



Process for the Selection and Election of New Members

The Saint Mary's River Yacht Club By-Laws describe the requirements for membership in the SMRYC, outlining the steps for an Interested Party to express interest, gain the required number of nominations and ultimately be voted upon for entrance to the Club in paragraphs 2.8.1 - 2.8.4. The By-Laws specifically point out that eligibility "for membership shall be determined by the Board based upon knowledge of the applicant's character, evident interest and ability to contribute harmoniously to the goals, as well as the objectives and policies of the Club."

Notably, the primary criterion in evaluating a candidate for membership is their demonstrated desire to actively participate in SMRYC programs. Accordingly, the Sponsor/Nominators "must demonstrate that the applicant has participated as a guest in a representative number of season's events, enabling them to become familiar with our members and vice versa." It is the intent of this document to explain the introduction and application process for membership in the SMRYC. It is encouraged that it be shared by members to persons who have expressed an interest in joining the Club.

Definitions:

Regular Member: a person of good standing in the Club and on the Roster of Regular Members.

Interested Party: a person, couple or family who has expressed an interest in learning more about the Club for the possibility of becoming a Club member.

Prospective Member: a person, couple or family who has been identified by their Sponsor as actively pursuing further introduction to the Club and expects to submit an application for membership and join the Club if invited.

Sponsor: the Regular Member who has agreed to host a Prospective Member through the process of joining the Club. The Sponsor may be a person(s) who knows and wishes to assist the Prospective Member or who has accepted the responsibilities at the request of the Membership Chair. Sponsors must have been a Regular Member in good standing for a minimum of two years and a minimum of two years must have elapsed between Board approval of the previous Member that they nominated and the sponsorship of new Prospective Members.

The process for selection and election of new members is as follows. Questions should be directed to the Membership Chair.

A. Expression of Interest to Join the SMRYC

A person, couple or family will express interest in the SMRYC to a Regular Member, or a Regular Member might approach individuals who they feel would both enjoy participation in Club activities and become a contributing member of the Club.

B. Regular Member Response

The contacted Regular Member will decide if they wish to be the Sponsor, or will assist the Membership Chair in finding a Sponsor, for the Interested Party.

C. Sponsor's Role

- a. Explain the process of becoming a member
- b. Explain the obligations of a member in good standing
 - i. Dues structure
 - ii. Obligation to host or co-host at least 1 social event (within a period of 24 months) and contribute financially to the event OR assist the Race Committee by volunteering at 4 races (in 2 consecutive race seasons)
- c. Confirm the interest of the Prospective Member and their desire to join the Club and encourage their timely efforts to submit an application for membership
- d. Prepare a Letter of Recommendation (form provided) for the Prospective Member and submit it to the Membership Chair and Secretary
- e. Host (or seeing that a host is offered for) the Prospective Member to attend "at least three Club events within a 12-month period (of which two must be a significant event)" as defined in the Standing Rules
- f. See that two additional (in addition to the Sponsor's) Letters of Recommendation from Regular Members of different households are sent in and recorded with the Membership Chair and Secretary

D. Membership Chairperson's Role

- a. Inform the SMRYC Board of Trustees of the Prospective Member's status
- b. Contact the Prospective Member to ensure their understanding of the membership process and the dues and social obligations of a Regular Member
- c. Keep track of the Prospective Member's events attended and the Letters of Recommendation submitted to support their membership
- d. Answer any questions the Sponsor or Prospective Member has regarding the process of Membership

E. Prospective Member's Introduction to the Club

The Sponsor shall be responsible for hosting (or seeing that a host is offered for) the Prospective Member to attend "at least three Club events within a 12-month period (of which two must be a significant event)" as defined in the Standing Rules. The purpose of this is to introduce the Prospective Member at events and ensure that enough members are knowledgeable about and approve of the Prospective Member's joining the Club.

Significant events include: the Winter Social, Spring Meeting, Fall Meeting, Destination Race Picnic, West St. Mary's Picnic, and the Founders Legacy Picnic. Only one regular rendezvous may be counted in the three events. While prospective members will be encouraged to attend as many Club events as

possible, non-official Club member gatherings, such as raft-ups and Green Door gatherings, will not qualify as one of the three events.

F. Additional Process Notes

- a. At any time in the process the Prospective Member may submit a SMRYC Membership Application to the Club Membership Chairperson. It is encouraged that the application be submitted as early in the process as possible; however, it must be submitted prior to consideration for membership.
- b. At least three Regular Members, one of whom is the sponsor, must submit to the Membership Chair and Secretary completed Letters of Recommendation (form provided) regarding the Prospective Member. It is the Sponsor's responsibility to ask other Regular Members to write these Letters of Recommendation.
- c. The secretary will send an "appropriate notice of the nomination to all Regular Members" which initiates a 15 day comment period. After the 15 days end, the Secretary shall submit to the Commodore for review by the Board all comments received from Regular Members. The Board will then vote to offer or deny membership to the Prospective Member. Notification is then made to the Sponsor or Prospective Member of the acceptance or denial of membership.
- d. The Membership Chair will mail a Welcome Aboard Packet to the New Members and the Treasurer will contact the New Members regarding payment of dues.