

THE AUSTRALIAN PODIATRY ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP POLICY



The purpose of this policy is to provide definitions of membership categories, eligibility, the application process, fees and entitlements. This policy also describes the required procedures for resignation and membership revocation.

Membership Eligibility

Applications for membership are open to practicing and non-practicing podiatrists, podiatric surgeons, individuals and organisations working within or closely with the podiatry profession, and podiatry students enrolled in a university course and registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Membership Categories, Criteria and Entitlements

FULL-TIME MEMBER

Open to podiatrists and podiatric surgeons registered with AHPRA and working more than 18 hours per week as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon. Full-time members have access to all member services, have full voting rights and are eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board. Podiatric surgeons do not have access to the professional indemnity insurance cover under the Australian Podiatry Association master policy with Insurance House.

PART-TIME MEMBER

Open to podiatrists and podiatric surgeons registered with AHPRA and working less than 18 hours per week as a podiatrist or podiatric surgeon. Part-time members have access to all member services, have full voting rights and are eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board. Podiatric surgeons do not have access to the professional indemnity insurance cover under the Australian Podiatry Association master policy with Insurance House.

NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Open to graduate podiatrists and graduate podiatric surgeons registered with AHPRA and working their first professional year since graduation. New professional membership commences 1 July and expires 30 June and is only available in the first 12 months of completion of the qualifying degree.

New professional members have access to all member services, have full voting rights, and are eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board. Podiatric surgeons do not have access to the professional indemnity insurance cover under the Australian Podiatry Association master policy with Insurance House. Journal of Foot and Ankle Research (JFAR) publishing support is not available to new professionals.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

The affiliate membership category is designed for individuals and organisations not working in a clinical podiatry role or environment. This may include podiatrists, podiatric surgeons, non-podiatrists and organisations who work in or closely with the podiatry profession. The Australian Podiatry Association has the right to deny membership to this category if the eligibility criteria is not met or insufficient evidence is provided to meet the category.

Eligible examples:

- Individuals undertaking full-time post graduate study and not working in a clinical role
- Full-time academic
- Permanently retired
- On full-time parental leave during the membership period
- Working or travelling overseas during the membership period
- Organisations that work closely with the podiatry profession

Affiliate membership exclusions:

- HR Service
- Directory Listing on Find A Podiatrist
- AAPSM Membership through the Australian Podiatry Association
- Voting Rights (with the exception of AHPRA registered podiatrists and podiatric surgeons)
- Not eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board
- Professional Indemnity Insurance with Insurance House under the Australian Podiatry Association Master Policy

Podiatrists wanting professional indemnity cover with membership are strongly advised to apply for an alternate membership category e.g. full-time or part-time. Non-practicing podiatrists that have previously been practicing are required to ensure their professional insurance requirements, including run-off insurance, are addressed. Such insurance coverage may be a requirement of their registration and ensure they are protected for future claims which may arise for the period they were practicing.

STUDENT MEMBER

Open to podiatry students undertaking a podiatry degree at a recognised university in Australia, this includes the Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine postgraduate degree with the University of Western Australia. The Australian Podiatry Association has the right to deny membership to this category if the eligibility criteria is not met or insufficient evidence is provided to meet the category.

Student membership is converted to graduate status at the successful completion of studies and AHPRA registration is confirmed. The graduate category is valid until 30 June after which the new professional category applies. Student and graduate members are eligible for complimentary professional indemnity insurance with Insurance House under the Australian Podiatry Association master policy and complimentary AAPSM membership.

Student and graduate members are non-voting members and are not eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board. All other member services are fully accessible.

HONORARY

Honorary membership is granted at the discretion of the Australian Podiatry Association Board. Honorary membership is offered annually.

Honorary members who are registered with AHPRA have access to full member services, voting rights and are eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board. Professional indemnity insurance cover under the Australian Podiatry Association master policy with Insurance House is not available under the Honorary membership category. JFAR publishing support is not available to honorary members.

Honorary members who are NOT registered with AHPRA have access to a limited member services.

Honorary non AHPRA registered member exclusions:

- HR Service
- Directory Listing on Find A Podiatrist
- AAPSM membership through the Australian Podiatry Association

- Voting rights
- Not eligible to join the Australian Podiatry Association Board
- Professional Indemnity Insurance with Insurance House under the Australian Podiatry Association Master Policy
- JFAR publishing support

Voting and Election Eligibility

Members with full AHPRA registration are entitled to:

- Stand for election as a board member
- Nominate and vote for election of board members
- Vote on matters pertaining to notified business at the AGM/SGM

Professional Indemnity Insurance Option with Insurance House

Some members are eligible to access the professional indemnity (PI) insurance under the Australian Podiatry Association policy agreement with Insurance House. Student, graduate and life members receive complimentary PI insurance for the term of their membership under the student, graduate and life category.

AHPRA registered podiatrists are required to maintain professional indemnity insurance whilst practicing as a registration standard.

Members with PI insurance automatically receive unlimited run-off cover when they cease to practice, for example retirement, provided the policy cover was for the full period, up to 30 June. Members must notify Insurance House direct of their intended retirement date to activate the run off cover.

Members who choose to cancel their PI insurance cover before the expiry date 30 June are not eligible for run-off cover.

Members taking a short break from practice, for example maternity leave, overseas travel, further study who continue to be registered as practicing with AHPRA must maintain their PI insurance cover which is a registration standard.

Refer to the Insurance House Policy on the Australian Podiatry Association website for the full terms and conditions.

For more information on PI insurance as a registration standard visit the Podiatry Board of Australia's website **podiatryboard.gov.au**

Terms and Conditions

Members of the Association are bound by:

- The Australian Podiatry Association's Constitution
- The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)
- National Standards, Guidelines, Policies and Codes of the Podiatry Board of Australia **podiatryboard.gov.au**

Membership Fees

- Membership fees are non-transferable and non-refundable.
- Membership categories and fees are subject to change at membership renewal time.
- Changes to membership categories and insurance cover during the membership period must be made by written request to the Association.
- Membership fees include GST.
- Membership fees can be paid in full or by monthly or quarterly instalments by credit card, direct debit or bank transfer.
- Any non-payment of monthly fees will suspend membership benefits until the outstanding balance has been paid.

Outstanding fees will be recovered as an outstanding debt due.

- Defaults in scheduled payments that include professional indemnity insurance may cause the suspension of the insurance cover.
- Registered, practicing podiatrists are required to maintain professional indemnity insurance which is an AHPRA registration standard. Lapsed payments may result in the suspension of insurance cover which may be a breach of the registration standard.

Cancellation

- Membership fees are non-refundable.
- The membership period is from 1 July to 30 June of each year.
- Members who have a change in circumstance within the membership period may be eligible to alter their membership to a different membership category.
- Cancellation of membership may only be considered for significant extenuating circumstances (such as financial hardship). Applications for cancellation must be put in writing to the Membership Manager. The decision of the membership manager will be final.

For the list of benefits eligible for each membership category refer to the Member Benefits Table on the website **podiatry.org.au**