

Chapter 3 Membership

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Scouting in the Maltese Islands is organised in Scout Sections, Scout Groups, Scout Districts, and Island HeadQuarters. These 'units' of Scouting provide:

- support;
- channels for communication;
- opportunities for youth Members and Adults to make decisions and take responsibility;
- functional units through which the design and delivery of the youth programme can be best achieved.

A Scout Group comprises two or more of any or all of the following:

- a Beaver Scout Colony;
- a Cub Scout Pack;
- a Scout Troop;
- a Venture Scout Unit;
- a Rover Crew.

Rule 3.1 Membership of the Scout Group

- a. No individual aged 18 or over may be permitted to undertake any responsibilities or involvement within Scouting until the appropriate enquiries have been made.
- b. There are two types of membership - Members and Associate Members.
- c. Any individual who is prepared to follow the Association's principles by making the Promise may become a Member or an Associate Member of The Scout Association of Malta (subject to the Rules contained within Policy, Organisation and Rules).
- d. When an individual becomes a Member, that person becomes a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, The Scout Association of Malta, a Scout District and a Scout Group as appropriate.
- e. When an individual becomes an Associate Member that person becomes a member of The Scout Association of Malta, Scout District and a Scout Group (as appropriate).
- e. Membership to Beaver Scout Colonies, Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops, Venture Scout Units and Rover Crews is open to males and females unless otherwise stipulated.
- g. Adult membership whether by appointment or otherwise, is open equally to men and women.
- h. The minimum age for membership is 5 years.

- j. Adult appointments are subject to a minimum age of 18 years. Adults over the age of 65 may not hold an appointment for or serve in the role of Group Scout Leader, Section Leader or Commissioner. The review of all appointments is described in the appointment process of the POR.
- k. On ceasing to hold an appointment, an adult has two options of membership in the Association, becoming a Member or an Associate Member.
- l. Associate Members do not have any right (actual or implied) to participate in the national management of The Scout Association of Malta or in the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

Members

- m. The following are required to be Members and pay the Island Headquarters Membership Subscription annually:
 - Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts;
 - adults with an appointment as a Leader as described in POR: The Appointment Process; A Leader in the Scout Movement means all appointed adults including Commissioners; National Scout Council Members; Assistant Commissioners and IHQ staff;
 - Associate Members
- n. Members must also pay any Scout Group Membership Subscription determined at Group/District level locally.
- o. Young people become Members of the Scout Movement by making the Promise and keeping the Scout Law, appropriate to their Section.
- p. Adults become Members by making the Promise and keeping the Scout Law and completing a Members' Declaration.
- q. Members of the Movement may:
 - wear the approved uniform (see Chapter 10);
 - wear the World Membership badge;

Associate Members

- r. The following are required to be Associate Members and pay the Island Headquarters Membership Subscription annually:
 - Group Chairmen, Secretaries, Treasurers and other Group Council Members are to become Associate Members of the Scout Association of Malta;
 - Adults who may opt to be Associate Members - parents, ex members, supporters etc.An Associate Member must also pay the Group membership subscription as determined locally.
- s. Adults become Associate Members of The Scout Association of Malta by completing an Associate Members' Declaration.
- t. Associate Members are not required to make the Promise.
- u. Associate Members of The Scout Association of Malta do not wear the approved uniform **but** may wear the approved activity wear

Rule 3.2 Admission to Membership

- a. The decision to admit anyone to membership of a Scout Group rests with the Group Scout Leader. In the case of a Sponsored Scout Group, this is subject to any recruitment policy defined in the sponsorship agreement.
- b. The Group Scout Leader will generally delegate responsibility for youth admissions to the Leader in charge of the Section concerned.
- c. The Group Scout leader has an obligation to register all prospective Leaders within two months of their initiation by filling in the Registered Leader's Form and forwarding it to Island Headquarters

Rule 3.3 Forfeit of Membership

- a. Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts, Rover Scouts and Leaders forfeit their membership in the Association if they leave the Scout Group.

Rule 3.4 Transfer of membership

- a. If a Member leaves a Scout Group due to a move to another locality, the Group Scout Leader should inform the District Commissioner of the District to which the Member is moving and pass on the Member's records to the Group Scout Leader into which the Member is transferred.
- b. The same information should be forwarded to Island Headquarters.
- c. No Member of the Association may leave a Scout Group to join another Group without the Group Scout Leader first making the necessary enquiries. The District Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner must be informed as appropriate.
- d. A short report must be prepared and forwarded by the Group Scout Leader to the accepting Group Scout Leader when a member is being transferred. A copy of this report must be sent to the District Commissioner/s (between Districts) who in turn will inform IHQ.

Rule 3.5 Annual Census

- a. The number of Members and Associate Members must be reported in an annual census of the Scout Group and submitted by the end of January of each calendar year. Failure to do so will incur a penalty as stipulated by the National Scout Executive.
- b. A list of the names and addresses of all the Members in the Scout Group at the date of the annual census must be collected by the Scout Group and passed on to the District Commissioner who in turn will forward a copy to Island Headquarters.
- c. Registration and payment of the Annual Membership Fee is paid in advance and by not later than February of that particular year. Failure to do so may result in a Scout Group not participating in the Association's events and activities.

Rule 3.6 Mixed Membership

- a. All Scout Groups are open to male and female membership except in special situations. Single sex Sections may exist within a Scout Group provided that membership is available for both sexes across all Sections within that Group.
- b. Special situations are defined as being where:
 - A Scout Group has been registered as a single sex (male) group from its formation and has not altered its registration to mixed membership at any time;
 - there are cultural or religious requirements for single sex Groups;
 - Scouting is offered in a single sex institution (e.g. school through a closed Scout Group);

The decision whether Groups may become an exception to the policy is made by the District Commissioner in consultation with the Chief Commissioner.