



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 individual to express interest, gain the required number of nominations and ultimately be voted upon for entrance to the club in paragraphs 2.8.1, 2.8.2 and 2.8.3. 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 and 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 the SMRYC programs. Accordingly, the Sponsor/Nominators must demonstrate that the applicant has participated as a guest in a representative number of a season's events, enabling them to become familiar with the 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 the members to persons who have expressed an interest in joining the club.

The induction process calls for the prospective member to participate in several major club activities during the calendar year; therefore, it may require up to six months for a prospective member to be considered for membership by the Board of Trustees. Diligent efforts by a sponsor to ensure all steps are taken as rapidly as possible can reduce the elapsed time significantly.

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 identified by their sponsor as actively pursuing further introduction to the club and expects to join the club if invited.

Sponsor: the regular club member who has agreed to host an interested person through the process of joining the club. The sponsor is responsible for encouraging the interested prospective member's timely efforts to make the decision and to assure that enough members are knowledgeable about and approve of the prospective member's joining.

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

1. Expression of interest by a person or family to join the SMRYC

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

2. Regular Member response

- a. The contacted Regular Member will decide if they wish to be the sponsor, or will find a Sponsor, for the interested party.

- b. The Sponsor shall inform the interested party about the Club, the joining process, and the responsibilities and benefits of membership to the interested Party.
3. **The Sponsor**

Will complete and submit to the club membership chairperson a letter of recommendation (form provided) that describes:

 - a. The interest of the potential member
 - b. A short and brief introduction of the interested party
 - c. Commitment to be the Sponsor of the interested party
 - d. Request that the interested party be identified as a Prospective Member and thus be eligible for continuation of the process described herein and for club payment for their participation to Club events
4. **Membership Committee Chairperson**
 - a. Notifies the interested party of their Prospective Member status with a description of dues and the social participation obligations of Regular Members.
 - b. Informs the Board, including the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Club of the Prospective Member's status.
 - c. Requests that the Website Manager post the Sponsor's letter on the website.
5. **Prospective Member's Introduction to the Club**

The Sponsor will host the Prospective Member (or see that they are hosted) for at least three significant events. Significant events include the Winter, Spring and Fall socials, the Founders' Legacy picnic, The Destination Race rendezvous and the West St Mary's rendezvous. 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, nonofficial Club member gatherings, such as raft-ups and Green Door gatherings will not qualify as one of the three events.
6. **In accordance with the by laws**
 - 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 of membership.
 - b. At least three Regular Members, one of whom is the sponsor, must submit to the Secretary completed recommendation of membership letters (form provided) regarding the Prospective Member.
 - c. The secretary will mail an "appropriate notice of the nomination to all Regular Members" which initiates a 15 business day comment period. After the 15 business day ends, 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.