Cookie Policy

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Cookie Policy — MIFP

Mediterranean Institute of Fundamental Physics

Last updated: September 2026

1. What Are Cookies

Cookies are small text files that a website asks your browser to store. They are sent back to the site on subsequent requests and can be used to keep you signed in or to protect forms against cross-site request forgery. Most browsers accept cookies automatically, and you can usually change your browser settings to refuse or delete them.

This website does not use cookies for advertising, analytics, tracking, profiling or marketing purposes, and it does not use third-party cookies of any kind.

2. Cookies on This Website

This website sets **two strictly necessary cookies**. Nothing else is stored on your device by the site itself.

Cookie name	Set when	Purpose	Duration	Type
`mifp_admin_session`	Only after a **successful administrator login**	Keeps the authenticated dashboard session valid. Contains a signed session identifier; no personal data is stored in the cookie itself.	Browser session cookie (removed when the browser closes); the server also ends the session after 8 hours by default	Strictly necessary

Cookie name	Set when	Purpose	Duration	Type
`mifp_csrf`	Only on a page that renders a **form protected against cross-site request forgery** — currently the membership application form (`/join`), the administrator login form (`/login`) and the maintenance page	Carries a random value that the submitted form's signed CSRF token is bound to. This is what makes the token unusable from a different site.	Up to 2 hours	Strictly necessary

Both cookies are `HttpOnly`, use `SameSite=Lax`, are scoped to the whole site, and are marked `Secure` on the production HTTPS deployment.

Ordinary browsing

Reading the public website — the home page, news, events, the archive, the member directory, the research and publication pages, and the Privacy and Cookie policies — does **not** set any cookie at all. `mifp_csrf` is only created when a form that actually needs CSRF protection is rendered, so a visitor who only reads pages never receives it.

Membership application form

When you open the application form at `/join`, the page renders a CSRF-protected form, so `mifp_csrf` is set for the duration of that submission. The cookie contains no personal data; it is a random value that is discarded when it expires. The details you type into the form are sent to MIFP's server and are covered by the Privacy Policy, not by this cookie policy.

Administrator session

`mifp_admin_session` is set only after a successful login to the administrative dashboard. It is never sent to a visitor who has not logged in, and it grants no access to the public site. Blocking it prevents dashboard access, which is expected behaviour for a strictly necessary authentication cookie.

The cookie notice

The website shows a short informational notice on public pages. It summarises the two strictly necessary cookies described above and links to this policy.

The notice is **informational only**. It does not ask for consent and it has no "accept" or "reject" choices. Closing it records no consent and sends nothing to MIFP: it stores only the notice revision in your browser's `localStorage`. This prevents the same notice from appearing again on later pages or visits. No cookie

is created and there is no server-side record; the value is not used to identify or track you. If MIFP publishes a new notice revision from the dashboard, the revised notice is shown again. Because there is nothing optional to consent to, no consent is collected. Its link points to this policy.

Aggregate statistics

Public website statistics are produced exclusively as aggregate server-side daily counters. They use no cookies, no visitor IDs, no IP addresses or IP hashes, no User-Agent hashes, no full referrers, no query strings, no browser fingerprinting, no tracking pixels and no third-party analytics service. Because they involve no storage on, or reading from, your device, they are not cookies.

Local storage

The public website uses one `localStorage` entry, `mifp-cookie-notice-revision`, solely to remember which version of the informational cookie notice you closed. The value contains only a revision token; it is not sent to the server, does not expire automatically and is replaced when you close a later revision. Removing site data from your browser deletes it.

The public website does not otherwise use `localStorage` or session storage.

The administrator dashboard uses a single `localStorage` entry, `mifp-dashboard-sidebar-collapsed`, to remember whether the navigation sidebar was left collapsed. It is a purely client-side interface preference, it never leaves your browser, it is not accessible to the public site, and it is not used to identify or track anyone.

Third-party services

This website does not embed external scripts, widgets, fonts or stylesheets. All assets — stylesheets, JavaScript libraries, fonts and icons — are served from the same server as the site. No external domain is contacted while you browse it. If this ever changes, this policy will be updated before the new resource is deployed.

3. Why Prior Consent Is Not Requested

Article 122(1) of the Italian Privacy Code, which implements Article 5(3) of the ePrivacy Directive, exempts storage or access that is strictly necessary to provide a service explicitly requested by the user from the prior-consent requirement. The Italian Data Protection Authority's cookie guidelines also state that technical cookies require information but are exempt from consent.

Both cookies described above are first-party technical cookies limited to that strictly necessary role: one maintains an authenticated administrator session and the other protects a form the user has chosen to open and submit. They are not repurposed for analytics, advertising or profiling.

The consent exemption for storing these cookies is separate from the GDPR legal basis for any related processing of personal data. To the extent such processing involves personal data, MIFP relies on the steps or service requested by the user (Article 6(1)(b) GDPR, where applicable) and its legitimate interest in securing the website and preventing abuse (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR).

Because no optional, analytics or marketing cookies are used, this website does not collect consent: the informational notice described above is not a consent mechanism, and there is nothing optional to consent to.
If optional cookies are introduced in the future, a real consent mechanism will be implemented first and this policy will be updated.

4. How to Control Cookies

You can view, block and delete cookies through your browser settings. Most browsers allow you to:

- view the cookies stored on your device;
- block cookies from specific websites;
- delete all cookies when you close the browser;
- configure preferences for third-party cookies.

Blocking or deleting these cookies does not affect your ability to read the public website, but it will prevent the administrator dashboard from working and will make the membership application form fail its security check.

Browser settings

- Chrome
- Firefox
- Safari
- Edge

5. Changes to This Policy

We may update this cookie policy from time to time. When we do, the date at the top of this page will be revised. We encourage you to review this policy periodically to stay informed about how cookies are used.

6. Contact

If you have any questions about this cookie policy, please contact us at:

- **Organization:** Mediterranean Institute of Fundamental Physics (MIFP)
- **Address:** Via Appia Nuova 31, 00047 Marino (Roma), Italy
- **Privacy:** secretary@mifp.eu
- **General inquiries:** secretary@mifp.eu