

# en piste

REGROUPEMENT NATIONAL DES ARTS DU CIRQUE  
NATIONAL CIRCUS ARTS ALLIANCE

## MEMBERSHIP POLICY

VERSION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ON OCTOBER 22, 2021

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## 1. PREAMBLE

Since 1996, En Piste, the National Circus Arts Alliance, has worked to establish favourable conditions to develop the circus sector across Canada by supporting individuals, organizations, and educational institutions.

Each year, the organization receives membership applications and welcomes new members. In the interest of equity and information, this policy outlines the eligibility principles, definitions, requirements, and application regulations relating to admission and registration processes and to member benefits and privileges.

The policy was revised in 2021 in order to clarify membership criteria with respect to professional recognition, to simplify the registration processes, and to make the policy more inclusive.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

Ever cognizant of the artistic evolution, of the multidisciplinary nature, and of the many disciplines of circus, the alliance has a mandate to represent individuals and organisations working in the circus arts field. In this context, it recognizes six (6) families of circus disciplines: acrobatics, aerials, clown, equestrian arts, balancing, and juggling.<sup>1</sup>

To become a member, an individual or organization must meet the eligibility requirements of the relevant category, submit the required supporting documents, and assume responsibility for payment of the membership fee.

The principles of this policy are based on the following:

- Admission is granted on the basis of the individual or legal entity's professional status in the circus arts sector and peer recognition.
- All application reviews and membership decisions are made solely on the basis of the established criteria.
- Membership is subject to the principle of non-immutability.
- The availability of a decision review procedure is included in this policy.
- Throughout the membership process, the electoral college must be able to assess the professional experience of applicants.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of disciplines is attached in Annex I of this policy.

### 3. MEMBER CATEGORIES

Membership is divided into five (5) categories as established in En Piste's general by-laws.

- Individual Member
- Corporate Member
- Educational Organization Member
- Associate Member
- Honorary Member

Some of these categories include subcategories.

### 4. DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

#### **4.1 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER**

##### **4.1.1 DEFINITIONS**

Individual whose professional practice corresponds to one or more circus disciplines as defined in Annex I of this policy. Individual membership is divided into the following six (6) subcategories:

##### *A. Performer*

Individual with mastery of at least one circus discipline, who gives paid performances on stage and/or in another public venue and/or through other media. Individual performer members have maintained a professional practice for a minimum of twelve (12) months or have completed an artist training program from an institution of higher learning specializing in circus arts.

##### *B. Designer, director, deviser or choreographer*

Professional involved in creating and/or designing elements of a circus show or number (ex: choreography, dramaturgy, directing, devising, set/lighting/costume/make-up/sound design).

##### *C. Trainer, instructor or coach*

A person who teaches one or more circus arts or related disciplines, or who coaches one or more individuals in the circus arts sector. This person is a specialist in their field and practices their profession in an educational, professional, extracurricular, recreational, social circus or continuing education setting. They have been practicing for a minimum of twelve (12) months or are a graduate of a training program or a higher education institution in which they studied teaching or their particular teaching expertise, or are a graduate of a general higher education circus program.

##### *D. Stage personnel*

Individual working principally to support technical elements (sound, lighting, rigging, etc.) in a rehearsal or performance context.

*E. Cultural worker*

Individual working in administration, management, production, touring, communications, or promotion within the circus arts sector.

*F. Researcher*

Student, teacher, or professional researcher affiliated with a recognized university, working within a department or research chair whose research is related to circus arts.

#### **4.1.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The eligibility requirements for individual members are as follows:

- ✓ Be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or have a work permit<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ Have completed advanced training in circus or have acquired proven experience in the field.
- ✓ Have experience working in a professional setting.
- ✓ Be recognized by their peers.

In addition to providing proof of professional practice, the individual must meet the criteria set out in the subcategory of their choice.

*A. Performer*

Have presented a minimum of eight (8) performances before audiences in the twelve (12) months preceding their membership application.

*B. Designer, director, devisor or choreographer*

Have designed or created an element of at least two (2) circus shows for a recognized company in the circus arts sector.

*C. Trainer, coach or instructor*

Have received remuneration for a minimum of 100 hours of instruction in the year preceding their membership application or have completed a training course for circus arts trainers.

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<sup>2</sup> An artist who holds a work permit but does not have Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status may become a member if they meet all the criteria set out in this category and complete the application process.

*D. Stage personnel*

Have worked on a minimum of thirty (30) performances for a circus arts company in the year preceding their membership application.

*E. Cultural worker*

Have worked in the circus arts sector on a regular basis equivalent to a full-time workload for a minimum of six (6) months, or have obtained a minimum of five (5) jobs for which they were remunerated during the year preceding their membership application.

*F. Researcher*

Be associated with a recognized academic institution, or have published a dissertation or thesis relating to the circus arts, or have published a minimum of three peer-reviewed academic articles relating to the circus arts.

**4.1.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

To become an individual member, the applicant must complete the application form, pay the applicable dues, and attach the following documents:

- ✓ A curriculum vitae outlining the applicant's professional experience in relation to the requested member subcategory.
- ✓ Proof of Canadian citizenship, of permanent resident status, or of a work permit.
- ✓ Proof of completed education or training in circus arts (diploma, attestation letter from an educational institution, etc.), if applicable.
- ✓ Two (2) support letters from professionals in the field who are already members or are recognized in the circus arts community; or a grant confirmation letter from an Arts Council or Ministry of Culture; or a notice of being nominated for or of receiving an award in the circus arts field.

Incomplete applications will not be processed.

## **4.2 CORPORATE MEMBER**

### **4.2.1 DEFINITIONS**

To be recognized as a corporate member, an incorporated or legally constituted entity (with the exception of artists' collectives) must have a main mission that relates to circus arts as per one of the following sub-categories:

*A. Creative company, production company or artists' collective*

Organization whose main mission is to create, produce or perform circus works.

*B. Producer*

Organization whose main mission is to produce shows.

*C. Presenter or festival*

Organization whose main mission is to present circus shows or numbers before audiences.

*D. Association, alliance or organization*

Organization that provides services and whose main mission is to support the circus community.

*E. Social circus or cultural outreach organization*

Organization whose main mission is to offer circus arts courses, activities, programs, or workshops in from the perspective of social education and/or cultural outreach.

### **4.2.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be recognized as a corporate member, a legal entity must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- ✓ Have been legally constituted for at least one (1) year under the law prevailing.
- ✓ Have created, produced or promoted at least one (1) circus show or have provided services to the circus arts community during the past year.

### **4.2.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

To become a member, organizations must complete the application form, pay the applicable dues and attach the following documents:

- ✓ Proof of incorporation (letters patent and general by-laws).
- ✓ For an artists' collective, a document presenting an artistic project.

- ✓ A resolution by the board of directors or a letter from the organization's senior management with the names of three (3) representatives from the organization.
- ✓ Proof of achievement of the organization's mission in the context of creation, production, promotion or services. This could be a contract or a letter of agreement signed by a third party.
- ✓ An attestation from peers (grant confirmation letter, awards, letter of recommendation from a peer, etc.).
- ✓ For creative, production and promotion companies, visual evidence (portfolio, video link and/or website) of works they have created or promoted.

Incomplete applications will not be processed.

#### **4.3 EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING ORGANIZATION MEMBER**

##### **4.3.1 DEFINITIONS**

To be recognized as an educational/training organization member, a legally incorporated entity must have a mission to offer instruction, continuing education, or workshops in circus arts, corresponding with one of the following sub-categories:

##### *A. Post-Secondary Institution*

A public, private or non-profit institution with a post-secondary permit whose primary mission is to train circus artists and professionals.

##### *B. Preparatory School*

Public, private or non-profit organization whose mission is to prepare students to enter advanced training programs or to develop skills at the primary and secondary levels.

##### *C. Recreational School or Summer Camp*

Incorporated private or non-profit organization that offers circus arts classes, activities, courses or workshops from the perspective of personal development or recreational activity.

##### *D. Continuing Education School or Organization*

Incorporated organization, private or non-profit, offering circus arts training of different durations and levels, or offering courses tailored to circus arts professionals.

##### **4.3.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be recognized as an educational/training organization member, a legal entity must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- ✓ Have been legally constituted for at least one (1) year under the law prevailing.



- ✓ Have provided education or training for at least one (1) year on an ongoing basis, of which the major part of the curriculum is circus.
- ✓ For a post-secondary establishment, have a permit as required by the law on private education or be recognized by the Ministry or Department of Education. In this category, the post-secondary education leads to a diploma. The full-time program lasts a minimum of two years.
- ✓ For a preparatory school, the organization is supported or eligible for support from the Ministry or Department of Culture, and its program is recognized as preparatory program by the Ministry or Department of Education. Studies include at least four (4) circus arts disciplines and are available to students ten (10) to twenty (20) hours per week over a period of at least nine (9) months a year.
- ✓ Be recognized by peers.

#### **4.3.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Complete the form for new or renewing members, pay the applicable dues, and attach the following:

- ✓ Proof of incorporation (letters patent and general by-laws).
- ✓ Evidence of having provided education for at least one (1) year on an ongoing basis, of which the major part of the curriculum is circus.
- ✓ For a post-secondary institution, show a permit as required by the law on private education or evidence of recognition by the government or a ministry. Demonstrate that the post-secondary education leads to a diploma and that the full-time program lasts a minimum of two (2) years.
- ✓ For a preparatory school, recreational school or summer camp, demonstrate that the education provided to students includes at least four (4) circus arts disciplines and that studies are available to students ten (10) to twenty (20) hours per week over a period of at least nine (9) months a year.
- ✓ Provide an overview of the teaching curriculum.
- ✓ A resolution by the board of directors or a letter from the organization's senior management with the names of three (3) representatives from the organization. These individuals have voting rights and may sit on the board of directors if they are elected at the annual general meeting.
- ✓ Proof of achievement of the organization's mission and overview of programs.
- ✓ An attestation from peers (grant confirmation, award, letter of recommendation from a peer, etc.).

Incomplete applications will not be processed.

#### **4.4 ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

##### **4.4.1 DEFINITIONS**

To be recognized as an associate member, an incorporated entity must act to support the circus arts and their development.

*A. Friend*

Non-professional circus arts individual with an amateur or recreational practice, or any other individual interested in supporting the circus arts community.

*B. Collaborator*

Non-profit organization seeking to support the circus arts community.

*C. Partner*

Private company with a mission not related to the circus arts but offering products and services to the circus arts community.

*D. Journalist*

Journalism professional, such as an individual, employed or freelance.

##### **4.4.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

There are no eligibility requirements.

##### **4.4.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

The individual must complete the form for new or renewing members and pay the applicable dues.

#### **4.5 HONORARY MEMBER**

##### **4.5.1 DEFINITION**

Any individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the circus arts.

##### **4.5.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Through a unanimous resolution by the board of directors, an individual may be appointed as an honorary member for an exceptional contribution to the circus arts.

#### **4.5.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

There is no registration procedure for this member category. The individual is an honorary member for life.

### **5. BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES**

Members of the alliance:

- ✓ Become part of a wide-ranging group of professionals and receive professional recognition from their peers.
- ✓ Support the alliance's actions to defend issues related to the development of the sector.
- ✓ Are listed in the online member directory.
- ✓ Exercise voting rights at the annual general meeting and are part of decision-making processes that impact the development of the circus arts sector.
- ✓ Can be elected to the board of directors in accordance with the procedures set out in the general by-laws.
- ✓ Receive access to benefits, privileges, and discounts on various products and services from select suppliers.

### **6. MEMBERSHIP TERM**

The membership term is from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

### **7. POLICY DIRECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The board of directors is responsible for the general direction, adoption, and revision of this policy. Senior management is responsible for its implementation.

Every membership application is processed in three (3) steps:

#### Step 1

After receiving a membership application, En Piste will verify that the application is complete before transferring it to the membership committee.

#### Step 2

All membership applications are evaluated by the board of director's electoral college. More specifically, the application will be evaluated by the electoral college specific to the member category requested in the application.

Each electoral college confirms the acceptance or refusal of the membership applications of their category.

Membership applications are processed on the first business day of each month. A response is sent within ten (10) days of the committee meeting date.

If an application is refused, the membership fee will be refunded.

### Step 3

New membership applications are submitted at board meetings to the board of directors.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

To renew their membership, members must complete the renewal form and pay the applicable dues by January 30 of each year to retain their benefits and privileges.

Any member who does not renew their membership for more than two (2) years must reapply for membership or contact the organization to update their information.

Any member wishing to change member categories must wait until the following year's renewal period to apply, and must file a new membership application for the new category.

This Membership Policy was adopted by the board of directors on September 2, 2015. It was amended and ratified by board members at the meeting held on October 22, 2021.

## ANNEX I – RECOGNIZED DISCIPLINES

If a discipline practiced by an applicant is not listed, it is still possible to apply for membership and to mention it on the application.

### **Acrobatics and related disciplines**

Acrobatics (general)  
Floor acrobatics  
Russian swing  
Banquine  
Russian bar  
Bascule  
Contortion  
Icarian games  
Hand to hand  
Chinese pole  
Korean plank  
Teeterboard  
Power track  
Power skip  
German wheel  
Crossed wheel  
Cyr wheel  
Trampoline wall  
Trampoline  
Tumbling  
Bicycle acrobatics

### **Aerials and related disciplines**

Aerials (general)  
Aerial rings  
Bungee  
Aerial cradle  
Korean cradle  
Aerial hoop  
Swinging hoop  
Aerial chains  
Corde lisse (rope)  
Cloudswing  
Aerial cube  
Aerial ladder  
Ropes and variants  
Aerial hammock  
Straps  
Slackline  
Hair hanging  
Aerial silks ( issue)  
Swinging trapeze  
Fixed trapeze  
Flying trapeze  
Dance trapeze  
Washington trapeze

### **Clown**

### **Equestrian acrobatics**

### **Balancing and related disciplines**

Hand balancing (general)  
Stilts  
Acrobatic ladder  
Balancing on chairs  
Tightrope  
Slack rope  
Unicycle  
Pole  
Pole dance  
Rola bola

### **Juggling and related disciplines**

Juggling (general)  
Devil sticks  
Boleadoras  
Diabolo  
Fakir, sword swallower, knife thrower  
Hula hoop  
Fire manipulation  
Poï  
New magic