



RULES AND BY-LAWS

These rules and by-laws are to be read and understood in conjunction with the SMA's Articles of Association.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The SMA was founded in 2001 and keeps the following objects in mind in the course of its business:

- To protect and enhance the rights and privileges of those practising sports massage
- To promote honourable practice
- To repress malpractice
- To settle disputed points of practice
- To decide questions of professional usage of courtesy
- To establish a register of members practising sports massage

The work of the SMA in the furtherance of these objects is across multiple fronts and includes:

- Assessment and development at all levels of education to make sure that a thorough and proper curriculum is both available to teach and delivered correctly
- Lobbying of the government to ensure that the profession is accorded respect in line with that afforded to any other healthcare profession and to bring about legislation that stipulates minimum standards of education, whether that be through the introduction of licensing or any other form of regulation
- Setting its own, high standards for entry to the register so that practitioners can be proud of being part of the organisation and members of the general public can use an SMA-registered practitioner with peace of mind
- Maintaining a rigorous Code of Conduct for professional practice and development and a complaints procedure for use where there is a concern that a member has fallen short of the expected standard

MEMBER CATEGORIES AND RIGHTS

A “**Company Member**” is one who pays a full subscription rate to the SMA and therefore has a stake in the future of the company. These members have voting rights on company business, in accordance with the Companies Act of 2006. The applicable membership categories under the SMA’s membership structure are detailed below.

	FULL MEMBER	GRADUATE MEMBER	FELLOW
Designation	MSMA	MSMA	FSMA
Voting Rights?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Payment Frequency	Annual, quarterly or monthly	Annual: at reduced rate only for first year post-qualification	None: membership is free and conferred for life
Payment Amount	Annual = £125 Quarterly = £31.25 Monthly = £10.50	£50, for one year only, then as Full member	Free
Membership Stipulations	Qualification at Level 4/5 in line with National Occupational Standards (or grandfathering for older/non-standard qualifications) AND SMA minimum standards for teaching and assessment; full professional liability cover; evidence of continued competency in practice; can be located anywhere (UK or overseas) as long as qualification stipulations are met	As Full Member; must have previously held Student/L3T membership	Either previous holder of Full membership or significant contributor to industry development
Expectations	Standards of professional behaviour maintained in line with Code of Conduct; disclosure of negligent/criminal behaviour; compliance with disciplinary process as required	As Full Member	As Full Member

	FULL MEMBER	GRADUATE MEMBER	FELLOW
Listed on National Register?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Benefits	MSMA post-nominal, use of logo, full access to discounts and SMA-produced CPD, advice and support on request	As Full Member	FSMA post-nominal, otherwise all as Full member
Resignation (lapsing)	Resignation deemed to be through non-payment of subscription - all benefits and rights are revoked when membership is archived	As Full Member	No automatic lapsing; Fellowship must be resigned in writing
Suspension	Membership is suspended if member is found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct or if it is recommended by a disciplinary panel; all rights are immediately revoked	As Full Member	As Full Member

An **“Association Member”** is one who has paid a separate subscription rate to be associated with the SMA but has not achieved full competency under the National Occupational Standards and therefore has no need for “Company” membership. The applicable membership categories under the SMA’s membership structure are detailed below.

	STUDENT MEMBER	LEVEL 3 THERAPIST	FRIEND
Designation	None	None	None
Voting Rights?	No	No	No
Payment Frequency	Annual	Biennial	Annual
Payment Amount	£25	£50	£25

	STUDENT MEMBER	LEVEL 3 THERAPIST	FRIEND
Membership Stipulations	Evidence of registration on a course that will lead to eligibility for either Full membership or L3T membership.	Completion of a Level 3 qualification that meets National Occupational Standards AND SMA minimum standards for teaching and assessment; full professional liability cover	None
Expectations	Standards of professional behaviour maintained in line with Code of Conduct; disclosure of negligent/criminal behaviour; compliance with disciplinary process as required	As Student Member	As Student Member
Listed on National Register?	No	No	No
Benefits	Level-specific logo, limited access to discounts and SMA-produced CPD, advice and support on request	As Student Member	Level-specific logo, limited access to discounts and SMA-produced CPD
Resignation (lapsing)	Resignation deemed to be through non-payment of subscription - all benefits and rights are revoked when membership is archived	Membership term is fixed for 2 years, during which time a higher level qualification must be completed so the L3T can become a Full Member. No renewal possible. If no qualification is completed within 2 years, the member lapses automatically and all rights are revoked	As Student Member
Suspension	As Full Member	As Full Member	As Full Member

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The SMA's disciplinary procedures are outlined in full at www.thesma.org but they can be summarised as below.

Any person may make a complaint about an SMA member if they believe that the member is in breach of the SMA's Code of Conduct (also available on the website). Complaints may be made on various grounds, including:

- Lack of competence
- Professional misconduct
- Conviction of a criminal offence in the UK, or elsewhere in the world if said offence would be chargeable as such under UK law
- Concerns over fitness to practise
- Concerns over entry to the SMA register having been granted on fraudulent grounds

Upon receipt of a complaint, the SMA will refer the matter to a Complaint Investigation Committee (CIC), comprised of 3-4 current Board members. The CIC will review the complaint and decide if there is a case to answer, taking legal advice if necessary.

If there is deemed to be a case to answer, the CIC will refer the matter to a Fitness to Practise Panel (FPP). The FPP will be comprised of 1-2 Board members (who were not part of the initial CIC), another experience Full SMA member and a lay person. A representative from the SMA's solicitors will also be present to advise on any legal matters arising. The hearing before the panel will be convened at a neutral location and both the subject of the complaint and the complainant will be invited to attend and can bring a witness. Both parties will be asked questions relating to the complaint and may make a statement in order for the FPP to come to judgment on the matter.

If the complaint is proved to be "well-founded" then the SMA may take any of the following courses of action:

- Placing a Caution Order against the member's name on the public register for 1-5 years

- Making a Condition of Practise Order, which might mean working under supervision for a period or undertaking further training or another action as appropriate to the situation
- Imposing a temporary suspension on a member for up to 1 year
- Imposing a Striking-Off Order, under which membership is permanently revoked

The FPP may also decide that a complaint is not “well-founded” and that therefore no action is required.

A complaint about a specific matter relating to a specific member can only be submitted once.