



# SAFC Club Dues Structure

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## Scope

Per the Sacramento Australian Football Club (SAFC) Constitution, Article II, Section 1.1, club "Membership shall be open to all who pay annual dues established by the vote of the board."

It is proposed that in 2025, and moving forward—unless otherwise amended or revised by the Board—all club members must pay annual club dues, or otherwise qualify as a club member, in the amount of **\$25 for returning club members or \$15 for first-time club members** in order to:

- Participate in SAFC leagues, events, programs, and matches as a player, coach, umpire, game official, or league officer beyond the free first-time drop-in.
- Participate in United States Australian Football League (USAFL) matches or tournaments as a member of the Sacramento Suns as a player or coach.
- Have voting rights at the club's Annual General Meeting or at other official club general meetings where a club membership vote is required, as specified in the SAFC Constitution.

As part of the annual club membership dues, each club member must review and agree to the SAFC policies, including: the Sexual Misconduct policy, SAFC League Discipline Policy and Guidelines, and the SAFC Waiver Liability Release (with Parent Release, if applicable). Club members must also acknowledge they have access to other policies such as: the SAFC Heat & Air Quality Policies.

Upon agreeing to the SAFC policies *and* submitting payment of the annual club membership dues (in the amount of \$25 or \$15), an individual will be considered an official club member for the remainder of the calendar year or until the link for annual club membership dues is released the following year, at which time everyone must re-register with the club.

## Purpose of the Club Membership Annual Dues

The club membership annual dues are collected in order to cover and/or offset the various costs of operating the SAFC. The annual dues have been separated from league registration fees in order to better account for and allow non-playing club supporters to have official club membership status.

### Examples of expenses covered or offset by club membership annual dues are:

- USAFL Club Dues: this annual payment to the USAFL allows the SAFC to participate in USAFL competitions each year and also allows the SAFC to have access to field permitting liability coverage and resources.
- Field and venue reservation costs for SAFC open training sessions and events that are not fully covered by league registration or event admission revenues.
- General administrative costs, including banking fees, website management, permits and regular registrations with the state and federal government.
- General club equipment costs, including footballs, marking paint, cones, goal post supplies, scoreboard, whistles, etc

## Authorizations Granted to Club Members:

Club members may:

1. *Vote at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or other general club meetings* where a vote is required to enact any significant changes in club management.
2. *Register to play in any SAFC league.*
  - An additional league registration fee is still required, and varies by league and demographic criteria.
3. *Drop in for 1 SAFC game in any SAFC league.*
  - Annual dues cover one (1) instance of “drop-in fees” per year if one wishes to participate in one day of SAFC league matches as a “drop-in player”.
  - Any additional instances of “dropping in” must be accompanied by a prepayment of the appropriate “drop-in fee”.
    - Drop-in fees vary by league. Please refer to the current league registration fees each year.
    - NOTE: brand new players may continue to drop-in for free for their first ever Tag or Metro/tackle game.
    - If new players wish to drop in again, they would need to pay their annual club membership fee (\$15 for first-time club members), which would cover their next drop-in fee. Any additional drop-in events require a drop-in fee for each day of action.
4. *Participate in the Rising Suns Youth Footy program.*
  - Only one club membership is required per household. Multiple children within the same household may participate under one parent’s or guardian’s club membership.
5. *Play or coach for the Sacramento Suns in any USAFL matches.*
  - If the player intends to accrue points toward Nationals eligibility for the Sacramento Suns, then SAFC annual membership dues must be paid prior to playing in any USAFL sanctioned match where Nationals Eligibility Points will be accrued.

## Exemptions to Paying Annual SAFC Membership Dues

- SAFC Lifetime Members
  - This status/award is typically awarded at the end of season Awards Gala.
  - Lifetime members do not pay annual membership dues, but still need to pay league registration fees at *half the cost*.
- Current SAFC Executive Board members
- Current Committee Chairs
- Youth Participants under age 18
  - If a teen registers for the Suns Tag league, at least one parent or guardian must either pay club membership dues or be exempted as outlined above.
  - If multiple teens or children wish to participate in any SAFC event or league, only 1 parent/guardian/adult per household is required.
- Trial Membership
  - This status is meant for individuals who only attend “Open Days” and/or open team training sessions, and who do not participate in any SAFC or USAFL leagues, tournaments, or matches.
  - **\*\*Trial Members do not receive any of the authorizations granted to SAFC members except for the privilege of participating in club Open Days and training sessions.**

*This policy may be subject to review and updated as needed in response to future instances which would invoke use of this policy.*