



Alpine Search and Rescue Victoria Inc. Membership Policy & Process

1. Introduction

This document prescribes the membership and qualification policies and processes of Alpine Search and Rescue Victoria Inc. (alpineSAR).

2. References

Rule 4 of the Association.

Position Description: Membership Officer; alpineSAR Strategic Plan 2009-2011.

3. Policy

3.1. Membership Application

(a) Entry Criteria

Applicants must:

- be over 18 years of age;
- be an experienced overnight bushwalker or ski tourer;
- have successfully completed an extended walk of at least four days;
- have had snow camping experience;
- be a competent off-track navigator;
- be fully equipped for overnight walking;
- be sufficiently fit for prolonged heavy scrub bashing in difficult terrain; and
- hold a current first aid certificate.

(b) Application

Application for membership must be made on the form in Appendix 1 addressing **all** entry criteria.

(c) Selection

Applications for membership will be assessed in accordance with the process described below (4.1).

3.2. Member Status

Members will have the following status, which will be recorded in the Membership Register:

(a) Trainee

All new members are initially Trainees.

To progress to Active status, Trainees must successfully complete Core alpineSAR competencies, and successfully participate in an alpineSAR or BSAR overnight training practice. It is expected that a Trainee member will progress to Active status within 2 years of joining. A member who does not achieve Active status within 2 years will be contacted by a member of the Committee to review what assistance can be offered to assist the member achieve Active status.

Where an applicant does not clearly meet required skills or abilities, additional conditions may be specified, which must be met before progression to Active status.

(b) Active

Active members are available for searches and will be added to the Callout List.

The minimum training attendance for a member to maintain Active status is 4 days of alpineSAR or BSAR training over a rolling 2-year period; at least 2 days of which must be alpineSAR training.

In addition, Active members must maintain currency in the Core alpineSAR competencies.

(c) Non-Active

Non-Active members are not available for searches and will be removed from the Callout List.

A Non-Active member may be restored to Active status on completion of the minimum training requirement and Core alpineSAR competencies.

A member may request to be Non-Active.



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(d) Associate

Rule 14 provides for a category of “Associate” member:

14. Associate members

(1) An associate member of the Association includes—

(a) members under the age of 15 years; and

(b) any other category of member as determined by resolution at a general meeting.

(2) An associate member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a general meeting.

In accordance with Rule 14(1)(b), an Active member may, upon request and advice that he or she no longer wishes to maintain Active status, become an Associate member. An Associate member shall not be obliged to pay any annual subscription. (AGM, 24/10/2017)

An applicant for Associate membership must:

have held Active status for a minimum of 5 years, i.e. met and maintained minimum training requirement and currency in Core competencies, available for searches and on BSAR Callout List; and

have a desire to permanently retire from Active status. (Committee, 14.11.2017)

3.3. Membership Type

Members will have the following status, which will be recorded in the Membership Register:

(a) Skier

Members who have demonstrable Advanced or Intermediate backcountry skiing skills.

(b) Walker

Members who do not qualify as Skier members.

Walker members are expected to have or attain competency in travelling on snowshoes over steep terrain.

3.4. Steep Snow & Ice Qualification

Additionally, members may be Steep Snow & Ice (SSI) qualified as follows:

(a) T

Formal alpine training, such as New Zealand Technical Mountaineering Course or equivalent, or verifiable alpine experience as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

Successful participation in alpineSAR designated SSI training and successful completion of alpineSAR SSI competencies.

(b) C

Demonstrable ability to travel over steep terrain with ice axe and crampons.

3.5. Competencies

The Committee will define competencies as required.

(a) Core competencies are:

- Fitness
- Knots and Lashings
- UHF CB and SMR Radio
- GPS
- Map and Compass
- First Aid



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- Passive Search
- Feature Search
- Reconnaissance Search
- Line Search
- Probe Search

Details of all competencies are available on the alpineSAR website.

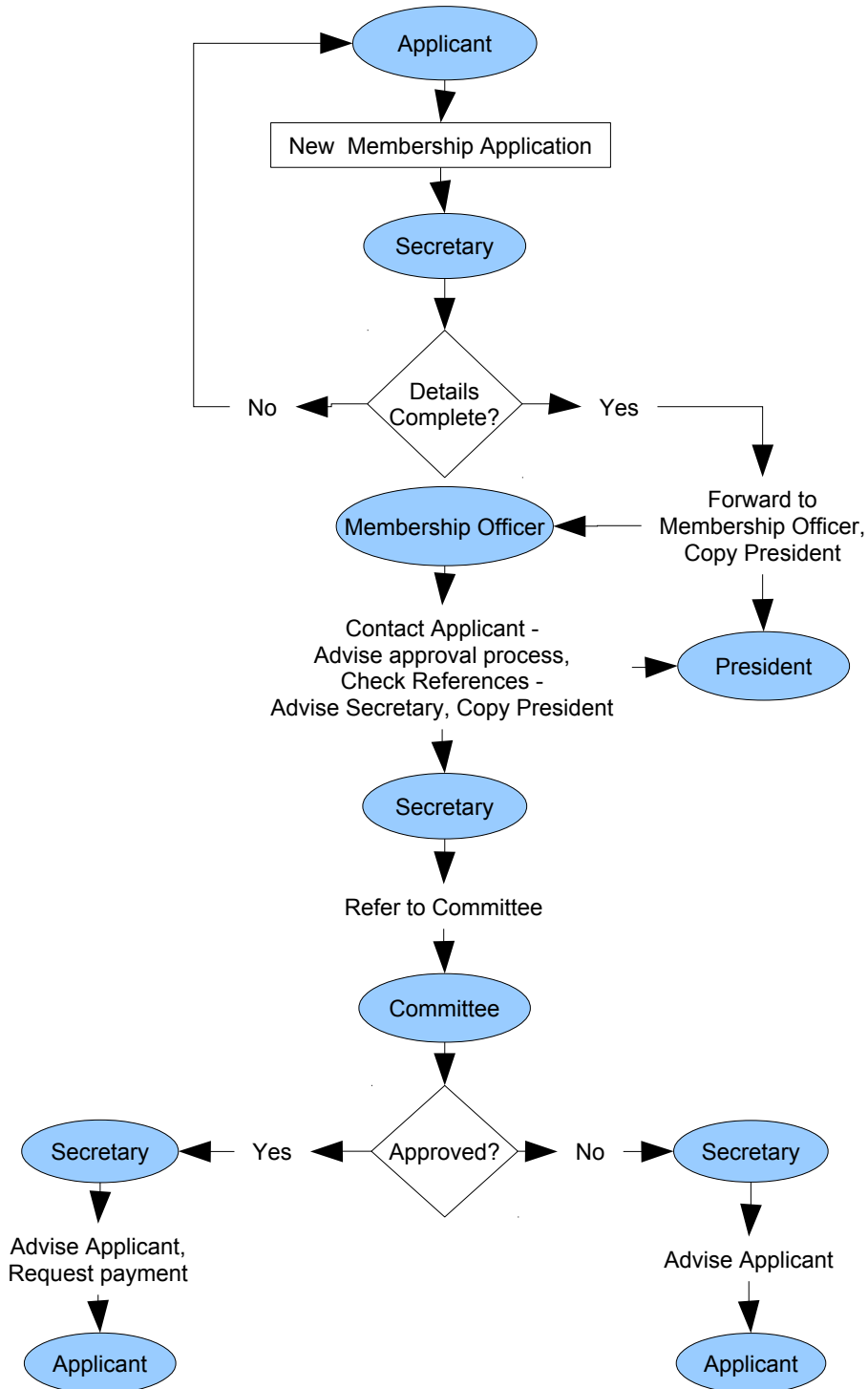
4. Process

4.1. Membership Application & Approval

An application for membership will be evaluated and considered for approval in accordance with the following process:



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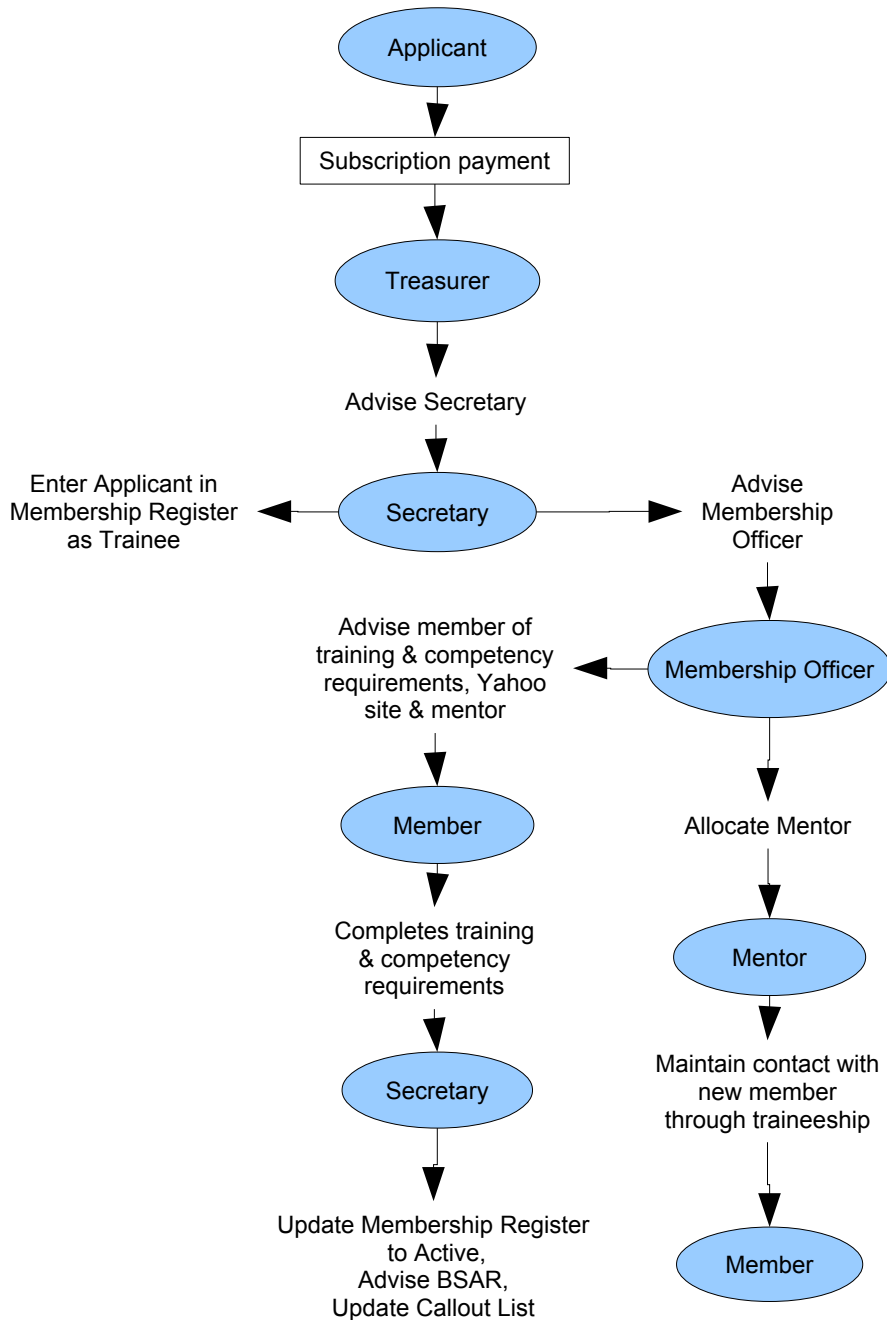
Membership Application & Approval	Who	When
Applications on the pro forma application form addressing all selection criteria sent to Secretary	Applicant	
Check all details on application form complete; refer back to applicant if not	Secretary	Within 2 weeks of receipt
Forward to Membership Officer, copy to President	Secretary	Within 2 weeks of receipt
Advise applicant of approval process and intention to contact referees	Membership Officer	Within 2 weeks of receipt
Check references, advise Secretary; copy President	Membership Officer	Within 2 weeks of receipt
Refer to Committee	Secretary	Next meeting
Consider approval of application	Committee	Next meeting
Advise applicant	Secretary	Within 1 week of meeting



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4.2 Pathway to Active Status

Following approval of membership application, the members will progress to Active status in accordance with the following process:





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Pathway to Active Status	Who	When
Pay subscription	Applicant	Within 30 days
Advise Secretary	Treasurer	Within 2 weeks of receipt
Enter applicant in Membership Register, advise Membership Officer	Secretary	Within 2 weeks of advice
Allocate & advise mentor	Membership Officer	Within 2 weeks of advice
Advise applicant of training & competency requirements, web site and mentor	Membership Officer	Within 2 weeks of advice
Maintain contact with new member through traineeship, offer advice & guidance as required	Mentor	Initial contact within 2 weeks, then as required at least 3-monthly
Complete training & competency requirements	Member	Within 12 months
Update Membership register to Active, advise BSAR, update Callout List	Secretary	Within 2 weeks of completion by member



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- 5. **Appendices**
 - 1 **Membership Application Form**
 - 2 **Applicant Referee Check Form**
- 6. **Document Control**

Version	Changes	Author	Date	Approval
0.1	First draft	David Mitchell	06/01/10	
1.0	First release	David Mitchell	16/02/10	16/02/10
2.0	Updated competencies	David Mitchell	31/08/2011	
2.1	New logo	David Mitchell	09/08/2013	
3.0	Associate membership		30/11/2017	24/10/2017; 14/11/2017