

RULES FOR MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP FEES OF AJM

Article 1: Scope

These Rules, based on the Statute of the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (hereinafter AJM), regulate the conditions, criteria, and procedures for obtaining and terminating AJM membership, as well as the determination of membership fees.

Membership in AJM may be regular, associate, or honorary.

A member can be any individual engaged in journalism who meets the additional criteria for regular or honorary membership. Journalism includes:

- Publishing written, spoken, visual, or online articles: reports, news, commentary (notes or reflections, societal chronicles, articles, reviews), critiques, caricatures, essays, interviews, reports, travelogues, sketches, as well as headlines, announcements, and editing;
- Editorial work in print and electronic media and news agencies, as well as on internet portals;
- Informing through photography, electronic imagery, film, and caricatures published by professional photojournalists, videographers, and cartoonists as their primary occupation.

In case of ambiguity regarding whether an occupation qualifies as journalism, the interpretation of the International Federation of Journalists and their enumerated list of acceptable and non-acceptable activities shall prevail.

Article 2: Conditions for Regular Membership

Regular membership is open to journalists with at least one year of professional experience in journalism.

Conditions for Associate Membership

Associate members can include individuals collaborating with AJM on topics related to freedom of expression, those occasionally engaged in journalism, or former regular members whose membership transitioned to associate status due to reasons outlined in the AJM Statute.

Associate membership carries the same rights and obligations as regular membership, except the right to vote and be elected to AJM bodies, or to decide on the AJM Statute. Associate members may access AJM funds as per the respective regulations, benefit from AJM and IFJ provisions, and possess AJM membership cards. They may express opinions on AJM activities and utilize legal protection for journalistic work.

Associate membership remains effective until automatically transitioned into regular membership, subject to meeting standard membership fee obligations.

Conditions for Honorary Membership

Honorary membership is granted by the AJM Management Board to individuals, including non-journalists, who have made significant contributions to AJM's operations or development. Honorary members can follow AJM Assembly proceedings but lack voting rights or representation.

Article 3: Modes of Admission

Membership admission can occur via:

- Application (written statement); or
- Invitation.

Article 4: Application Procedure

Applications are submitted to the AJM Executive Office, forwarded to the Membership Commission (composed of two Management Board members and one Executive Office member). The commission either approves or denies the application.

Applications must include a CV and two photographs. Decisions are made within seven days, and applicants are notified through the Executive Office. The Management Board may nullify membership acceptance if justified concerns about conduct or reputation exist, or if actions contravene the AJM Code of Journalists.

Membership is not available to individuals whose professions are excluded from journalism as defined by international standards. This includes announcers, spokespeople, and PR representatives, among others.

Article 5: Termination of Membership

Membership ceases through:

- Voluntary resignation and return of the AJM membership card;
- Non-payment of fees for two consecutive years;
- Exclusion due to non-fulfillment of AJM obligations;
- Loss of legal capacity or final conviction for actions deemed unworthy of AJM membership.

Article 6: Resignation

Members resigning must return their membership card. Resignation does not exempt them from outstanding obligations, nor do they qualify for a refund of prepaid dues.

Article 7: Non-payment of Fees

Membership is terminated after 24 months of non-payment of membership fees.

Article 8: Exclusion

Members may be excluded for serious violations of the AJM Code of Journalists or actions damaging AJM's reputation. Proposals for exclusion must be justified, and the member has three days to respond. Decisions can also be made at extraordinary assemblies.

Article 9: Automatic Termination

Membership is automatically terminated upon loss of legal capacity or a final conviction for a disqualifying offense.

Article 10: Status Change

Membership status changes to associate for one year post-term for individuals holding government or public office positions, including ambassadors, ministers, or judges. Members must notify the AJM Management Board upon assuming such roles. Failure to do so results in an automatic status change.

Article 10-a: Exceptions

This does not apply to voluntary roles in advisory commissions or bodies, or participation in activities enhancing journalistic contributions without managerial or decision-making authority.

Article 11: Membership Fees

Upon admission, members pay a one-time enrollment fee of 1,000 denars, covering a two-year membership period.

Article 12: Payment Terms

Fees are paid upfront for two years via cash, bank transfer, or in-office card payment.

Article 13: Fee Adjustments

Membership fees and enrollment charges are subject to adjustment by the AJM Assembly.

Article 14: Membership Registry

The Executive Office maintains an electronic and physical Membership Registry. Updates are logged chronologically, including essential personal data and statistical information. Members must notify the Membership Commission of changes within 48 hours.

Article 15: Final Provisions

Amendments to these Rules follow the same procedure as their adoption. Proposals for amendments can be initiated by the Management Board President or AJM members through designated groups.

Article 16: Effective Date These Rules take effect on the date of adoption.

Skopje, November 30, 2024

Mladen Chadikovski, President