



SOUTH AFRICAN COMBAT RIFLE ASSOCIATION (SACRA)

POLICY: DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP STATUS: SOUTH AFRICAN COMBAT RIFLE ASSOCIATION

1. BACKGROUND

The Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000 as amended) came into existence in 2003 and creates various practical implications relating to the use of firearms and processes in obtaining firearm licenses. The purpose of this document is to set guidelines and processes to ensure that dedicated membership status is handled within the framework of legislation and relevant regulations.

2. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000 as amended)

Firearms Control Regulations, 2004 (Government Gazette 26156 dd 26 March 2004)

South African Police Services Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995)

Defence Act, 1957 (Act 44 of 1957)

Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959)

South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act 58 of 1995)

Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act 97 of 1995)

3. DEFINITIONS / ABBREVIATIONS:

“Accredit” - means accredit as contemplated in section 8 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000;

“Activity” - means an activity as approved by the board of SACRA and include the following:

- Shooting A– South African National Championships (3 Points);
- Shooting B– South African Defence Force Championships (2 Points);
- Shooting B– Provincial Championships as approved and sanctioned by the SACRA board (2 Points);
- Shooting C – Certification Shoot PCRA members only (1 Point)
- Shooting C – All provincial, SACRA approved and sanctioned, league/regional shooting competitions (1 Point);
- Meeting - attending SACRA – Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General Meeting (1 Point);
- Meeting – attending his own Provincial – Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General Meeting (1 Point);

“Activity report (AR)” – means a detailed report that must be submitted by the dedicated shooter on the approved pro-forma before 31st of October every year to the status committee;

“Amateur sport” - means the sport code in which an employee competes at a level where he or she does not earn a fixed income from a sponsor or donor;

“Annual Status Report (ASR)” – means the detailed report that the chairman of the status committee submit to the President of SACRA and the Registrar before the 31st of December every year detailing a list of all approved dedicated sport shooters and revoked dedicated shooters;

“Appeals Authority” – means the authority that will deal with the appeal of an individual, in relation to this process, the SACRA board will act as appeals authority.

“dedicated sports person” – means a person who actively participates in sport-shooting and who is a member of an accredited sport-shooting organization (Section 1 (x));

“(DMC)” – means the Dedicated Membership Committee, the committee was established by the SACRA board to consider applications for dedicated membership and dedicated membership related issues.

“FCA” – The Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000) and the Regulations to the Firearms Control Act as promulgated in the Government Gazette No 7926 dated 26th March 2004.

“Fit and proper person” means a person who complies with the requirements of section 9(2) and any regulations relevant to the competency of a person to possess a firearm in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000)

“International level” – means a level at which an employee who is nominated or selected by the recognized sport governing body to represents the country in a team or individually at international sports event;

“Member in good standing” - means that the status assigned to a member of an organization when he or she has remained current on organization dues and payments and requirements of the organization;

“Occasional sports person” means any person who, from time to time, participates in sports-shooting

“Official Firearm”- means firearms registered on the body code of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), South African Police Services (SAPS) or the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

“Official Institution” means-

- (i) the South African National Defence Force, contemplated in section 5 of the Defence Act, 1957 (Act 44 of 1957);
- (ii) the South African Police Service, contemplated in section 5 of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995);
- (iii) the Department of Correctional Services, contemplated in section 2 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959);

“private firearm” – means firearm licensed to an individual in terms of Chapter 6 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000)

“provincial level” – means a level at which a participant who is nominated or selected by the recognized provincial governing body, represents the province in a team or individually at provincial sports event;

“Provincial Championship” means a shooting event organized by a province affiliated with SACRA, where competitors participated against each other, in terms of SACRA rules;

“Registrar”- The National Commissioner is the Registrar of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000) as determined by Section 123 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000)

“regional level” – means a level at which an employee who is nominated or selected by the recognized sport governing body represents the Service in a team or individually at regional sports event;

“SACRA” – The South African Combat Rifle Association as accredited in terms of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000) as an accredited sport shooting association and affiliated with the South African Sport Shooting Federation (SASSF).

“SASCOC” – means the South African Sport Commission and Olympic Committee;

4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK/RESPONSIBILITY:

4.1 Section 8 (3) of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000):

The Registrar may cancel an accreditation if there is no longer compliance with any criterion for accreditation.

4.2 Section 16 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000):

(2) *The Registrar may issue a licence in terms of this section to any natural person who is a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports person if the application is accompanied by a sworn statement or solemn declaration from the chairperson of an accredited hunting or sports-shooting organization, or someone delegated in writing by him or her, stating that the applicant is a registered member of the association.*

(4) *Every accredited hunting association and sport-shooting organization must-*

- (a) *Keep a register which contains such information as may be prescribed; and*
- (b) *Submit an annual report to the Registrar which contains such information as may be prescribed.*

4.3 Section 26 (1) of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000):

The holder of a licence, permit or authorization issued in terms of this Chapter must notify the Registrar in writing within 30 days, if there is any change with regard to any information which was submitted in respect of the application for the issue of that licence, permit or authorization.

4.4 Section 152 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000):

This Act binds the State

4.5 Section 98 (1) of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000):

Subject to this section, an employee of an Official Institution may not possess a firearm under the control of the Official Institution without a permit issued in terms of this Chapter.

4.6 Section 98 (7) of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000):

The holder of a permit contemplated in subsection (2) must carry that permit on his or her person when he or she is in possession of a firearm.

4.7 Regulation 4 (1) of the Regulations to the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000)

A hunting association or sports-shooting organization that applies for accreditation must, in addition to the relevant information required by regulation 2, submit proof to the satisfaction of the Registrar that-

(b)(ii) in case of a sports-shooting organization, the sports-shooting organization only register person as a dedicated member and dedicated sports person with the sports-shooting organization if such a person has successfully completed a relevant training course that complies with the provisions of the South African Qualifications Authority Act 1995 (Act 58 of 1995) read with the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act no 97 of 1998)

(c) it has a dedicated procedure in place to regularly evaluate members for their-

(i) bona fides to be or remain a dedicated hunter or sport person as the case may be; and

(ii) dedicated participation in their applicable hunting or sport-shooting activities, as the case may be;

(d) it keeps on record the particulars of the participation by a dedicated member +in his or her hunting or sports-shooting activities as a dedicated hunter or dedicated sport person, as the case may be;

(e) it will in respect of a registered member only allow dedicated membership to the association or organization as long as-

(i) the dedicated member is in good standing as a dedicated member with the association or organization, as the case may be; and

(2)(a) A register contemplated in section 16 (4) (a) of the Act must contain the following information –

(i) The full names, identity number and residential address of all persons having applied for dedicated membership;

(ii) The motivation for the application by the person applying for dedicated membership;

(iii) Whether dedicated membership was granted or refused and if refused the reason therefore; and

(iv) Dedicated membership number and expiry date of membership.

4.4 Regulation 79 (2) (b) (i) of the Regulations to the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000)

In order to sustain the competency of an employee of an Official Institution to whom a firearm was issued the head of the Official Institution of the Official Institution must-

- (i) *Ensure that he or she undergo at least on practical training session at least every 12 months or within a shorter period as may be reasonably necessary in the circumstances, in the proper and safe handling and use of the relevant firearm and ammunition*

5. EQUIPMENT UTILIZED:

The official rules of Combat Rifle stipulate the following regarding firearms:

- 5.1 *“All weapons issued or purchased are to be used as issued by their arm of service or purchased from a supplier without unauthorized additions or alterations.*

Only service rifles listed below are permitted and therefore endorsed by the DMC

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*R4 Rifle (1 in 9 OR 12 spin barrel)
R5 Rifle (1 in 9 OR 12 spin barrel)
LM4 Rifle (1 in 9 OR 12 spin barrel)
LM5 Rifle (1 in 9 OR 12 spin barrel)
IMI – Galil Rifle (1 in 9 OR 12 spin barrel)*

- 5.2 The firearms listed in paragraph 5.1 *supra* are the only firearms that may be endorsed for the purpose of combat rifle by the dedicated membership committee.
- 5.3 The request for an endorsement of a firearm, to be applied for by the applicant, must be submitted in writing on the prescribed form.
- 5.4 The request for the endorsement of a firearm can be submitted together with an application for dedicated membership.

6. COMPILATION OF THE DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

- 6.1 The Dedicated Membership Committee must consist of at least (3) three members but not more than (5) five members.

- 6.2 As far as possible the members of the committee must be represented by all the forces and services participating in the sport.
- 6.3 The members of the DMC are appointed by the SACRA board and will serve a period of (2) two years.
- 6.4 Should one of the members resign before the end of his/her term the SACRA board can appoint a new member for the rest of the remaining terms, taking into consideration paragraph 6.2 *supra*.

7. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- 7.1 When a member wish to apply for dedicated membership status he or she must comply with the following;
 - (a) The applicant must be affiliated with the provincial combat rifle body where he or she resides or the provincial body outside his area of residence as approved by the SACRA board;
 - (b) The applicant must be a member of good standing with the provincial combat rifle body where he or she resides or the provincial body outside his area of residence as approved by the SACRA board;
 - (c) The applicant must be a fit and proper person in terms of FCA and may not be disqualified in terms of the FCA;
 - (d) The applicant must have submitted an fully completed application on the prescribed form;
- 7.2 The following must be mentioned within the application. The applicant may also attach supporting documentation to support his or her motivation. The applicant must compile a short Curriculum Vitae (CV) regarding his or her shooting career;
 - (a) How long have the member been participating in Combat Rifle (Date started)?
 - (b) All his/her achievements during his/her shooting career (2008 – SA C Team, etc.);
 - (c) Why is the applicant applying? (e.g. want to buy LM 4 rifle)
- 7.3 All dedicated members must note that he/she must maintain active participation to ensure that he/she retain his/her dedicated membership. To retain dedicated status the member must attend activities in the period from 1st of November until

the 31st of October the next year, accumulate a total of eight (8) points in that period and remain a member in good standing.

7.4 This activities can consist of the following:

- Shooting A – activity = three (3) points
- Shooting B – activities = two (2) points
- Shooting C – activities = one (1) point
- AGM and SGM Meeting – activities = one (1) point

7.5 If a member does not have sufficient activities to accumulate the required eight (8) points for the year, the shooter can submit a detailed report, with his activity report, providing the reasons of his/her failure to accumulate the required eight (8) points. The DMC will consider the reasons provided by the member and can condone the shortfall of accumulated points by that member.

7.6 If a member received condonation during a year the member will automatically be on probation the following year and may only receive condonation during that year if exceptional circumstances prevail during that year. No member can receive condonation three (3) consecutive years.

8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

8.1 The application must be submitted on the prescribed form by the applicant and must include the following minimum information:

- (a) Surname
- (b) First names
- (c) Identity number
- (d) Residential Address
- (e) Postal Address
- (f) Contact details
- (g) Motivation for application (CV in the sport date started shooting)
- (h) Signed undertaking to actively participate in the sport;
- (i) Signed code of conduct must be attached.

8.2 The fully completed application form and the forms mentioned in paragraph 8.1 (h) and 8.1 (i) *supra*, must be attached and submitted to the chairman of the provincial body of combat rifle, where the applicant is affiliated. The following documents must accompany the application;

- Copy of the ID of the applicant;
- Copy of the signed code of conduct;
- Copy of the Activity report of the applicant;

- Copy of valid competency certificate issued by the SAPS in terms of the FCA if it is a PCRA member;
 - Other documents deemed necessary by the DMC.
- 8.3 Applications not submitted to the provincial chairperson will not be considered by the DMC and will be sent back to the provincial chairperson where the applicant is residing for recommendation.
- 8.4 On receipt of the application the provincial chairperson or his authorized delegate must duly consider the application and recommend or not recommend the application. This process must be done by at least two people. After recommending or not recommending the application the chairperson/delegate must provide reasons for their decision and sign the application. The application must then be forwarded to the Dedicated Membership Committee (DMC) for approval or refusal. The process must be finalized at this level within (20) twenty days.
- 8.5 On receipt of the application the Dedicated Membership Committee (DMC) will duly consider the application and approve or refuse the application. If the application is approved the certificate and affidavit will be issued by the chairperson of the DMC. If the application is refused the chairperson of the DMC will inform the applicant of this decision in writing. The process must be finalized at this level within (30) thirty days.
- 8.6 On receipt of an application for endorsement of a firearm by the Dedicated Membership Committee (DMC), the DMC will duly consider the application and approve or refuse the application. If the application is approved the letter of endorsement will be issued by the chairperson of the DMC. The DMC can only endorse firearms that comply with rule 19 of the SACRA rules and may be used during SACRA matches.

9. APPEAL PROCEDURE:

- 9.1 If the application is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal the decision of the Dedicated Membership Committee (DMC).
- 9.2 The SACRA board will act as the appeals board and its decision is final.
- 9.3 The basic principles of the administration of justice will apply.
- 9.4 If the applicant wants to appeal the decision he or she must put his grounds for appeal in writing and submit the appeal to the president of SACRA within 90 days of receiving the written notice of the refusal.
- 9.5 The board will notify the appellant in writing of their decision.

10. COMPLIANCE

- 10.1 A dedicated member must comply with the following to maintain his/her status as a dedicated sports-shooter.
- (a) Remain a fit and proper person.
 - (b) Remain a member in good standing with SACRA.
 - (c) Maintain the minimum requirement of activities as set out in paragraph 7.3 *supra*.
 - (d) Submit his/her dedicated activities return timeously to the DMC.
- 10.2 Members failing to comply with requirements, dedicated membership status will be withdrawn without any further correspondence.
- 10.3 The DMC will also provide the details of all the members, whose dedicated membership status was withdrawn, to the Registrar.
- 10.4 Members failing to comply with the requirements due to valid compelling reasons must submit a detailed report stipulating the detail of his/her valid compelling reasons. This report must be submitted together with his/her dedicated activities return to the chairperson of the DMC.
- 10.5 The dedicated member must provide documentary proof to substantiate his/her compelling reasons.
- 10.6 On receipt of the report the Dedicated Membership Committee (DMC) will duly consider the compelling reasons and accept or reject the reasons. If the reasons are accepted the dedicated membership status of the member will remain valid and the member will be notified by the DMC in writing by the chairperson of the DMC. If the reasons are rejected the chairperson of the DMC will inform the applicant of this decision in writing.

11. GENERAL

- 11.1 If a member supplies false or misleading information, knowing it to be false or misleading, in any application for dedicated membership status, such an application will automatically be refused.
- 11.2 If a member supplies false or misleading information, knowing it to be false or misleading, on his/her annual activity report the member's dedicated membership status will be withdrawn.

- 11.3 If a member supplies false or misleading information, knowing it to be false or misleading, in any application for the endorsement of a firearm the members dedicated membership will automatically be withdrawn.

12. AMMENDMENTS / REVISION

- 12.1 This document will be revised on a bi-annual basis to ensure legal compliance of this policy.