

Rainier Agility Team Membership Policy

Approved by a vote of the RAT membership,
Effective October 1, 2001

A. PROCESS TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER:

- **Application:** Get sponsor, fill out application. Mail this application and dues to the Membership Committee or bring it to your first meeting and give it to the Membership Committee or to the President, who will forward it to the Membership Committee. We encourage new applicants to hand-deliver their application during a meeting to expedite the entire application process and to meet club members.
- **Introduction:** This will be a two-pronged process. (1) The applicant will be introduced to members of the club at the first meeting they attend following receipt of the completed application and dues. (2) The applicant's information will then be published in RAT Tales after the meeting at which they were introduced.
- **Confirmation:** Following publication of the applicant's information in RAT Tales, RAT Members will have 30 days to object to admitting the applicant into the club. Any objections must be made in writing to the Board within 30 days following publication of the applicant's information. If there are no objections within 30 days, the applicant automatically becomes a member and, for one year, will be entitled to all the additional privileges of a member in good standing, except for voting (see below).

B. EXPECTATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

RAT encourages its new members to get involved with the club right away by attending meetings, helping at events, and contributing to the many standing committees available. Use your particular skills to help the club in any way you can. Working at events can range from being a leash runner to being a chief ring steward. Start small and work up. You don't have to commit to the entire day at first; perhaps start by working one or two classes one day of the trial. If you're new to agility, ask your sponsor for advice on what jobs to volunteer for at events. Don't be shy; all RAT members were new at this once, too.

One reason we encourage our new members to get involved in club meetings and events during their first year is that members must meet a minimum meeting and service requirement to remain a member in good standing after the first year. These requirements are outlined below.

C. RETAINING MIGS STATUS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR.

A RAT member is a member in good standing ("MIGS") if she/he has fulfilled the minimum service and meeting requirements outlined below in the previous 12-month period.

The Meeting Requirement

Members must attend one Club meeting (other than the Holiday Banquet) during each 12-month period. To facilitate participation from all Club members, the dates and times of meetings should be published at least four months in advance. In addition, meetings will be held on different days and at different times throughout the year. Even with these arrangements, we recognize the fact that other obligations may prevent some members from attending one meeting during a 12-month period. In special circumstances, members may petition the Board in writing for a waiver of the meeting requirement.

The Service Requirement

RAT is a working club. All members are expected to work at club-sponsored events they attend. To make a "substantial contribution" a member shall work at a minimum of 2 RAT-sponsored events during each 12-month period. All of the following are examples of ways to "work at an event":

- serve on the Organizing Committee
- haul equipment/trailers
- work at the registration desk
- help with food preparation and organization
- work as a coursebuilder or scorekeeper
- work as ring crew
- assist with setup and/or teardown of equipment
- arrange a RAT sponsored seminar

Note: Members who are physically unable to work at an event may petition the Board in writing to substitute another club-related activity.

Benefits of Being a Member in Good Standing (MIGS):

All types of members (Individual, Limited, and Family) can participate in all events sponsored or cosponsored by RAT and attend general RAT meetings. All members (other than Limited Members) will receive the club newsletter, RAT Tales. In addition, all Individual and Family Members may attend club-sponsored practices, subject to the Practice Guidelines.

Members in Good Standing, however, are entitled to the following additional privileges:

- Discounts on tuition fees and entry fees at classes or events sponsored by the Club.
- Priority admission to those club-sponsored seminars and events for which admission is limited (if permitted by the governing organization).
- Right to vote at all meetings of the Club. Note that new members do not get voting privileges until they have satisfied the requirements to become members in good standing.

What happens if someone does not meet the above requirements to be a MIGS?

A RAT member who does not fulfill the meeting and service requirements loses MIGS status but is still a member of the club as long as dues are paid. Thus, this member will still receive RAT Tales, will still be welcomed at meetings and RAT-events, and will still be able to attend RAT practices. Don't give up, though ... MIGS status can always be regained by fulfilling the requirements outlined above.