

# **Policies and Procedures Manual**

## **INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

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## Definitions and Acronyms

Active Management (“Active Management”) – A process employed by the Fund to produce better returns than those of passively managed indexed funds by use of, for example, Investment Managers, Investment Advisors, ETFs, or TAA, which typically rely on analytical research, quantitative models, forecast, regime analysis, judgment and experience in making investment decisions.

Asset Liability Management Study (“ALM Study”) – A comprehensive periodic study commissioned by the Board to examine various aspects of the Fund’s assets and liabilities including, but not limited to, asset allocation and investment strategies along with key asset and liability risk exposures.

Board (“Board”) – The Board of Trustees of the Houston Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Fund.

Cash and Cash Equivalents (“Cash and Cash Equivalents”) – an asset class characterized by liquidity of one year or less and described in greater detail in Section X of this IPS as an investment category.

Chief Investment Officer (“CIO”) – The chief investment officer of the Houston Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Fund.

Commingled Fund (“Commingled Fund”) – An investment fund consisting of assets from several accounts, which may include non-HFRRF accounts, which are blended so investors may benefit from economies of scale, lower trading costs, and diversification. Commingled Funds are not publicly traded.

Digital Assets (“Digital Assets”) – Collection of binary data, which is self-contained, uniquely identifiable and has a value. Digital Assets are issued, stored, and transferred using a distributed ledger or immutable blockchain technology and include, but are not limited to, so-called ‘virtual currencies,’ ‘coins,’ and ‘tokens’.

Exchange Traded Fund (“ETF”) – A marketable security that tracks an index, a commodity, bonds, or a basket of assets like an index fund, and can be traded like a common stock on an exchange.

Fiscal Year (“FY”) – July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Fund (“Fund” or “HFRRF”) – The Houston Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Fund.

Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) – The United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Investment Committee (“IC”) – The Investment Committee of the Houston Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Fund.

Investment Management Agreement (“IMA”) – A formal agreement between an Investment Manager and the Fund stipulating the terms under which the Investment Manager is authorized to act on behalf of the Fund to manage the assets listed in the agreement. The agreement outlines the extent to which the Investment Manager may act in a discretionary capacity to make investment decisions in accordance with a prescribed strategy.

Investment Manager (“Investment Manager”) – An entity that manages Fund assets, usually in a separately managed account, with discretionary authority to invest within the confines of a Fund-mandated investment strategy or similar Fund directive, and where the account holdings are typically maintained in the custody of the Fund’s custodian bank.

Investment Policy Statement (“IPS”) – The investment policy statement of the Houston Firefighters’ Relief and Retirement Fund as approved by the Board/IC that provides for the general investment goals and objectives of the Fund.

Investment Program (“IP”) – A system for the investment and administration of the Fund’s assets as outlined in the Fund’s IPS and all applicable laws and regulations.

Net Asset Value (“NAV”) - Market value per unit of the investment vehicle. For public markets, market value is determined on a daily basis. For Private Investments, market value is estimated periodically.

Policy Benchmark (“Policy Benchmark”) – The specific standards against which the performance of securities held by the Fund in certain asset classes can be measured. The benchmarks are detailed in ‘Section IV. Asset Allocation’ and within the tables titled ‘SAA & Benchmarks’ and ‘Public Markets Policy Benchmark’.

Private Investment (“Private Investment”) – Strategies in which the Fund invests (typically through an interest in a limited partnership, limited liability company, or through some other binding agreement) in private equity, debt, real assets, or other assets not listed on a public exchange.

Public Markets– Investment strategies that are traded on public markets and are based on publicly traded securities. Public markets are highly liquid and valued daily.

Risk Appetite (“Risk Appetite”) – The amount of risk that the Fund is willing to take to meet its strategic objectives.

Risk Factors (“Risk Factors”) – Underlying characteristics of the portfolio that define risk, return and correlation.

Risk Tolerance (“Risk Tolerance”) – The degree of variability of investment returns relative to the assigned benchmark that the Fund is willing to accept.

Strategic Asset Allocation (“SAA”) – A portfolio strategy that sets long-term target allocations for various asset classes and includes periodic rebalancing to maintain these allocations.

Tactical Asset Allocation (“TAA”) – A portfolio strategy that shifts, for a short period, the percentage of assets held in various allocation categories to capitalize or manage risk on market or economic environments.

Tracking Error (“Tracking Error”) – A measure of deviation between a portfolio’s return and the benchmark or index it was meant to mimic or beat.

ValueAtRisk95,99 (“VaR95”, “VaR99”) - is a statistical measure used to estimate the maximum potential loss of an investment portfolio over a one-year time horizon, given normal market conditions, with 95% or 99% certainty.

***Section VI Definitions and Acronyms section last revised 8/19/25***

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## **I. Introduction**

- A. The purpose of this IPS is to assist the Board/IC of the Fund in the investment and management of the Fund's assets. The IPS sets forth those factors governing or guiding the IP of the Fund.
- B. The IP shall assist the Board/IC to increase the corpus of the Fund's assets while maintaining the ability to pay those benefits determined by statute to the Fund retirees and beneficiaries.
- C. The IC is a committee of the whole Board and has the authority to act on all matters related to investments.
- D. The Board/IC manages the IP of the Fund in compliance with all applicable federal and state statutes and regulations concerning the investment of pension assets. Accordingly, the IPS shall be construed in a manner to be consistent with applicable laws and regulations.
- E. The authority to amend these policies and procedures rests solely with the Board/IC.
- F. Nothing contained in this IPS shall be construed as either granting or conferring any rights or remedies upon any third parties with regard to this IPS or otherwise, nor as obligating the Fund to any party in any regard.
- G. The Board seeks to produce a return on investments that is based on prudent and reasonable investment risk and the cash flow requirements of the Fund given prevailing economic and capital market conditions.
- H. The Fund acknowledges the importance and significance of adhering to the Exclusive Benefit Rule as expressed in 401(a) of the IRC, Chapter 16, Section 67, of the Constitution of the State of Texas and Chapter 802 of the Texas Government Code.
- I. The Board must act prudently and must diversify the Fund's investments to minimize the risk of large, significant losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so, and improve risk adjusted returns. Trustees must avoid conflicts of interest and prohibited transactions described in the IRC.
- J. The Board/IC is responsible for setting the Fund's asset allocation targets, ranges, benchmarks, and objectives.

*Section VI Policy I last revised 8/19/25*

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## II. Investment Goals

### Investment Objectives:

- A. To ensure practical realization of its purpose as stated herein, the investment planning horizon shall be 10 years and the long-term investment goals of the Fund shall be to:
1. Preserve the principal of the Fund in real terms.
  2. Earn an investment return over rolling ten-year periods at least equal to the 7.00% target rate of return (which is the same as the actuarial assumed rate of return) net of investment management fees.
  3. Generate an aggregate return over the Fund's Policy Benchmark net of investment management fees over a ten-year period.
  4. Obtain optimal risk-adjusted returns without undue risk as defined in the Risk Appetite and Risk Tolerance statement provided below.
  5. Diversify the portfolio across various asset types, currencies, geographies, and risk factors.

### Risk Objectives:

- B. The risk objective is to adhere to the approved Risk Appetite and the Risk Tolerance for investments.
1. The Risk Appetite is implicit in the choice of the SAA. It is a rolling three-year standard deviation from the monthly returns of the SAA.
  2. Risk Tolerance measures the acceptable variation in outcomes the Fund seeks to achieve. The Risk Tolerance of the Fund is targeted at 300 bps, measured as Tracking Error.

### Philosophy:

- C. In developing the IP, the Board/IC is guided by a set of precepts, which underpin all investment decisions and establish the foundation and direction for all investment activity. These precepts are applied by the Board/IC, recognizing the importance of asset allocation and the benefits of diversification. The guiding principles are as follows:
1. Long-term Focus - The Board/IC recognizes the long-term nature of the Fund's liabilities, and an appropriate IP should have long-term assets and strategies.
  2. Active Management - An Active Management philosophy is the belief that over a long-term horizon, Active Management will add value compared to the SAA. The TAA, use of Investment Managers, and Private Investments are the primary tools of the Active Management philosophy.
  3. Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) - The acceptance of risk is crucial for the Fund to achieve its

long-term investment objectives. The SAA is the primary determinant of investment performance, reflecting the Fund's Risk Appetite, along with input from comprehensive ALM Studies and guidance from the Board/IC.

4. Tactical Asset Allocation (TAA) - The TAA reflects the active management philosophy within the Risk Tolerance and is also used to enhance diversification across investments with various risk factors.
5. Liquidity - The Fund's requirements will be met by structuring the investment portfolio to maintain sufficiently liquid securities. For public markets, the liquidity requirements are managed by the Investment staff utilizing a cash forecasting analysis. For Private Investments, the investment staff uses an annual pacing study to estimate capital calls and distributions over the next 10 years.
6. Diversification - The SAA and the TAA are the primary tools for improving diversification across asset classes and risk factors. The IP has the objective of diversifying the risks to minimize the likelihood of significant losses. Diversification is also expected to improve risk-adjusted returns.

*Section VI Policy II last revised 8/19/25*

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### III. Performance Summaries

- A. The reported investment performance of the Fund will be calculated by the Fund's custodian bank, an unaffiliated organization, with recognized expertise in this field and fiduciary level reporting responsibility to the Fund's Board/IC. A calculation will be made for the Fund's aggregate, asset class, and Investment Manager performance consistent with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) or a similar standard. Additionally, each Investment Manager is required to maintain performance records and report periodically to the Fund's custodian, internal investment staff, a third-party risk analysis and reporting service, and a third-party auditor. The Fund's custodian bank will typically perform calculations for any Investment Manager that has its Fund assets under management with the Fund's custodian bank. If the custodian does not have custody of the underlying assets of an investment, the custodian will rely on the NAV as duly reported to calculate aggregate Fund level performance.
- B. A time-weighted rate of return calculation shall be used for all Public Markets. An internal rate of return shall be calculated for Private Investments.
- C. The market value of the Fund shall be maintained on an accrual basis in compliance with applicable Government Accounting Standards Board statements and applicable laws and regulations.
- D. The CIO coordinates the preparation of summaries of the Fund's investment performance. The following formal periodic summaries to the IC shall be the responsibility of the CIO:
  - 1. Annual summary of the Fund's aggregate, asset class, and Investment Manager investment performance;
  - 2. Consolidated Quarterly summary - line item of each mandate's investment performance and cash flow activity including fees and expenses, if applicable;
  - 3. Quarterly - Trust Universe Comparisons Services (TUCS) summary as prepared by Wilshire;
  - 4. Monthly - Asset Allocation;
  - 5. Monthly - Investment Actions Taken;
  - 6. Any ad hoc report that the CIO deems relevant for the IC meeting.

*Section VI Policy III last revised 8/19/25*

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## IV. Asset Allocation

### Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA)

- A. The Board/IC allocates the assets of the Fund to several asset classes, intending to optimize the investment return of the Fund within the framework of acceptable risk and diversification.
- B. The SAA is recommended by the investment staff to the Board/IC considering the results of the most recent ALM Study. The SAA reflects the Risk Appetite of the Fund’s IP. After the conclusion of an ALM Study, the investment staff shall present a recommendation for the SAA to the IC for approval. The IC shall adopt a final SAA titled ‘Final SAA’, based on the results of the ALM Study. The IC shall also adopt, and modify as needed, a current SAA “Current SAA” to act as the Policy Benchmark until (given acceptable timing, risk, and diversification requirements) asset allocations can be appropriately adjusted to reflect the Final SAA.
- C. The IC will undertake a comprehensive review of the Fund’s asset allocation targets and ranges through a periodic ALM Study. Such a study shall recommend benchmarks for the Fund. It shall help place the development of investment policy into the context of future benefit payments, liabilities, required funding, and the prospective funded status of liabilities. The primary objective of the ALM Study is to determine the asset class mix for the Policy Benchmark consistent with the Risk Appetite of the Fund’s IP. In addition, the ALM Study proposes benchmarks for various asset classes which collectively have the best probability of meeting the expected returns.

### Final SAA & Benchmarks

*(Approved in November 2025 IC meeting)*

Asset Class	Policy Target Weight	Benchmarks
<b>Public Markets</b>		
Cash & Short Term	2%	BofAML 9-12 Mo. US Treasury Index
Public Equity- Domestic	12%	Russell 3000 Index
Public Equity- International	12%	MSCI All Country World Ex-US Index
High Yield Bonds	15%	S&P LLI 50%/ICE BofA High Yield 50%
M2 Hedge (Funds, Gold, Digital Assets)	2%	Cash + CPI +100 bps
<b>Private Markets</b>		
Private Equity	33%	MSCI Global Private Capital Closed End Fund Frozen Idx
Private Debt	15%	MSCI Global Private Credit Closed End Fund Frozen Index
Real Estate	9%	MSCI Global Private Real Estate Closed End Fund Frozen Index
<b>Total Public Market Investments</b>	<b>43%</b>	
<b>Total Private Market Investments</b>	<b>57%</b>	

***Expected Risk Profile of the SAA based on 2025 ALM Study Assumptions***

5-yr Geometric Return	8.9%
10-yr Geometric Return	8.5%
15-yr Geometric Return	8.5%
Standard Deviation	14.4%
VaR95	(\$598 million)/ (10.8%)
VaR99	(\$1,106 million)/ (20%)
Sharpe Ratio	0.34

*VaR numbers are stated in dollars representing an approximate loss within a specified confidence level in a 1-year period, assuming total fund AUM of \$5.5 billion. These numbers will be updated annually based on the fund's current AUM.*

**Tactical Asset Allocation (TAA)**

- D. The TAA ranges are necessary for risk management purposes. Each asset class is allowed to operate within TAA ranges established by the IC. The TAA ranges reflect the deviation of the asset class weight relative to the target weight as established in the Current SAA.

**Total Fund TAA ranges (Based on current SAA)**

*(Approved in August 2025 IC meeting)*

Asset Class	Range	Tactical Target Weight
<b><i>Public Markets</i></b>		
Cash & Short Term	0.5% - 8%	2%
Public Equity- Domestic	5% - 17%	12%
Public Equity- International	5% - 17%	12%
High-Yield Bonds	10% - 20%	15%
M2 Hedge	0% - 12%	2%
<b><i>Private Markets</i></b>		
Private Equity	25% - 45%	33%
Private Debt	10% - 20%	15%
Real Estate	5% - 15%	9%

**Rebalancing**

- E. The CIO may rebalance public asset classes within the TAA ranges. The CIO shall disclose the rebalancing activities to the IC within the following monthly summary of investment actions taken.
- F. The CIO shall conduct an annual pacing study to forecast Private Investment weights within TAA ranges and take all appropriate steps to rebalance within applicable ranges, including, but not limited

to, adjusting commitment pacing and recommending secondary transactions to the IC. Due to the illiquid nature of Private Investments, rebalancing within appropriate ranges may require several years. The CIO shall inform the IC of all rebalancing efforts and projected timelines for completion.

- G. Market movements may make asset class weights fall outside the TAA ranges. An asset class is considered outside the TAA ranges for the purpose of rebalancing when the average weight of the asset class during the calendar month falls outside the TAA ranges. The average weight should be calculated as the average of the starting weight and ending weight of the asset class.

If there is an expected near-term large cash outflow, the CIO may replenish cash accounts from public market asset classes, taking into consideration liquidity, trading costs, and TAA ranges. Such action shall not be interpreted to, in itself, satisfy Fund and Fund custodian policies and procedures relating to authorized instructions, including appropriate signatures, concerning the transfer of funds from or to the Fund’s accounts. The CIO shall disclose the rebalancing activities to the IC within the next monthly summary of investment actions taken.

Investment Event	Investment Authority	Approval Method
<b>SAA Range; TAA Range; Benchmarks; Manager Addition/ Termination; New Mandate or Modify Existing Mandate; ETF Addition/Removal</b>	IC	IC Minutes

*Section VI Policy IV last revised 11/18/25*

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## **V. Investment Manager Selection, Review and Termination**

### Selection

- A. To assist the IC in the investment management of the Fund's assets, professional Investment Managers may be retained to implement specific strategies selected by the IC with guidance from the investment staff.
- B. The appropriateness of seeking a new or replacement Investment Manager will be determined by the Fund's most current investment strategy, philosophy, asset class ranges, capital availability or the advisability of replacing an existing Investor Manager in accordance with the retention guidelines of this IPS.
- C. The investment staff, for the recommendation to the IC, shall use a disciplined due diligence process to screen and select Investment Managers consistent with the asset class placement under consideration. No Investment Manager shall be considered by the IC until/unless the Investment Manager has undergone such due diligence process.
- D. Any new mandate awarded to the existing Investment Managers or a recommendation to modify an existing mandate needs to go through the full due diligence process.
- E. All relevant due diligence documentation for Investment Manager selection, review, retention, and termination purposes, should be retained as per the Fund's documentation retention policy.
- F. All new or replacement Investment Managers must be approved by the IC, subject to the conclusion of any further negotiations or fulfillment of other requirements. Any general endorsement or approval of a strategy shall not be sufficient to authorize any investment in itself, without specific IC acknowledgment and approval of the investment amount and investment vehicle.
- G. A recommendation for a new mandate centered around terms specific to the recommended fund shall be presented by the investment staff for approval by the IC. As deemed appropriate by the IC, some outstanding matters may be delegated for resolution by consensus between the Investments Department and the Legal Department (or assigned counsel, if applicable), with subsequent reporting of the conclusion by the CIO to the IC. The mandate is initiated only after all relevant negotiations, documentation, and other legal matters have been successfully resolved.
- H. Investment staff shall confer with Fund Investment Managers quarterly for the purposes of ongoing due diligence and monitoring.
- I. Any Investment Manager may be required to make a presentation to the IC, as deemed appropriate by the CIO or the IC.

## Guidelines

J. The following general guidelines apply to all Investment Managers as follows:

1. Investment Manager's investment philosophy, style, strategy, and structure shall remain consistent and shall not change without the IC's approval. The Investment Manager shall have discretion to manage the portfolio consistent with the agreement(s) governing the Investment Manager's mandate as approved by the IC, and further subject to the restrictions established by the policy herein.
2. The following transactions are prohibited by a fiduciary manager, subject to an IMA, acting directly on behalf of the Fund: short sales, selling on the Fund's margin, put and call options, and the use of derivatives, unless expressly authorized by the IC as to a particular manager, for which authorization may be revoked as to any new activity.
3. To the extent that any broker, custodian, or Investment Manager would be engaged in a transaction with the Fund in a capacity as a counterparty to the Fund (whether as a principal or on behalf of any other third party or any affiliate), such broker, custodian, or Investment Manager shall promptly disclose such transaction to the Fund and act in a manner that is fair and reasonable in all respects. Transactions shall be executed at competitive cost or with best execution.

K. Specific guidelines for each Investment Manager shall be developed and negotiated by the Fund's investment staff and legal counsel. They shall be incorporated into an IMA, and/or other binding written agreement as appropriate for the investment.

L. Quantitative and qualitative performance measures, as well as Investment Manager adherence to applicable guidelines, shall be monitored as are appropriate to each investment. In the case of a conflict between the specific guidelines and the general guidelines, the specific guidelines shall supersede or be accorded primary weight in any reconciliation. The CIO shall inform the IC of any Investment Manager guideline violations within the subsequent monthly summary of investment actions taken.

## Investment Manager Termination

M. The CIO may recommend to the IC that an Investment Manager be terminated. No Investment Manager shall be terminated without the formal approval of the IC. The CIO's recommendation for the termination may be based on any of the following reasons:

1. Changes in key staff of the Investment Manager,
2. Organizational changes of the Investment Manager (including changes in ownership or legal structure),

3. Non-compliance with investment guidelines or other contract requirements,
4. Issues with SEC compliance, regulatory, legal, reputational, and ethical issues, or litigation,
5. Unapproved change in investment style, strategy, or process by the Investment Manager,
6. CIO recommendation to discontinue the mandate as it is no longer productive to the overall strategy,
7. CIO recognition and recommendation of superior alternative formats for pursuing the strategic objective,
8. Long-term net of fee risk adjusted and/or relative underperformance,
9. Adjustment in portfolio construction,
10. Client service and reporting issues,
11. Performance that is outside expectations, or
12. Further retention of the Investment Manager does not advance the interests of the Fund's IP.

*Section VI Policy V last revised 8/19/25*

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## **VI. Private Investment Selection, Review, and Disposal of Interests**

### Selection

- A. To assist the IC in the investment management of the Fund's assets and mandated diversification, contracted interests in Private Investments, for example, those related to private equity, real estate, venture capital, and in some cases, public markets, are permitted in a general sense as appropriate investment vehicles, subject to the conditions of this Section.
- B. The appropriateness of seeking Private Investments will be determined by the Fund's most current investment strategy, philosophy, asset class ranges, or capital availability.
- C. No Private Investment shall be considered by the IC until/unless the Private Investment has been placed through the Fund's formal due diligence process. All relevant due diligence documentation for Private Investment selection, review, and termination purposes should be retained per the Fund's documentation retention policy.
- D. Provisions for each Private Investment particular to the Fund's needs shall be developed and negotiated by the Fund's investment staff and legal counsel. They shall be incorporated into the binding written agreement(s) as is appropriate for the investment.
- E. Investment staff shall review Private Investments for ongoing due diligence and monitoring.
- F. The investment staff must make every possible effort to attend the Limited Partner Advisory Board meetings of which HFRRF is a member.
- G. Any general endorsement or approval of a Private Investment shall not be sufficient to authorize any Private Investment in itself, without specific IC acknowledgment and approval of the investment amount and the investment vehicle.

### Disposal of Investment Interests

- H. Retention/termination actions may not be available to the Fund for Private Investments or may be available with gating or other restrictive provisions. However, to the extent that discretion is available, the IC, based upon a prudent consideration of all costs and benefits to the Fund, may take corrective action by supporting management changes, selling HFRRF's interest, or terminating HFRRF's subscription, as applicable and legally advisable.
- I. If the aggregate public market portfolio value drops below one billion, the CIO must immediately initiate the process of disposal of private market investment interests in secondary markets to generate liquidity. The disposal process must be completed within 6 to 9 months.

### Distributions

- J. Asset, digital asset, and/or foreign currency distributions from Private Investments may be liquidated in a prudent and timely manner by the CIO. The CIO may defer immediate liquidation if available

information provides a reasonable expectation of value improvement or other investment advantages through an extended hold period. The CIO shall notify the IC of all such actions taken within the following monthly summary of investment actions taken.

#### Private Investment Advisory Boards / Committees

- K. Where HFRRF (or an employee or agent of HFRRF) holds a position on the advisory board or similar body of a Private Investment, the appropriate staff member(s) as identified by the Fund's CIO may provide consents, votes, etc. as may be required or appropriate of an advisory board member. The interests of HFRRF in all such advisory board (or similar) actions must be paramount. Employees or agents of HFRRF that have a place on such a board shall not consider themselves to represent the interests of any limited partners except HFRRF in any concrete sense. Any matter placed before such an advisory board that could be expected to result in action taken by the respective Private Investment, that in turn could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the economic interests of HFRRF, shall be reported to the IC at the next IC meeting following the disclosure of the proposed action by such advisory board.

*Section VI Policy VI last revised 8/19/25*

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## VII. Commingled Fund Selection, Review, and Termination

### Selection

- A. To assist the IC in the investment management of HFRRF's assets, Commingled Funds, which may, for example, only include investment pools or collective trust vehicles, are approved as appropriate investment vehicles.
- B. The appropriateness of seeking Commingled Funds will be determined by HFRRF's most current investment strategy, philosophy, asset class ranges, or capital availability.
- C. No Commingled Fund shall be considered by the IC until/unless the Commingled Fund has been placed through HFRRF's formal due diligence process. All relevant due diligence documentation for Commingled Fund selection, review, and termination purposes, should be retained as per HFRRF's documentation retention policy.
- D. Any general endorsement or approval of a strategy shall not be sufficient to authorize any Commingled Fund investment in itself, without specific IC acknowledgment and approval of the Commingled Fund investment amount and the investment vehicle.
- E. Investment staff shall review Commingled Funds quarterly for ongoing due diligence and monitoring.

### Liquidation

- F. The CIO may recommend to the IC that the Fund's interest in a Commingled Fund be fully liquidated. The Fund's interest in a Commingled Fund shall not be fully liquidated without the formal approval of the IC. The CIO's recommendation for the liquidation may be based on any of the following reasons:
  - 1. Issues with SEC compliance, regulatory, legal, reputational, and ethical issues, or litigation,
  - 2. Long-term net of fee risk adjusted and/or nominal underperformance,
  - 3. Adjustment in portfolio construction,
  - 4. CIO recommendation to discontinue the investment as it is no longer productive to the overall strategy,
  - 5. CIO recognition and recommendation of superior alternative formats for pursuing the strategic objective, or

6. Further retention of the Fund's interest in the Commingled Fund does not advance the interests of the Fund's IP.

#### Distributions

- G. Asset, digital asset, and/or foreign currency distributions from Commingled Funds may be liquidated in a prudent and timely manner by the CIO. The CIO may defer immediate liquidation if available information provides a reasonable expectation of value improvement or other investment advantages through an extended hold period. The investment staff shall notify the IC of all such actions taken within the following monthly summary of investment actions taken.

*Section VI Policy VII last revised 8/19/25*

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## VIII. ETF Selection, Review and Liquidation

### Selection

- A. To assist the IC in the investment management of the Fund's assets, ETFs are approved as appropriate investment vehicles.
- B. For purposes of this IP, the term ETF includes other exchange-traded financial products, even if they are not branded or labelled "ETF."
- C. The appropriateness of seeking any new or replacement ETFs will be determined by HFRRF's most current investment strategy, philosophy, asset class ranges, capital availability, or a more appropriate alternative ETF.
- D. No ETF shall be considered by the IC until/unless the ETF has been placed through the Fund's formal due diligence process. All relevant due diligence documentation for ETF selection, review, and liquidation purposes, should be retained as per the Fund's documentation retention policy. Any general endorsement or approval of an ETF investment shall not be sufficient to authorize the investment in itself, without specific IC acknowledgment and approval of the investment amount and investment vehicle.
- E. Investment staff shall review ETFs quarterly for ongoing due diligence and monitoring.

### Liquidation

- F. The CIO may recommend to the IC that the Fund's interest in an ETF be fully liquidated. The Fund's interest in an ETF shall not be fully liquidated without the formal approval of the IC. The CIO's recommendation and justification for the liquidation may be based on any of the following reasons:
  - 1. Issues with SEC compliance, regulatory, legal, reputational, and ethical issues, or litigation,
  - 2. Long-term net of fee risk adjusted and/or nominal under-performance,
  - 3. Adjustment in portfolio construction,
  - 4. CIO recommendation to discontinue the mandate as it is no longer productive to the overall strategy,
  - 5. CIO recognition and recommendation of superior alternative formats for pursuing the strategic objective, or
  - 6. Further retention of the Fund's interest in the ETF does not advance the interest of the Fund's IP.

## **IX. Direct Investment Interests**

- A. Other approved investments include assets directly owned by the Fund, which may be, for purposes of example only, as a result of in-kind distributions from existing HFRRF investments. Such assets may include, but are not limited to, public or private stock, real estate, digital assets, secured interests in personal property, and non-stock interests in a company or firm.
- B. Concerning some types of direct investment, such as holdings of in-kind distribution of assets, such investments are permitted as residuals of administering the IP and the Fund but do not constitute strategies of the IP.
- C. Investments in direct ownership of individual real properties and Digital Assets, in whole or in part, are not an element of the current investment strategy and are to be scrutinized as an exception. Accordingly, legacy assets of this type may be retained or disposed of by the IC in the best interest of the Fund, consistent with the IP.
- D. For purposes of this IP, ETFs are not considered to fall under this section but instead are addressed under Section VIII above.

*Section VI Policy IX last revised 8/19/25*

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## **X. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

- A. To assist the IC in the investment management of the Fund's assets, Cash and Cash Equivalents, are approved as appropriate investment vehicles subject to other provisions of the IP.
- B. Cash and Cash Equivalents include domestic and foreign currency, as well as short-term securities such as commercial paper, repurchase agreements, money market shares, and liquid sweep vehicle deposits or holdings. Cash and Cash Equivalents do not include any instruments or holdings with a maturity date that exceeds one year from the issue date.
- C. The appropriateness of holding Cash and Cash Equivalents as an intentional investment and the Fund's cash flow procedures will be determined by the Fund's most current investment strategy, philosophy, asset class ranges, capital availability, or the need for a more appropriate alternative Cash and Cash Equivalents.
- D. Investment staff shall review Cash and Cash Equivalents quarterly for ongoing due diligence and monitoring.

*Section VI Policy X last revised 8/19/25*

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## **XI. Other Appropriate Investment Structures or Vehicles**

- A. The Board/IC may invest utilizing any investment structure or vehicle it deems most appropriate for the investment and its objectives as permitted under applicable law.

*Section VI Policy XI last revised 8/19/25*

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## **XII. Investment Agreements**

- A. The signature of all agreements, amendments, consents, and letters of instruction shall be in accordance with the Fund's Policies and Procedures Manual Administrative Policies Section 1.0. Unless clearly ancillary, consequent, or otherwise in furtherance of an existing or approved investment, no investment agreement shall be executed on behalf of the Fund without formal approval by the IC. No representative of the Fund (Board or staff) shall represent, written or otherwise, that an investment will be made, or an approval of the IC will be given, without the formal approval of the IC. The legal department must review all investment agreements for completion of all steps of legal review, negotiation, and approval prior to signature.
- B. With the recommendation of the CIO, the Chairman may execute amendments, consents, extensions, and ancillary documents related to existing investments or those already approved by the IC without the approval of the IC if the resulting changes or allowances do not constitute additional investment or capital committed and
1. are provided for in the governing documents as previously approved by the IC or the Fund; or
  2. if the CIO reasonably believes that such action would have no adverse economic impact on the investment, and
  3. are approved by the legal department as outlined above, except for extensions.
- C. The investment staff shall notify the IC of all actions taken within the following monthly summary of investment actions taken. If the Committee does not vote to reverse the action (where possible), the Committee shall be deemed to have ratified the action. Notwithstanding the foregoing, consents provided as a member of a Private Investment advisory board or committee may be provided by the CIO, subject to the criteria in section VI of the IPS.

*Section VI Policy XII last revised 8/19/25*

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### **XIII. Miscellaneous**

#### Securities Lending

- A. The Fund may engage in the lending of the Fund's owned securities (typically managed in a separate account by a fiduciary manager) to generate income from the investment of the related collateral. The income is divided between the Fund and the securities lending agent. The investment staff shall monitor the program and ensure that the lending income is split following the negotiated rate between the Fund and the securities lending agent.

#### Corporate Governance Guidelines

- A. The Investment staff shall review Investment Manager proxy voting reports annually, if applicable.

*Section VI Policy XIII last revised 8/19/25*

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