

Explain the new USA Rugby Membership categories.

At the March 2002 meeting, the USA Rugby Board of Directors approved a proposal from the Membership Committee to revise the membership categories. The proposal read: *“Effective with the 2003 CIPP cycle, USA Rugby CIPP dues will be based on the members’ club affiliation, rather than their age. Member categories would be:*

- All members of a “club” and/or referee’s society would pay \$25 per year
- All independent, at-large or non-affiliated members would pay \$25 per year
- All members of a “college” team would pay \$20 per year
- All members of a high school or under-19 team would pay \$10 per year
- All members of an under-15 or youth team would pay \$10 per year

***Rationale:** Since its inception, CIPP fees have been set by a member’s age. This consistently creates problems for clubs tracking members of differing ages during the registration process. It is believed that this would make it easier (read “fewer errors”) for clubs if all members for a given type of club paid the same fees.”*

Hopefully, the following will clarify this matter.

1. If a member plays, coaches, or administers a team that competes in high school or youth competition, the member pays the high school/youth rate (\$10/yr).
2. If a member plays, coaches, or administers a team that competes in collegiate competition, the member pays the college rate (\$20/yr). This does not apply to teams that use a college name, but do not compete in collegiate competition; such teams are subject to the “club” rate (see below).
3. If a member plays, coaches, or administers a team that competes in club competition (i.e., not high school, youth, or collegiate), the member pays the club rate (\$25/yr).
4. Referees are considered senior members and pay the “club rate” of \$25/yr.
5. Local, territorial, or national level administrators who are unattached to a specific club are considered senior members and pay the “club rate” of \$25/yr.
6. All “at large”, military, or unattached members are subject to the “club” rate (\$25/yr).

What about the new “sustaining member” (also referred to as the “associate member”) category?

In an effort to recognize that some may wish to retain a membership with USA Rugby after their active involvement in rugby, we have created a “sustaining member” category. At the March 2002 meeting, the USA Rugby Board of Directors approved the following: *“To establish a “Sustaining Member” membership category effective in 2003, with an annual dues of \$10. **Rationale:** USA Rugby has a tremendous turn-over of members who although no longer active in rugby still have allegiance to USA Rugby and this sport, and occasionally like to play in invitational “old boys/girls” events. This proposal creates a new membership category for those who wish to stay affiliated with USA Rugby, but who are no longer involved on a regular basis as a player, coach, administrator, or referee. Sustaining Members would pay a flat fee to USA Rugby of \$10 per year, and in return would receive minimal services such as USA Rugby magazine and inclusion on the USA Rugby e-mail distribution list and online e-mail newsletters.”* Sustaining members are not eligible to compete in any matches leading to a national championship.

1. Any member who wishes to participate at any level as a player, coach, administrator, or referee cannot register as a “sustaining” (or associate) member.
2. A member who has no regular active involvement in a club or referee society, but who wishes to remain affiliated with USA Rugby and receive basic member services is entitled to register as a “sustaining” (or associate) member. This is intended to include those members who occasionally (i.e., no more than a couple times per year) participate in so-called “old boys/girls” matches.
3. A recognized, dues-paying members of USA Rugby, Sustaining Members are covered by USA Rugby’s third party liability policy.