

APEX MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS, OBLIGATIONS, MEMBERSHIP TYPES AND REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP



Membership in APEX may be granted to qualified websites that apply to APEX for Membership. These websites must meet Membership qualifications as currently determined by the Board of Directors, publicly posted by APEX and interpreted by the Membership Evaluation Committee.

APEX Membership is granted to websites not to individuals.

A} MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The benefits of APEX Membership include the following:

- ❖ 1} A strong, internationally recognized public indication that your site believes in ethical behavior on the Internet.
- ❖ 2} Access to a pool of people experienced in using the Internet for a number of applications.
- ❖ 3} Access to a pool of people experienced in Web design, coding and resources.
- ❖ 4} Access to a Members discussion mechanism.
- ❖ 5} Access to the APEX Disputes Process for the fair disposition of complaints and disputes.
- ❖ 6} Other services and benefits as announced to the Membership by APEX.
- ❖ 7} The right to vote in elections requiring a vote by the Membership. Each APEX Member site is entitled to cast one vote in any election that requires a vote by the Membership. Such votes shall be cast in accordance with the voting procedures established in this Charter and by the specific method of voting determined by the Board of Directors at the time of each election.

B } MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

{It is the responsibility of all Member website owners to provide the Director of Memberships with any alterations in respect to any Membership details that require updating.}

1} ADHERENCE TO APEX MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- a} Owners of Full Member websites must continue to operate according to the criteria for Membership as determined by the Board of Directors and posted in the APEX Library at the APEX [Membership Requirements](#) page.
- b} Owners of Provisional Member websites must continue to strive to meet the criteria for Full Membership as determined by the Board of Directors and posted in the APEX Library at the APEX [Membership Requirements](#) page.

Such criteria may change from time to time and Member sites agree to abide by any newly added or changed criteria.

2} ADHERENCE TO THE APEX MISSION STATEMENT AND PLEDGE

Member site owners must agree to abide by the APEX Mission Statement and Pledge as stated in the APEX Charter and posted in the online [APEX Pledge](#) page at all times to the best of their ability.

3} CONTACT INFORMATION

A valid contact person {typically, but not always, the webmaster} and email address must be designated with a websites application for APEX Membership.

4} MEMBER WEBSITE TITLE

Member website owners must maintain their Member website title in conformity with the listing on our APEX website.

5} MEMBER WEBSITE URL

Member website owners must maintain their Member website URL in conformity with the listing on our APEX website.

6} MEMBERS MINIMUM WEBSITE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- a) Text has to be readable against the background.
- b) Navigation has to be user friendly.
- c) A quick and easy way of being contacted by your visitors, users and / or customers is required.
- d) Website visitors must not be forced to download plug-ins or other programs in order to be able to view your website.

7} PRIVACY STATEMENT

A Privacy Policy / Statement or its equivalent (TOS) – Terms of Service or (TOU) - Terms of Use is required to be displayed within all APEX Member websites..

8} COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

A Copyright Policy / Statement or its equivalent (TOS) – Terms of Service or (TOU) - Terms of Use is required to be displayed within all APEX Member websites..

8a} DISPLAY OF THE APEX COPYRIGHT STATEMENT IN SIMPLIFIED FORM

It is not mandatory for an APEX Member website to display the APEX Copyright Statement in Simplified Form.

Members may create their own Copyright Statements however if the APEX Copyright Statement in Simplified Form is displayed the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License must be displayed along with any exact copy of the APEX Copyright Statement in a Simplified form being displayed.

The APEX Copyright Statement in Simplified Form example or prototype is intended for two reasons:

- i } It may be adopted by those Members who do not have a copyright statement of their own.
- ii} It serves as a model for what a copyright statement already developed by a Member should and should not contain. A very careful differentiation between a copyright statement and the use of the copyright symbol © which does not suffice.

{Refer to the online APEX [Membership Requirements](#) page for further details on the correct display of the APEX Copyright Statement in Simplified Form.}

9) DISPLAY OF THE CODE OF ETHICS {COE} DOCUMENT

It is not mandatory for an APEX Member website to display the Code of Ethics {COE} document.

a) Members may create their own Ethics Policy or display none at all however Code of Ethics {COE} documents displaying 20% and above of the identical content of the original Code of Ethics {COE} content must also display the relevant Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike License as well as providing a link to the Award Community News under the terms of the License.

{Refer to the online APEX [Membership Requirements](#) page for further details on the correct display of the Code of Ethics {COE}}

b) The Code of Ethics {COE} document may not be covered by any individual web site Copyright.

CLARIFICATION - The original Spirit of the Code of Ethics {COE} was and is that individuals, groups and / or organizations worldwide could have freely available a flexible standard format which could be used as the backbone of ethical websites. No individual, group and / or organization can or should own such a vehicle.

10) POSTING OF THE APEX MEMBERSHIP BADGE

An APEX Member website is required to display the current design of the APEX Member Badge with ID as approved by the Board of Directors. This badge shall be properly linked to the current URL of the APEX website. No alterations to the badge of any kind are permitted.

a) SPECIAL BADGES FOR APEX FOUNDERS

The Founders of APEX are permitted to display either and / or both Founder and Membership badges in their websites, if they wish, as long as their websites are and remain Members of APEX. The design of the Founder badges shall be distinctive as approved by the Board of Directors.

The following individuals are recognized as Founders of APEX: Jef Peace, Míc Miller, Rhonda Serong, Maggi Norris and Ellen {Wilson} Zitzlsperger.

C) MEMBERSHIP TYPES

1) FULL MEMBERSHIP

Applicants, at the time of original application, will have their websites evaluated for Full Membership and this will be granted to websites where the relevant PART III - APEX MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS, OBLIGATIONS, TYPES AND PRIVILEGES - B } MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS - Items #1, #1a, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #6a, #6b, #6c, #6d, #7, #8, #8a, #8i, #8ii, #9, #9a, #9b, #10 and #10a {under circumstances as described within the APEX Charter.} are being met.

CLARIFICATION: Applicants cannot apply for or be offered Provisional Membership.

2} PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Provisional Membership will apply to current Member sites that were listed with our Director of Memberships on and / or before July 31st 2009 where any of the relevant PART III - APEX MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS, OBLIGATIONS, TYPES AND PRIVILEGES - B } MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS - Items #1 or #1a, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #6a, #6b, #6c, #6d, #7, #8, #8a, #8i, #8ii, #9, #9a, #9b, #10 and / or #10a {under circumstances as described within the APEX Charter.} are not being met but only after having been requested on no less than three (3) separate occasions over a period of three (3) weeks by the sending of an official APEX email by the Director of Memberships requesting that relevant PART III - APEX MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS, OBLIGATIONS, TYPES AND PRIVILEGES - B } MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS - Items #1, #1a, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #6a, #6b, #6c, #6d, #7, #8, #8a, #8i, #8ii, #9, #9a, #9b, #10 and / or #10a {under circumstances as described within the APEX Charter.} be met and when no response was forthcoming.

Any Provisional Member website owner who considers their website now meets the relevant Full Membership requirements may send a re-application to the Director of Memberships who will then place the application with the Applicant Evaluation Committee / Group for processing.

D} WHICH WEBSITES ARE NOT ACCEPTED FOR APEX MEMBERSHIP?

APEX will not accept for membership, nor associate with any individual or group of individuals operating a website that has the following or which directly links to websites which have the following, as content:

- ❖ Sexually explicit text, images and/or photographs that are not clearly artistic or educational in nature as determined by the current Membership Committee.
- ❖ Foul language that is not clearly artistic or educational in nature as determined by the current Membership Committee.
- ❖ Text or images which discriminate against a religion, gender, race, political affiliation or any other social, physical or psychological trait or affiliation as determined by the current Membership Committee.
- ❖ Illegal activities, textual or visual depictions of illegal activities or incitement to commit illegal acts as determined by the current Membership Committee.
- ❖ Text or images of human/or animal abuse which are not clearly artistic or educational in nature as determined by the current Membership Committee.

E} REVOCATION OF APEX MEMBERSHIP

A Member website may have its APEX Membership revoked by the Board for Directors for any of the following reasons:

- 1} Failure to post the current APEX badge with ID including the current link to the APEX website after repeated requests to do so.
- 2} Failure of the Member website to conduct its business or enterprise in accordance with the APEX Mission Statement and / or the APEX Pledge.
- 3} Changes to the Member website that result in the site's failure to meet APEX Membership criteria.
- 4} Repeated failure of Member website owner/s to notify APEX when contact information or web addresses change.

- 5} Disappearance of the Member website from the Internet with APEX being unable to contact the websites authorized representative.
- 6} A unanimous decision by the Board of Directors that a Member websites continued Membership is not in the best interests of APEX.



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