



M-1 Membership Policy

Effective date	May 11, 2026
Initial Approved Date	May 05, 2025
Date last reviewed	May 11, 2026
Archived date	
Replaces and/or amends	May 05, 2025
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals seeking to participate in Able Sail Toronto (AST) programs through the purchase of services, specifically by obtaining an annual membership.

Policy Statement

Able Sail Toronto is a registered charity that provides people living with physical disabilities the opportunity to enjoy safe, empowering, and affordable sailing. Our mission is to enable access to sport and healthy outdoor activity, particularly for people living on a fixed income. Membership is designed to support long-term engagement with AST and is therefore subject to specific eligibility criteria. Not all applicants will qualify for membership.

To maintain membership with Able Sail Toronto, each individual must apply annually, meet all financial obligations, and adhere to AST's policies, including the Code of Conduct.

Operational Policies

Membership Year

The membership term runs from January 1st to October 31st each year.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for membership, applicants must meet all of the following:

1. Be at least eight (8) years of age.
2. Have a physical disability.
3. Lack consistent access to other sailing opportunities.
4. Be able to communicate, and follow simple instructions.
5. Have a desire to sail cooperatively and/or independently, including steering and sail control.
6. Demonstrate commitment to AST, such as through volunteering or participation in committees.
7. Meet any additional considerations determined at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.



Application Procedure

- Each applicant will be interviewed by at least two Membership Committee members to assess suitability for membership.
- Following the interview, the Membership Committee may submit a recommendation for approval to the Board. The Board shall review and vote on the recommendation by Board poll within five (5) days of receiving it, allowing for approval between regular Board meetings.
- If the Board does not respond within the five-day period, the recommendation of the Membership Committee shall be deemed approved, subject to completion of the registration process and payment of all required fees.
- If approved, the individual will be invited to complete the registration process and pay all required fees.
- If registration and payment are not completed within 30 days, the approval is automatically rescinded. Applicants may reapply.
- They are welcome to request the Board consider approval of their request for membership again.
- AST reserves the right to decline any application at its absolute discretion, subject only to applicable laws in Ontario and Canada.
- By applying, all applicants accept that the Board's decision is final and binding.
- The Board will determine the maximum number of members permitted each year.

Registration Requirements

Once approved, members must complete the registration process, including:

- Liability Waiver / Assumption of Risk – acknowledging release of AST from liability, including negligence, for property loss or damage.
- Concussion Awareness and Concussion Code of Conduct – reviewing required educational materials and agreeing to the Code.
- Policy Compliance – agreeing to abide by all AST policies, including the Code of Conduct, as amended from time to time.
- National Yacht Club Waiver – completion of the NYC Waiver is mandatory for all AST members, as it is a condition of access to the host facility and therefore a requirement of AST membership.

Membership Conditions

- Membership, once accepted, is not assignable or transferable and is subject to a 30-day probation period where membership may be revoked by a majority decision of the Board at its discretion.
- Any member may at any time resign their membership. The member must send their resignation in writing addressed to the Board. The effective date of such resignation shall be that specified in the letter, or the date on which it is delivered, whichever is the later.



Any membership resignations are subject to the refund policy. The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to determine any exceptions. Members shall make submissions on refunds through the Treasurer.

Hosting Facility

AST's operations rely on partnerships with host sailing facilities. All members must act as **ambassadors for AST** and comply with all host-facility policies and expectations.

A current AST membership in good standing grants access to the host facility. All privileges end immediately upon cessation of membership.

Guests and Support Personnel

- Members may bring support personnel as needed to facilitate participation in sailing activities.
- Members may not bring guests to access AST programs or host-facility services.

NYC Membership Cards

Members will receive a membership card of the host facility once fees are paid. Members must be prepared to show their membership card at the host facility as proof of current membership.

Financial Commitments

- Any payment made to AST will first be applied to outstanding fees.
- Individuals who cease to be members remain responsible for any unpaid amounts incurred prior to the effective date of resignation or removal.

Last Reviewed: May 11, 2026