



Policy: Membership Policy | **Created:** December 2016 | **Approved:** February 2017



AOA MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Preamble

1. Alpine Ontario Alpin (AOA) is the recognized Provincial Sports Organization (PSO) for Alpine, Para-Alpine and Ski Cross in Ontario. AOA's voting membership consists of four (4) geographical districts across Ontario, representing Southern Ontario (SOD), Northern Ontario (NOD), Lake Superior (LSDA), and the National Capital (NCD), which collectively represent 41 member clubs and ultimately 4,767 individual members (in 2015).
2. The organization of alpine skiing activities and the delivery of alpine, para-alpine and ski cross programs are principally carried out by the clubs. The four districts and AOA reflect the effort of Ontario clubs to work together and to coordinate the delivery of common programs for the benefit of individual members.
3. AOA has traditionally maintained an open approach to membership. Clubs are community-based or privately run organizations, with a high degree of independence. Club formation has normally been on the initiative of interested individuals based on the perceived needs of communities.
4. The aim of this document is to state and clarify the CCO policy on membership, as well as certain requirements and obligations that accompany membership.

Definitions

6. Important definitions of membership, for the purposes of this policy, are:
 - "Clubs" or "Member Club" meaning a club duly registered with AOA through a Division.
 - Alpine Canada Alpin (ACA) is the governing body for AOA;
 - "Divisions", meaning the Southern Ontario Division, Northern Ontario Division, National Capital Division and Lake Superior Division Alpine. These Divisions are the voting members of AOA, and represent the clubs in the geographic areas indicated.
 - "Individual non-voting members", meaning any individual who is a member in good standing of a Club which is registered with AOA through a Division.

Policy

7. AOA member ship clubs have significant benefits, including:
 - Coverage by AOA's Liability Insurance policy for sanctioned events;
 - Access to AOA programming delivered through AOA;
 - Access to competitive programs and the opportunity and framework for



competitively oriented skiers to participate in local, provincial, and national-level competition and training programs, and the opportunity for such athletes to strive for excellence through membership on provincial or national teams;

- Access, as appropriate, to funding support obtained by AOA for delivery of AOA programming at the provincial level; and,
- The value of being publicly associated with AOA and the sport of alpine, para-alpine and ski-cross.

8. Member clubs, registered through their Divisions have certain requirements and obligations:

- Timely submission of annual membership application, payment of membership fees;
- That the programs delivered by a club should conform to the standards developed by ACA and AOA;
- That club officials and coaches adhere to applicable policies and guidelines issued by ACA, AOA and the Division, necessary to provide a framework for the sport, as well as standards for its conduct, including:
 - The ACA Liability Insurance Manual;
 - The ACA Competition Registration and Sanctioning Policy;
 - AOA's Coaching Code of Ethics;
 - AOA's Athletes' Code of Conduct;
 - AOA's Harassment Policy and Screening Policy;
 - AOA's Team Selection Criteria.

9. Divisions and AOA accept a club's registration for membership on the understanding that the club will be run based on established policies and guidelines, and generally accepted standards of conduct as summarized above. Where there is reason to believe that a club may not meet those criteria, AOA may, in its sole discretion, decline to accept the registration of that club as a member club of AOA and ACA. Such a decision should be well-documented, and the subject of agreement by AOA's Board of Directors.

General Procedures Regarding Membership

10. Clubs determine membership policies with respect to individual club members, including membership fees and other obligations and privileges of membership.
11. AOA establishes an annual membership fee to be charged to each individual member based on their Division and program.
16. The annual per-member fee is approved and can be amended at AOA's Annual General Meeting. This per-member fee is payable for every member who is involved in an inter-club race program.
17. To further clarify who should be considered a club member - club members include all those who:
 - are enrolled in children's skill development programs, racing, or Masters' racing programs;
 - volunteer in support of race programs, including race crew and officials; and,
 - volunteer or paid coaches.