated Pooling Agreement shall be presumed to have been drafted by the parties that are signatories hereto. No presumption shall arise against either party if any term hereof shall be considered ambiguous.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have entered into this Amended and Restated Pooling Agreement as of date set forth below.

**ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name of Member)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_