



YARRA VALLEY FM

Membership policy

Purpose

To facilitate the involvement of the community through financial membership and subscriptions that both sustain the station and guarantee its accountability to the community and government.

Membership

Members of Yarra Valley FM Inc (referred to as the Association, or the Station) are required to support its purposes and comply with its Rules of Association, a public document which sets out Members' rights, responsibilities, voting and other meeting procedures and the processes for the election, roles and responsibilities of the Committee of Management.

Members of the Committee of Management must be individual financial members of the Association.

Membership application forms are made available on the station's website, at the premises or by post on request. Completed applications for membership are to be received in the first instance by the Chair of the Committee of Management and submitted to the Committee for approval before membership can be granted.

Under this policy, membership ordinarily requires the active involvement in the operation, administration and/or promotion of the station. Accordingly, the Committee shall only approve new membership applications from persons and not-for-profit community groups who, at the commencement of their membership, are able to commit to this.

Where an application for Membership has been rejected by the Committee, the rejected applicant can request written reasons for the rejection which will be forwarded in writing within 14 days of receipt of an application. The rejected applicant may apply in writing for an appeal of the decision through an ordinary general meeting of the Association, convened within 28 days of the date of receipt of the request. At such a meeting, the rejected applicant will have a right to be heard.

Membership fee invoicing

Initial membership fees and annual renewal fees are exclusive of GST and are invoiced in advance by the Association. Non-payment within 60 days of the invoice issue date will result in the membership lapsing.

Membership categories and fees

The Rules of Association set out the categories of Membership of the Association:

Membership by individual persons

- Members are expected to commit to an active involvement in the operation, administration and/or promotion of the station.
- The station encourages the greater inclusion in its presenter and member base of young people, women, people with indigenous and other culturally diverse backgrounds and people of all abilities and orientations.
- The Committee of Management will seek appropriate opportunities to promote and attract such membership.
- The annual fee for Individual Membership is \$50, or Concession \$30 (pensioner, unwaged, full-time student, health card).

Corporate membership by not-for-profit community groups

- The station encourages local not-for-profit community groups to become financial members with voting rights, defined in the Rules as Corporate Members, in order to develop a broad-based input, support and promotion of the station among each group's own community and supporter base.
- The voting rights and obligations of corporate members are set out in the Rules.
- Corporate membership does not confer any right to access broadcasting time, sponsorship or marketing or editorial decisions affecting the content and style of individual programs or overall station programming.
- The annual fee for Corporate Membership is \$75.

Associate membership

- Although the Rules of Association make provision for Associate Members, this category is inactive as it is not currently required under this policy.

Non-membership: Subscribers

- Applicants for Membership who are unable to commit to active involvement in the operation, administration and/or promotion of the station are encouraged to become annual Subscribers to the station or specific program/s of their choice.
- Subscribers are a tangible demonstration of community engagement and appreciation of station programming and role in the community.
- Subscribers are not Members of the Association and therefore do not have voting rights or any right to access broadcasting time, the benefits of sponsorship or any editorial decisions affecting the content and style of individual programs or overall station programming.
- Subscription fees are at the discretion of the Subscriber, as they are donations to assist the station to sustain and develop its service, however the Committee of Management has determined the minimum annual subscription to be \$25 (Individual), \$20 (concession), \$45 (family), \$55 (not-for-profit community group) or \$125 (commercial business).

Subscriptions may be offered in conjunction with, or as component of a financial or in-kind station sponsorship under the terms of the Sponsorship Policy. This policy sets out binding limitations and strict guidelines for the station to be able to conform with the conditions of its broadcasting licence.

Grievances

Members are an invaluable part of the station's existence and the Committee of Management, staff and volunteers endeavour to encourage and support one another's contribution to the station. However, in the event of any disputes, the Internal Conflict Policy which sets out a detailed process for the resolution of conflict within the station, will apply.

Additionally, Grievance procedures as set out in the Rules of Association apply in cases of disputes between Members. Where the Committee of Management is unable to resolve a dispute between Members, a decision will be made on the necessity of mediation or conciliation by a third party such as Dispute Settlement Centre Victoria.

Other policies

Members, subscribers, committee, staff and volunteers are encouraged to read this policy in conjunction with other station policies, as appropriate.

More information

If you have a query about this policy or need more information please contact the Station Manager or Chair of Committee of Management.