

# 2020 WCSC AGM Special Resolution 1

## **BACKGROUND:**

The current MEMBERSHIP section of the society's bylaws reads as follows:

1. Membership fee, in the society shall be determined, from time to time, by the members at a general meeting. Any person certified by the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada, and being of the full age of 16 years, may become a member by signing a waiver, and upon payment of the fee, unless a meeting by resolution otherwise decides.
2. Any member wishing to withdraw from membership may do so upon the non renewal of membership the following year. If any member is in arrears for fees or assessments for any year, such member shall be automatically suspended and shall thereafter be entitled to no membership privileges or powers in the society until reinstated. Any member upon a majority vote of the board of directors of the society may be expelled from membership for any cause which the society board may deem reasonable.

## **WHEREAS:**

The board wishes to clarify membership eligibility and requirements, codify existing practices and conventions such as membership levels, and restrict some powers of the board (e.g. to expel members), so the board proposes the following changes to the society's bylaws.

The actual changes are in the "BE IT RESOLVED" section below, but first here is a point-by-point summary and reasoning for each change:

1. Clarify that waivers can be electronic.
2. Clarify that student members don't need HPAC certification.
3. Clarify that there must always be a "Regular" membership level that has no special eligibility requirements or restrictions not listed in the bylaws. We already have it.
4. Establish that other membership levels may be set by members, and may be restricted in eligibility (e.g. Out of town level only available to non-residents of WCSC region).
5. WCSC recently merged with Grouse Mountain Flying Team, so here we establish that Grouse Mountain is a restricted site with special rules. The actual rules are determined by members at the general meeting by creating a Grouse membership level. Importantly, THIS IS HOW IT ALREADY WORKS, we're just putting it the bylaws now that we merged with GMFT. Grouse is a hyper-sensitive site that needs a careful approach, and the current approach has been working so far, so we're just codifying it.
6. Clarify membership durations, expiration and renewals.
7. Allow renewals to not submit the application form if information on it didn't change.

8. Allow renewals to not submit a new waiver if the existing waiver is deemed still valid. This has been an implicit rule already, just putting it out there explicitly to make sure no one is unfairly denied membership for such a technicality.
9. Clarify that directors get complementary membership while they're in office (starts after one year in office, and ends one year after leaving office). This has already been the club's policy for a long time, we're just putting it on paper so that directors' membership status is not in question.
10. Previously the board could unilaterally expel any member. We're moving that decision to the membership to make sure that this is not abused.
11. Provide that expelled members can later be un-expelled.
12. Define which members are "in good standing" as this term is used in other sections.
13. Clarify that members of other flying clubs who benefit from reciprocal access agreements are simply granted some access to our sites, and do not automatically become WCSC members. Members of other flying clubs who want to get WCSC member privileges like voting may still pay for the "Regular" membership level.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The society's bylaws shall be amended to replace the whole "MEMBERSHIP" section with the following:**

1. To become a member of the society, any person who is at least 16 full years of age and is certified by the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada (HPAC) may become a member by submitting to the society a membership application form, a signed waiver, and the required payment. The application form and waiver can be either on paper or electronic, as specified by the board.
2. Notwithstanding the HPAC certification requirement for membership, persons who are currently engaged in freeflight training with an HPAC-certified instructor in good standing in BC may be eligible to become members of the society without HPAC certification if the other conditions for membership are met, but only if the society has designated a special student membership level for this purpose.
3. The society must offer a "Regular" level of membership, i.e. an annual level of membership for which no additional requirements or restrictions specified outside of these bylaws and the BC Societies Act and Regulations. The fee for the "Regular" membership level shall be determined, from time to time, by the members at a general meeting. Only persons who reside primarily in British Columbia may be eligible for the "Regular" membership level. The society must not call any membership level "Regular" or "Standard" or "Local" if it does not meet this definition or is not to be considered "Regular" by these bylaws.
4. Membership levels other than "Regular" and membership fees in the society shall be determined, from time to time, by the members at a general meeting. In addition to the "Regular" membership level defined above, Members of the society may designate several levels of membership with special fees, additional eligibility requirements and/or restricted rights (e.g. youth, out-of-town, site-specific, etc.).

5. The following sites are Restricted: Grouse Mountain. No other sites are Restricted. Members may only use Restricted sites if they are on a site-specific membership level that explicitly allows use of that site. For each Restricted site, members must designate such a membership level that would allow members who pass additional eligibility criteria to use that site under restrictions specified in the membership level.
6. Membership expires as determined by the membership level. Members who are not expired or expelled are current. Annual levels such as the "Regular" level provide membership for one year since the date of the corresponding membership application or renewal, expiring on the one year anniversary of that date. Any current or past member may reapply for membership or renew their membership as if applying for membership for the first time. Any member wishing to withdraw from membership may do so by non-renewing their membership after it expires.
7. Persons who are currently or were previously members may reapply for membership or renew their membership without submitting a new application form if the information they provided on the last application form did not change, and the board specifies a process for skipping application forms in this case.
8. Persons who are currently or were previously members may reapply for membership or renew their membership without submitting a new waiver if the society considers their existing waiver on file to still be valid.
9. When determining membership fees and levels, the society may choose to waive the "Regular" membership fee for persons who were the society's directors at some point in the 12 months preceding the last annual general meeting. In such a case, these persons are considered to automatically satisfy the membership requirement for payment since their membership fee is essentially \$0. For extra clarity, the person's eligibility for this waived fee must be evaluated on every membership application or renewal.
10. A member can only be expelled by a special resolution passed at a general meeting, however, in addition to the requirements for special resolutions stipulated by the Societies Act, at least 12 members must vote in favor of this expulsion resolution in order for it to pass, even if less than 12 members are in attendance. The member to be expelled must be allowed to participate in the general meeting at which their expulsion is considered like any other member, at least until they are actually expelled.
11. Members may pass a special resolution to un-expel a previously expelled member.
12. Expelled members are not current, and are not in good standing. Members in good standing are all current members who are not expelled.
13. The society may enter into reciprocal access agreements with other freeflight clubs where members of the other club are allowed to fly the society's sites without applying for membership in the society or paying the society's membership fee (the waiver is still required though), in exchange for similar access to the other club's sites for the society's members. Such agreements do not create new membership in the society, and do not create a new pathway for any persons to become members of the society. Members of the other club do not become members of the society by virtue of such agreements.