

Cross Country Ski Ontario Membership Policy

Preamble

1. Cross Country Ski Ontario (XCSO) is the recognized Provincial Sports Organization (PSO) for cross country skiing in Ontario. XCSO's voting membership consists of four (4) geographical ski Districts across Ontario, representing Southern Ontario (SOD), Northern Ontario (NOD), Lake Superior (LSSD), and the National Capital (NCD) and represent member clubs and their individual members.
2. The organization of cross country skiing activities and the delivery of cross country ski programs are principally carried out by member clubs. The four Districts and XCSO itself reflect the effort of Ontario clubs to work together and to coordinate the delivery of common programs for the benefit of individual members. XCSO provides the framework for Ontario cross country ski clubs and their individual members to participate in national programs established by the National Sport Organization, Nordiq Canada. XCSO and the other provincial and territorial divisions form the voting membership of Nordiq Canada.
3. XCSO has traditionally maintained an open approach to membership. Clubs are community-based organizations, with a high degree of independence. Club formation has normally been on the initiative of interested individuals based on the perceived needs of communities, and Districts have generally accepted club registration applications on that basis. XCSO has also generally accepted these clubs on the basis of District acceptance.

References

4. Key references are:
 - Cross Country Ski Ontario By-law No. 1, dated May 14, 2006 and reviewed February 2017
 - [Insurance documents](#) from Nordiq Canada
 - i. Informed Consent & Assumption of Risk
 - ii. Insurance manual (updated annually)

Definitions

5. Important definitions of membership are contained in the XCSO By-law. For the purposes of this policy, key definitions are:
 - "Clubs" or "Member Club" meaning a club duly registered with XCSO through a District.
 - A "XCSO Club" is a "Nordiq Canada Club" that is registered with Cross Country Ski Ontario.



- “Districts”, meaning the Southern Ontario District, Northern Ontario District, National Capital District and Lake Superior Ski District. These Districts are the voting members of XCSO, and represent the clubs in the geographic areas indicated.
- “Individual non-voting member”, meaning any individual who is a member in good standing of a Club which is registered with XCSO through a District. This is further elaborated in paras.14 and 15, below.
- Nordiq Canada is the National Sport Organization (NSO) governing cross country skiing in Canada
- Membership year defines the period of time that a club member’s individual membership is valid

Policy

6. Nordiq Canada describes clubs as the foundation of Nordiq Canada and leaves to the Divisions (XCSO) the setting of any membership policies applicable to clubs as members of the Divisions.
7. To be a member club of XCSO and Nordiq Canada brings with it significant benefits, including:
 - Coverage under Nordiq Canada’s Liability Insurance policy
 - Directors and Officers liability insurance coverage;
 - Access to Nordiq Canada’s programming delivered through XCSO, including youth-oriented Skill Development (Jackrabbit) programs and Coaching Development programs;
 - Access to competitive programs and the opportunity and framework for competitively-oriented skiers to participate in local, provincial, and national-level competition and training programs, and the opportunity for such athletes to strive for excellence through membership on provincial or national teams.
 - Access, as appropriate, to funding support obtained by XCSO for delivery of Nordiq Canada and other programming at the provincial level.
 - access to member benefits offered to members from time to time, including [Nordiq Canada's Nordiq+](#) program
 - The value of being publicly associated with the sport of cross country skiing as a healthy fitness-promoting sport for participants at all age-levels.
8. At the same time, a club applying for and accepting registration through a District as a member club of that District, and thereby of XCSO and Nordiq Canada, thereby accepts certain requirements and obligations, including:
 - Timely payment of membership fees and submission of accurate membership information, as described in the General Procedures below;
 - Programs delivered by a club (e.g. Skill Development/ Jackrabbits, Racing, Coaching Development) conform to the standards developed by Nordiq Canada and XCSO for such programs;



- Club officials and coaches adhere to applicable policies and guidelines issued by Nordiq Canada, XCSO and the District, necessary to provide a framework for the sport, as well as standards for its conduct, including but not limited to:
 - XCSO policies
 - Nordiq Canada Liability Insurance manual and accompanying documents
- 9. In the conduct of club activities, club officials and coaches should always be mindful of the importance to the sport of its image as a healthy, outdoor activity for participants of all ages and situations, including youth and families.
- 10. Districts and XCSO accept a club's registration for membership on the understanding that the club will be run based on established policies and guidelines generally accepted standards of conduct as summarized above. Where there is reason to believe that a club may not meet those criteria, XCSO may, in its sole discretion, decline to accept the registration of that club as a member club of XCSO and Nordiq Canada. Such a decision should be well-documented, and the subject of agreement by XCSO's Board of Directors.

General Procedures Regarding Membership

- 11. The XCSO membership year is May 1 to April 30 and is binding on all club memberships.
- 12. Inquiries about membership should be submitted via email to admin@xcskiontario.ca and, where a club's registration is accepted, XCSO will proceed with Appendix A.
- 13. XCSO establishes an annual per-member fee as outlined in para.15. Districts may establish additional annual per-member fee and other requirements applicable to member clubs.
- 14. Clubs determine membership policies with respect to their individual club members, including membership fees and other obligations and privileges of membership.
- 15. All clubs shall use the Nordiq Canada/XCSO-approved membership registration vendor. Member registration data must be received through the membership vendor within 30 days of receipt of such information
- 15. The [annual per-member fee](#) referred to in para. 13 is approved at XCSO's Annual General Meeting. Individual club members include all those who are:
 - Registered members of a club registered with XCSO
 - Enrolled in children's skill development programs (BunnyRabbits through Track Attack), Challenge programs, U14, U16, U18, U20 race programs, Senior or Masters' racing programs
 - Volunteer in support of club activities and programs, including trail-clearing and other maintenance, program and race administration, officiating, etc.
 - Coach, as a volunteer or paid staff

Various individuals will from time to time ski on trails maintained by XCSO clubs without being members of the club. Clubs may or may not charge such individuals a daily-use fee.

Guidance governing day-use skiers is contained in Nordiq Canada's Liability Insurance Manual <https://xcskiontario.ca/about/insurance/>

Appendix A

General procedures for club/member registration specific to Zone4, the approved membership platform vendor.

1. Interested parties should contact admin@xcskiontario.ca and, where a club's registration is accepted, the club will be directed to open Zone4 account <https://zone4.ca/ClubApplication.asp>. Required application information includes contact information, address, and website if applicable.
2. Membership information is collected online through members registering themselves (preferred); by CSV file upload; and by manual entry. CSV uploads and manual entry of new members is required on a monthly basis.
3. [Membership fees](#) are submitted via electronic transfer through the online banking system.
4. Full details are available at <http://zone4.ca/help/clubadmin.html>