

# Ontario Weightlifting Association Membership Policy

## Review and Approval

This Policy was last reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on March 16, 2025.

## Overview

According to the OWA bylaws ratified on March 23, 2013, only one category of membership exists; that is the membership category of **Regular**. Regular membership confers all registered OWA members equal rights and responsibilities within the organization.

The OWA board acknowledges an additional category of membership, designated as "volunteer." Volunteers are granted the same privileges as regular members, except for the right to vote at general or special meetings.

Fees are designated by the members' role (athlete, coach, technical official, etc.).

We appreciate that many members serve multiple roles in our sport. Only the highest cost membership level will be charged, regardless of how many membership types are selected.

## Residency and Citizenship

A registered member must be a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident or temporary resident and must be able to provide proof of citizenship or resident status upon request. Temporary residents may NOT set provincial records or represent Ontario at national and international events. If the member resides in Canada, the member must be a permanent resident of the Province of Ontario. If the member does NOT reside in Canada, the member must provide proof that they were a resident of Ontario before leaving Canada and that they are still Canadian citizens.

All members must be prepared to provide proof of permanent residency in Ontario. Falsification of any registration document could result in the suspension of a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of three (3) years.

Members may be asked to provide the following:

**Students:**

Proof of enrollment: Provide one of the following - a copy of the student's index card, an official letter of attendance, or a recent report card.

Identification: Submit a copy of one of the following - Ontario Driver's License, Health Card, or Ontario Photo Card.

**Senior Athlete:**

Proof of residency: Provide one of the following - a copy of a utility or cable/internet bill showing the service address (Cell Phone Bills or Bank Statements are not accepted), a fully executed rental agreement, or a letter of employment from an Ontario company.

A Notice of Assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency for the most recent tax year or any other official government document evidencing the payment of Ontario income tax.

Identification: Submit a copy of one of the following - Ontario Driver's License, Health Card, or Ontario Photo Card.

**Agreements**

In principle, all registered OWA members support the organisation's mission, vision and objectives. A registered member also agrees to abide by OWA bylaws, policies, rules and regulations. Regular members with athlete or coach memberships are also required to be members of an approved and registered OWA Club for a minimum of one year/season. Members must represent their original Club until the season is complete unless a mid-season club transfer is approved by the OWA.

**Duration**

OWA membership is from April 1 to March 31 inclusive with the annual membership fee determined by OWA Executive Board.

**Membership Types are as follows:**

**Elite Athlete**

The Elite Athlete rate is for athlete members wishing to train and compete at any Elite Competition\*, and who have met qualification standards where required. (Note: refunds

will not be issued if an athlete fails to meet qualification standards once an Elite Athlete membership is purchased).

### **General Athlete**

The General Athlete rate is for athlete members wishing to train and compete at any General Competition\*\*. (Note: athletes may upgrade from General to Elite mid-season if qualification standards are met).

### **Juvenile/Youth General Athlete**

The Juvenile or Youth General Athlete rates are for athlete members 17 years of age and under (calculated in the athlete's year of birth at the beginning of the season) wishing to train and compete at any General Competition\*\*. (Note: athletes may upgrade from General to Elite mid-season if competing at an Elite competition).

### **Non-Competitive**

The Non-Competitive rate is for athlete members who train under an OWA-registered club but do not wish to compete.

### **Coach**

The Coach rates are for members who do not compete but are NCCP qualified weightlifting coaches. Coaches who also compete should purchase either a General or Elite Athlete membership and select the Coach membership to provide their coaching level.

### **Technical Official**

The Technical Official rates are for technical official members who do not compete. Technical Officials who also compete should purchase either a General or Elite Athlete membership and provide their technical official level.

### **Volunteer**

The Volunteer rate is for members who exclusively perform volunteer roles. Examples include, but are not limited to, loaders at sanctioned competitions and club directors who do not coach, officiate or compete.

### **Lifetime**

The Lifetime Membership is complimentary and has been established for OWA members who have been recognized as members of the 35-Year Club.

### **Club**

Club membership is established for OWA Clubs who participate in Olympic-style weightlifting in Ontario by hosting events or by having athletes, coaches or technical officials who participate at OWA sanctioned events. **Clubs must have, at minimum,**

**one coach who is NCCP Competition Introduction in Training in Olympic Weightlifting who also holds an active OWA membership.**

*\*Elite Competition: Any OWA-sanctioned competition that requires achieving a qualifying standard to enter, the Ontario Championships, and any out-of-province, national or international competition. The Ontario Youth/Junior Championships do not have qualifying standards to enter, but is considered an Elite Competition as it is a provincial championship.*

*\*\*General Competition: Any OWA-sanctioned competition from club level to open that does not require achieving a qualifying standard to enter and that is not a provincial championship.*

#### **DOCUMENT HISTORY**

Adopted September 27, 2014  
Amended June 2016, October 2016, March 2017, March 2019, July 2020, March 2021, July 2021, April 2022, March 2023, March 2024

