

# REGULATIONS

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who have relevant alpine mountaineering experience.

### Proposers and Seconders

1. The proposer and seconder of every candidate for Full Membership shall be a Full Member of the Alpine Club (AC). The proposer shall have personal knowledge of the candidate. The seconder may be the Chair of the Applications Sub-Committee. If the candidate does not know a proposer who is a full member, the Chair of the Applications Sub-Committee may propose the candidate after making appropriate enquiries; in which case the seconder of the candidate shall be another member of the Applications Sub-Committee. The Committee shall have power to dispense with this requirement in the case of a candidate who is ordinarily resident outside the United Kingdom.
2. The proposer of every candidate for Aspirant Membership or Associate Membership shall be a Full Member of the Alpine Club (AC), or an elected officer of a club in full membership of the British Mountaineering Council, Mountaineering Scotland, or Mountaineering Ireland, or any member of the British Association of Mountain Guides, who has personal knowledge of him or her.
3. Full Members wishing to transfer to Senior Associate Membership are not required to have a proposer.

### Qualifications

4. No candidate may be elected to Membership of the Alpine Club until he or she is 18 years of age.
5. A candidate for Full Membership shall have achieved a high level of proficiency and self-reliance, and shall have demonstrated a commitment to alpine climbing. Typically, they have climbed approximately 20 substantive peaks or routes at an average grade of PD or above in the Alps, or in other ranges or wilderness areas, over at least three seasons. Hard alpine routes and serious climbs in the greater ranges will carry more weight than snow ascents. Ski mountaineering ascents are taken into account.
6. Candidates for Aspirant Membership shall have some alpine mountaineering experience, including roped glacier travel and an ability to competently lead mixed snow and rock climbing to PD grade. Aspirants should have an enthusiasm for the mountains making it reasonably likely that they will qualify for Full Membership in due course.  
Alternatively, for those mountaineers who do not have any alpine mountaineering experience, but now wish to take their experience to an alpine level, the Club offers Aspirant Membership for a fixed term of one membership year. These candidates should be able to demonstrate an ability to competently lead traditional multi-pitch routes at grade Severe and have UK winter mountaineering and climbing experience, which demonstrates an ability to lead mixed winter climbing routes at Grades II – III in Scotland.
7. Candidates for Associate Membership do not have the climbing experience or aspiration to become Full members of the Club, but do have an interest in alpinism in the Alps and Greater

Ranges and support the objectives of the Club. Their interest can be focused on their study of mountaineering history, literature, art, equipment, science, protection of the mountain environment or conservation of the Club's heritage and they will have made a substantive and eminent contribution normally demonstrated by exhibition, publication or other public demonstration of their work. Alternatively, they will have made a valuable contribution to the Club's activities over a considerable number of years.

#### Forms of Application

8. Separate forms are provided for Full Membership, Aspirant Membership, promotion from Aspirant to Full Membership and Associate Membership.
9. Every candidate for Membership should apply on a form approved by the Committee except for Full members transferring to Senior Associate Membership, who are not required to complete an application form.
10. All forms shall provide for the name, age and address of the candidate, and for the name of any other mountaineering club of which the candidate is a member.
11. Forms for Full and Aspirant membership shall list a candidate's expeditions and climbs, stating in each case the month and year, whether a camp or bivouac was involved, whether it was conducted partly or wholly on ski, and whether a guide accompanied the party. An expectation of Full membership is personal alpine mountaineering competence.
12. Forms for Associate Membership shall provide information demonstrating an interest and experience in the alpine environment and/or mountaineering activities, history, literature, art, equipment or science; and a wish to benefit from, or contribute to, the Club's activities.
13. Forms shall be signed by the candidate.
14. The proposer shall write to the Club intimating the extent and duration of his or her personal knowledge of the candidate, and the proposer's reason for considering the candidate technically and otherwise suitable for membership of the Club. The letter shall be signed by the proposer. The Applications Secretary may act as seconder for applications for Full membership.

#### Submission of Applications and their consideration

15. The procedure to be followed shall be as follows:
  - (a) the Applications Sub-Committee shall consider the application and decide whether to refuse it or accept it for consideration for election.
  - (b) the Committee of the AC shall then consider whether to elect the candidate or reject or defer his or her application.
  - (c) the Committee shall, before proceeding to the election of any candidate, take into consideration any communication received from any member concerning his or her application, and any such communication shall be treated as confidential.
  - (d) The Committee shall periodically review the proportion of Full Members/Aspirant Members/Associate Members of the Club.

#### Promotion of Aspirants to Full Membership

16. When an Aspirant Member considers that he or she has attained the competence and experience required he or she should apply for Full Membership on the relevant form. The election procedure and regulations 11, 13, 14 and 15 shall thereafter be followed.

Election of Associate Members to Aspirant or Full Membership

17. If an Associate Member considers that he or she has attained the experience required for Aspirant Membership, or the competence and experience required for Full Membership, he or she may apply for Membership on the relevant form. The election procedure and regulations 11, 13, 14, and 15 shall thereafter be followed.

Transfer of Full Members to Senior Associate Membership

18. Full members aged over 85 at 1st January, who are no longer active in the mountains and may be considering resigning their membership, may apply for Senior Associate Membership to retain a link with the Club.

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