

RAFFCA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. The executive committee **shall** remain mindful that their primary purpose is to promote military efficiency. All RAF Sports Associations operate as charities and they shall not stray far beyond its primary purpose without compromising its continued charitable status. Therefore, it is important to limit the use of RAFFCA charitable funds and exemptions gifted by the MOD by non-qualifying civilian personnel and therefore the terms “**Full-Qualifying**”, “**Associate-Qualifying**” and “**Non-Qualifying**” membership is used. However, the following general provisos, taken from JSP660 ‘Sport in the UK Armed Forces’ and the RAF Sports Federation’s ‘Group Policies and Procedures’, for membership remain:

a. **Full-Qualifying** Regular and Reserve Service personnel **shall** have preferential access to the club/activity. They **shall** make up **at least 25% of the total membership**.

b. **Associate-Qualifying** members have full entitled access to RAFFCA facilities but **shall not** participate in RAF and tri-Service Sports events and competitions. They **shall not** have voting rights for RAFFCA matters and **shall** make up **no more than 75% of the membership**.

c. **Non-Qualifying** civilian membership **shall** make up **no more than 25% of the total membership/usage of the activity**. They **shall** be charged the going commercial rate (i.e. non-qualifying personnel should not benefit from discounted rates or be subsidised by the association) for use of the facilities. The proceeds should be used for the association’s/activities purpose. They **shall not** have voting rights for RAFFCA matters.

2. **Full-Qualifying Membership (min 25% of total membership)** of RAF flying clubs **shall** be open to:

a. Regular personnel of the Royal Air Force.

b. Active personnel of the RAF Reserve (FTRS, ADC, VERRS) and PTVR in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

c. Ministry of Defence Civil Servants that work for the RAF.

d. Personnel of Commonwealth and Allied Forces serving on exchange with the RAF or posted to RAF stations.

e. Student Officers and Cadets of the University Air Squadrons (UAS) plus Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS) students.

f. Regular personnel of the other Armed Forces of the Crown plus RN Reserves (List 1-5), RM Reserves (List 1), Army Reserves (Group A). These may participate in RAFFCA competitions but **shall not** compete in competitions for the RAF.

3. **Associate-Qualifying Membership (max 75% of total membership)** of RAF flying clubs **shall not** compete in competitions but membership **shall** be open to:

- a. Other current members of the RAF Reserve: Regular Reserve of the RAF with a recall liability under the Reserve Forces Act 1980 and 1996 (RFA80 and RFA96), RAFAC, RAFVR(T), RAF Reserve (Civil Component), RNR (List 6, 7 and 8) plus Army Reserve (Group B and C) and all Sponsored Reserves.
- b. Officer Trg Corps (Army and RN equivalent) and RAF Air Cadet (RAFAC) Organisation.
- c. Ministry of Defence Civil Servants other than those that work for the RAF.
- d. Ministry of Defence Contractors.
- e. Partners or dependants of all Qualifying Service Personnel.
- f. Instructors, Examiners and Ops Managers that provide a service to the Club in the discharge of their duties within the Club.
- g. Service Veterans defined by the Government as “anyone who has served for at least one day in Her Majesty’s Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve)”. They should be in possession of a MOD Armed Forces Veteran’s Badge and qualifying certificate (available from the MOD Medal Office).
- h. Trustees of the RAFFCA CIO if not already covered in the above categories.

4. **Non-Qualifying Civilian Membership (max 25% of total membership)** are to have no voting rights on decisions affecting the RAF Flying Club. Non-Qualifying members **shall not** represent the RAF in any sports competitions but may be used as enablers for such activities. Such membership **shall** be open to:

- a. Ex-members of the UAS or RAF Air Cadet Organisation that do not qualify for a MOD Armed Forces Veterans Badge.
- b. Others accepted at the discretion of individual Club Chairmen on the basis that they provide operational assistance or will otherwise undertake significant assistance to the running of the Club.
- c. **All** civilians **shall** be security checked by the Station Security Flight before they are offered Associate Membership.

5. **Honorary Membership.** Honorary members may be elected by the club AGM. Serving members are not eligible for honorary membership. Honorary members have no voting rights on decisions affecting the RAF Flying Club and they **shall** be social members only (i.e. Not participate in flying). These members must fit within the above qualifying/non-qualifying categories according to their status.

6. **Social Membership.** A reduced social membership rate may be used for those that no longer fly but want to retain contact with the Club and occasionally assist. These members must fit within the above qualifying/non-qualifying categories according to their status.

7. **Temporary Membership.** At the discretion of Club Chairs/OICs a temporary membership not exceeding 3 months in any 12-month period may be allowed. A membership form is to be completed. Temporary members without a valid MOD ID Pass **shall** be security checked by the Station Security Flt before they are offered membership.

8. **Reciprocal Membership.** All RAFFCA Club members may enjoy reciprocal membership to use other Clubs' facilities (not aircraft) for free. Additionally, members of other RAFFCA clubs may be given temporary reciprocal membership to fly other RAFFCA Club aircraft with restriction under terms determined by each Club Chair/OIC (usually charged if over one month at a time at a nominal *pro rata* rate without the annual RAFFCA subs). Members of the RAF Gliding & Soaring Association (RAFGSA) and RAF Microlight Flying Association (RAFMFA) may also be offered reduced membership costs if they request to use the RAFFCA Club facilities to conduct their activities.

9. **Participation in RAF flying club activities by minors.** Clubs are to obtain the prior consent in writing of parents or guardians before extending membership to, or allowing participation, in the club's activities by serving personnel, civilians and cadets under the age of 18. In such cases Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS – previously CRB) checks for instructional staff or those that come into regular contact (<6 months) of children are to be carried out in accordance with extant regulations. An approved form of consent is at ANNEX B of the GAI. Clubs **shall** have orders and procedures outlined in their Club Orders to cover activities by minors.

10. **Termination of Membership.** At the discretion of the Club Chair or OIC, through their committees, may terminate the membership of **any** member at any time. This **should** be done in writing and **should** begin as soon as a decision to terminate is made. Any membership monies **should** be refunded at a *pro-rata* rate – i.e. If the member has 9 months membership remaining, then 9/12ths of the membership fees **should** be refunded. Any grievance on this dismissal **should** be heard in the first instance by the Station Commander or Head of Establishment. If there is no agreement reached, then the RAFFCA President and Chair **should** seek to adjudicate with the help of the RAFFCA Legal Advisor. Further guidance on what might constitute good reason for revocation/termination of membership, and what might be reasonable, is held within the RAFFCA Code of Good Practice.