

The News Media Coalition (NMC) calls upon organisations involved in staging events of high news and public interest to have positive policies towards Press freedom to report. As the sector provides significant societal and economic value, conditions should exist for news operations, including on-the-ground journalism, to flourish. The NMC invites organisations to implement this Charter.

1. Access to Events and Information

The News Media should have the fullest possible opportunities for newsgatherers to witness events – including any designated press or media opportunities – to create their own content to inform the public. Public policymakers are encouraged to support this.

2. Engaging with the News Media

Events organisations are encouraged to engage with the News Media ahead of and during the preparation of clear policies impacting the News Media, such as Terms and Conditions of venue entry. The ability of the News Media to report freely benefits all stakeholders including event organisers, sponsors, other commercial partners, participants and fans.

3. Independence of News

Editorial independence including fair critical journalism is vital. This is undermined if an event organisation or sport club unreasonably blocks access to news environments or to information – or by forcing a news entity to enter into commercial content agreements.

4. Copyright and News Integrity

No news organisation is to be forced to give up or assign its copyright/IP to an event organisation. Event organisations have their IPRs but cannot assert they own ‘all rights’ related to an event. News organisations should not be expected to pay to report news.

5. Ability to Innovate

As technologies and news consumption evolve, the News Media are to be encouraged to innovate in methods of newsgathering, including video journalism, and content publishing, distribution and other forms of sharing news. News must flow as fast as technologies allow.

6. Balancing opportunities for News Media and events

A viable News Media sector needs to monetise the content it creates to recoup its costs and to promote their news coverage. In parallel, a vibrant commercial media rights market should exist while measures aimed at protecting broadcast rights against illegal use and piracy must not affect press freedom and the news media's ability to inform citizens .

7. Official Content

Official material is not a substitute for independent news. If content is produced and provided by event organisations in lieu of press access (i.e., if there are genuine issues of security, public health or space constraints) this event material is to be readily available, free, newsworthy, editable and not subject to restrictions on editorial publication or distribution. Such 'official' content must indicate credit/labelling the source of the material.

8. Platform and Territory Neutrality

News content created in venues by the News Media is not to be subject to different rules set by event organisations in relation to the form of editorial use, platform (print, online, mobile or broadcast) or type (mainstream or social media) or territory (geo-blocking).

9. Durability of News

The historical news record of events is not to be undermined by event rules stating how long news material can be used – or reused. News content is not to have a 'shelf-life' determined by an event organisation, third party or any individual who is the subject of news.

News Media Coalition Members

NMC is an international not-for-profit trade organisation safeguarding legitimate editorial and news business freedoms on behalf of its Members.

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