



Sabbaticals, Lapsed and Suspension of Membership Policy

Purpose

1. To document the principles and procedures for members who wish to suspend their membership for a period of time.
2. To document the principles by which a member may have their membership suspended.

Principles

1. To enable AAOS members to take leave of their membership for up to 12 months under specific circumstances.

To acknowledge that if the leave is agreed the member can return to their previous status with AAOS without having to re-apply as a new applicant.

The special circumstances for taking leave of membership:

- a sabbatical from working as a supervisor.
- changing to a non-supervisory role for a fixed, short-term period of up to 12 months
- if personal circumstances change such that the member is not working as a supervisor temporarily (e.g., protracted illness of a close family member)

For all of the special circumstances above, members can apply for a one-year sabbatical prior to membership lapsing.

2. Members may have their membership suspended pending, or as a result of disciplinary action, or while a complaint about the member is under investigation.

Procedure

1. Members who wish to have sabbatical leave or suspend their membership must explain their reasons and anticipated time away in writing to the Membership Sub-Committee. Their details on the AAOS website will have 'on sabbatical' added by the Board.
2. If a complaint is received by the AAOS Board about a member, the member will be informed, and the complaints process enacted. During the period of the complaint being investigated, the person's membership of AAOS may be suspended and their details removed from the website.

Procedure for re-instatement

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1. Suspension due to special circumstances

After the one year away the member can reapply as normal at the level of membership they previously held.

If absent from the register for longer than one year evidence needs to be produced to meet the current membership renewal criteria at the time of their re-joining

If the criteria are not met, then an application can be made as an associate member until full membership criteria are met.

After 3 years absence from the register all criteria must met for reapplication

2. Suspension due to complaint

After the complaint has been heard, action will be taken by the Board to reinstate or remove the member from the website according to the outcome of the complaint's procedure.

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