

Become a Regional Member Association

Overview

Eligibility for New Regional Member Associations status requires a confidence vote by and instructor members of Paddle Canada in your region; that is, Paddle Canada members in your region must vote to support your application for Regional Member Association status.

Please review carefully the Eligibility Criteria as well as the Benefits and Opportunities for a Regional Member Association below.

Eligibility Criteria

Regional Member Association applications are considered based upon the following criteria:

1. Provincial or Territorial in Focus and Scope:

Preference will be given to associations with members from all regions of the province or territory they represent and with instructors in all disciplines. In provinces or territories where a regional member association does not meet all criteria above, other associations could apply to become a second RMA in that province or territory.

2. Active Association:

The association should be able to demonstrate such normal activities as running elections for its directors, and running successful activities throughout the year.

3. Membership Base:

The association should have a respectable number of members given the population base of the region.

4. Not-for-Profit Status:

The Association should be a not for profit entity.

5. All certification courses and skill clinics will follow Paddle Canada program content and guidelines.

6. Share the same aims and objectives as Paddle Canada:

The association is willing to support the Paddle Canada's mission: *promote recreational paddling instruction, safety and environmental awareness to all Canadians and support the four strategic goals of:*

7. Public awareness and membership

8. Engaging youth in paddling skills and safety

- 9. Instruction and skill development**
- 10. Partnerships with similar organizations**

Maintaining Membership

The Board of Directors reviews Regional Member Association status every three years in conjunction with the election of a Paddle Canada Director from that region. The Board of Directors, with the aforementioned support of members in your region, approves or disapproves Regional Association Membership status.

Regional Member Associations will be invoiced upon approval of \$150 annually

Benefits and Opportunities of a Regional Member Association

A Regional Member Association benefits by having:

- Access to the Paddle Canada Canoe, Sea Kayak and River Kayak and Stand Up PaddleBoard and Camping certification programs and their portability across Canada.
- The opportunity to advertise their support of a National Paddling program that enhances local paddling.
- All Paddle Canada instructors residing in the region must be in good standing with Paddle Canada and are required to become members of their Regional Member Association (where one exists) upon registration with Paddle Canada. Note: exceptions will be made for those RMA's which do not actively promote and support the instructors' discipline. Instructors in those regions can opt not to be members of the RMA.
- Collection of RMA individual membership fees on behalf of RMA upon registering / renewing PC Membership (optional only). Disbursement of RMA membership fees will be paid quarterly by PC office up submission of invoice to Paddle Canada based on provincial membership reports. A 2.5% e-commerce fee will be retained on member fees collected as a cost recovery for managing our online portal. RMA member reports can be generated through RMA member login on PC website.
- The access to use of Paddle Canada brand, logos, materials, etc, as part of organisational promotion and written materials.

- Reciprocal cross promotion of each other and events, accessing Paddle Canada's national marketing network.
- The ability to apply for financial assistance for public and/or Certification Maintenance course opportunities. (criteria and application currently being developed).
- Year End reports on all Paddle Canada Skills Courses and Instructor Courses run in their region, which can be generated from RMA account at anytime.

Paddle Canada Advocacy and Communication:

The Regional Member Association has the opportunity to:

- Bring forward issues of regional concern, if one should arise, and gain support Canada wide by using the influences of a National Organization and our ongoing work with federal government like Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety, Parks Canada, other boating industry organizations like Canadian Safe Boating Councils.
- Liaise with other Regional Member Associations and Paddle Canada Board Members.
- Attend and participate in the Paddle Canada Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a non-voting member.

Paddle Canada Governance

The Regional Member Association has the opportunity to:

- Nominate individuals to serve on various committees of Paddle Canada, including but not limited to:
 - Paddle Canada Board of Directors
 - Canoe Program Development
 - Sea Kayaking Program Development Committee
 - River Kayak Program Development Committee
 - Stand Up Paddleboard Development Committee
- Provide input and feedback on Paddle Canada programs through their Regional Board member or by participating on one of Paddle Canada Committees.

Paddle Canada Products and Services

The Regional Member Association benefits by having:

- Discounted advertising rates (15% off) to Rapid Media Paddling Magazine and preferred rate (20% off) on the Paddle Canada Waterwalker Film Festival for its members.
- The opportunity to offer subscriptions to Paddling Magazine to local members at reduced rate and encourage regional article submissions to advertise local tourist attractions.
- The opportunity to organize and offer Waterwalker Film Festival in the region and encourage regional submissions to the festival to showcase local hotspots. Festivals that fundraise a portion or all of proceeds for Bill Mason Memorial Scholarship Fund, may be eligible to receive the festival at no cost (plus shipping).

Contact Membership Committee for more info or to apply :

members@paddlecanada.com