

WAGGGS' MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Membership of WAGGGS is defined in the Constitution and Bye-Laws, Article V – Membership, Sections 1-9. The Members of WAGGGS are the Associate and Full Member Organizations. The Member Organization may be an individual National Association or a Federation of Component Associations. Each Member Organization is comprised of individual members who subscribe to the Promise and Law and the principles of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting, as set out by each Member Organization and approved by the World Board.¹

'WAGGGS is an educational organization whose object is to further the aim of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement which is to provide girls and young women with opportunities for self-training in the development of character, responsible citizenship and service and their own and world communities'
WAGGGS Constitution Article III - Object

The criteria for Membership support the Mission of WAGGGS, which is:

To enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

Policy

WAGGGS supports Member Organizations to fulfil the criteria for Membership and to ensure that Member Organizations offer their current and potential members opportunities for growth in order to fulfil its Mission and Goals (see Appendix A). These criteria reflect the requirement to deliver quality Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting and meet standards established by WAGGGS in all six areas of the work of the Organization (Educational Programme, Training, Membership, Finance, Relationship to Society, and Structure and Management).

WAGGGS will support the development of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in countries where presently it does not exist in order to offer more girls and young women the opportunities to be Girl Guides/Girl Scouts as part of a World Organization. Decisions to work in a new country are based on the assessment of potential for Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in the country, using a checklist of factors. Procedures to be followed are set out in the document '*Supporting Material for the Implementation of WAGGGS' Membership Policy*'.

Types of Membership

1. Potential Member Countries

These are countries where WAGGGS is working with the country in order to establish/re-establish Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting. Procedures to be followed are set out in the document *Development of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting in New Countries*. Potential for WAGGGS Membership is evaluated using the Checklist for Countries Wishing to Join WAGGGS. (Procedures are outlined in the document '*Supporting Material for the Implementation of WAGGGS' Membership Policy*'.)

WAGGGS will work with the country for a maximum of six years. During that time a commitment to Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting must be expressed through formation of a National Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting organization and development of a plan to prepare for application for Associate Membership in WAGGGS.

Completion of this stage is recognized by presentation of the Certificate of Working Towards Membership in WAGGGS.

2. Countries Working Towards Associate Membership

To qualify for Associate Membership in WAGGGS, the potential Member Organization must:

- Fulfil the requirements set out in WAGGGS' Constitution and Bye-Laws, Article V, Sections 1-9.
- Fulfil the requirements set out in the document 'Application for Associate Membership'.

¹ We use "capital-M-Membership" when referring to our Member Organizations and "small-m-membership" when referring to the membership within a Member Organization.

- Have a minimum membership of 500 for a country that has a potential membership of up to 100,000 (female population of between 5-19 years) and a minimum membership of 1,000 for countries with a potential membership of over 100,000 (female population of between 5-19 years).

WAGGGS will work with National Organizations for the attainment of Associate Membership for a maximum of six years.

3. Countries Working Towards Full Membership

All Associate Member Organizations are required to work towards Full Membership. To qualify for Full Membership in WAGGGS, an Associate Member Organization must:

- Fulfil the requirements set out in WAGGGS' Constitution and Bye-Laws, Article V, Sections 1-9.
 - Fulfil the requirements set out in the document 'Application for Full Membership'.
 - Participate actively in WAGGGS quality programmes, including the performance indicator/self-assessment system, and implement plans for ongoing development of the Organization.
 - Reach a target membership figure to be agreed with individual countries, taking into account potential membership figures (female population of between 5-19 years) and the situation in the country. The membership requirement for Full Membership will be agreed by the Associate Member Organization and the relevant Regional Committee and will reflect an increase relative to the membership at the time the Organization became an Associate Member.
- WAGGGS will work with National Organizations who are Associate Members for the attainment of Full Membership for a maximum of nine years. If the Associate Member has not been able to fulfil the requirements for Full Membership and is not fulfilling its responsibilities as an Associate Member of WAGGGS after a period of nine years, the procedures for suspension and cancellation of Membership in WAGGGS will be implemented. (Procedures are outlined in the document '*Supporting Material for the Implementation of WAGGGS' Membership Policy*').

4. Countries that are Full Members of WAGGGS

To retain Membership in WAGGGS, a Member Organization must:

- Respect and adhere to the criteria of Membership as set out in WAGGGS' Constitution and Bye-Laws, Article V, Sections 1-9 and excerpted in the Appendix to this Policy.
- Participate actively in the activities at Regional and World level and fulfil the responsibilities of Membership as set out in WAGGGS Constitution and Bye-Laws, Article V, Sections 1-6.
- Participate actively in WAGGGS quality programmes, including the performance indicator/self-assessment system, and implement plans for ongoing development of the Organization.
- If the membership in the Member Organization is less than the requirement for new Associate Members, a development programme must be established in consultation with the relevant WAGGGS Region. A target membership number and timetable will be established with the individual Association, taking into account potential membership figures (female population of between 5-19 years) and the situation in the country.
- WAGGGS will work with Member Organizations to build quality and membership in the Organization. If a Member Organization has not been able to meet the requirements and fulfil the responsibilities of Membership within the agreed time frame, the procedures for suspension and cancellation of Membership in WAGGGS will be implemented. (Procedures are outlined in the document '*Supporting Material for the Implementation of WAGGGS' Membership Policy*').

Exceptions to the timetable for attaining Associate Membership or Full Membership may be approved. Requests for extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the World Board.

WAGGGS Membership Policy Appendix A: Criteria of Membership in WAGGGS

Excerpted from the Applications for Associate Membership and Full Membership

Member Organizations are required:

- to adhere to the Fundamental Principles and have a Promise and Law, in wording approved by the World Board, which embodies the essential elements of the original Promise and Law;
- to have a membership which is voluntary and open to all girls and young women without distinction of creed, race, nationality or any other circumstance;
- to be self-governing, with freedom to formulate its policy and put it into practice;
- to be independent of any political organization and any political party;
- to abide by the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the World Association;
- to have, and abide by, a Constitution, approved by the World Board, incorporating the Fundamental Principles of Membership and other requirements suited to its needs;
- to adopt a name including Girl Guide/Girl Scout and to adopt the Trefoil in its badge;
- to have a well-developed Organization, suited to the needs of the country in its operation; including, but not limited to:
 - an educational programme based on the Fundamental Principles, using the methods of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting, suitable for the advancement of girls and young women of different ages and to the needs of the country;
 - education for leaders and girls in international friendship and understanding;
 - adequate leadership to carry out the programme and a suitable training programme for leaders;
 - sustained growth in membership incorporating retention of current members and recruitment of new members;
 - a system for the introduction of Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting and building membership in new areas of the country;
 - a responsible central body truly representative of all Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting within the country;
 - sound policies and plans for continuing development and management of the Organization, based on continuing self-evaluation;
 - active participation in the society of the country and an effective public relations strategy and programme of promoting the Organization in society;
 - good links with relevant agencies and associations, e.g., government and NGOs, to enhance the impact of the work of the Organization;
 - financial planning and management to provide for a sufficient income to meet annual expenditures, including WAGGGS quota payment and other related contributions;
 - promoting the total concept of Thinking Day and making an annual Thinking Day contribution to the World Association.
- to have all financial statements audited;
- to make use of World Association publications;
- to reply by the date requested to questionnaires, papers, etc. from the World Bureau so that the whole World Association may benefit from the information sent.
- To implement the decisions of the World Board and the World Conference.

Please note more details regarding specific requirements for Associate and Full Membership are available in the application documents.