



Commonwealth Nurses
and Midwives Federation

CONSTITUTION (Endorsed 7 March 2014)

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 There will be the following categories of membership:
- Full members
 - Affiliate members
 - Associate members
 - Individual members - 'Friends of the CNMF'
- 6.2 Full membership shall be open to one national nursing association in each Commonwealth country. Such an association shall have objectives, which are in accord with those of the CNMF. Where more than one national nursing association exists, the Board shall have absolute discretion in determining which association is to be accepted into full membership in consultation with the existing association that is in membership with the CNMF.
- 6.3 Full membership shall also be open to one national midwifery association in each Commonwealth country if such an association exists. Such an association shall have objectives, which are in accord with those of the CNMF. Where more than one national midwifery association exists, the Board shall have absolute discretion in determining which association is to be accepted into full membership.
- 6.4 Each Commonwealth country shall have no more than two full members being one national nursing association if one exists; and one national midwifery association if one exists.
- 6.5 Each Commonwealth country shall hold two votes. One vote shall be held by the national nursing association and one vote shall be held by the national midwifery association. Where the national nursing association is also the national midwifery association and can provide evidence of this to the satisfaction of the CNMF Board, then that association shall hold two votes.
- 6.6 Affiliate membership shall be open to other national nursing or midwifery associations in Commonwealth countries which are not full members. This may include national nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities, nursing and midwifery educational institutions, or specialist national nursing or midwifery associations. Affiliate membership shall also be open to any group of nurses who satisfy the Board that, in a Commonwealth country where no national nursing or midwifery association exists, they are working toward establishing an association whose objectives would accord with those of the CNMF.
- 6.7 Affiliate members shall be entitled to attend, participate, and contribute to the discussion and debate in CNMF Biennial and other meetings but shall not be entitled to vote or nominate to the position of President, Vice President or Regional Board Member.
- 6.8 Associate membership shall be open to international or regional nursing or midwifery organisations or international, regional or national health related organisations. These organisations may be in the public, private, not-for-profit, non-government, religious or charitable sector and may not necessarily be located in Commonwealth countries.
- 6.9 Associate members shall be entitled to attend, participate, and contribute to the discussion and debate in CNMF Biennial and other meetings but shall not be entitled to vote or nominate to the position of President, Vice President or Regional Board Member.

- 6.10 Individual membership shall be open to individual nurses or midwives who subscribe to the objects of the CNMF. Individual members shall be called 'Friends of the CNMF'. Individual members may not necessarily be located in Commonwealth countries.
- 6.11 Individual members shall be entitled to attend, participate, and contribute to the discussion and debate in CNMF Biennial and other meetings but shall not be entitled to vote or nominate to the position of President, Vice President or Regional Board Member.
- 6.12 Applications for full membership shall be considered by the Board, which shall be authorised to accept or reject applications from associations on the basis of the following criteria:
- 6.12.1 The association's constitution, regulations or rules should define objects which are not in conflict with the purpose and objects of the CNMF as set out in Articles 3 and 4.
- 6.12.2 If the association is a section of another health workers organisation, the section should have its own separate regulations, which are not in conflict with the purpose and objectives of the CNMF as set out in Articles 3 and 4.
- 6.12.3 The association should be controlled by nurses or midwives, gaining its authority from its members, and speak on nursing and midwifery matters.
- 6.12.4 The association should be the most representative of nurses or midwives in the country, according to the definition of a nurse or midwife in Article 1.
- 6.13 Applications for affiliate membership shall be considered by the Board, which shall be authorised to accept or reject applications from associations based on the following criteria:
- 6.13.1 The association is not eligible for full membership.
- 6.13.2 The association is a national nursing or midwifery association in a Commonwealth country, or a national nursing and midwifery regulatory body, or a nursing and midwifery educational institution, or a specialist national nursing or midwifery association.
- 6.13.3 No national nursing or midwifery association exists and the group is working toward establishing a national association whose objectives would accord with those of the CNMF
- 6.14 Applications for associate membership shall be considered by the Board, which shall be authorised to accept or reject applications from associations based on the following criteria:
- 6.14.1 The organisation is not eligible for full membership.
- 6.14.2 They are an international or regional nursing or midwifery organisations or an international, regional or national health related organisation.
- 6.15 Applications for individual membership ('Friends of the CNMF') shall be considered by the Board, which shall be authorised to accept or reject applications from associations based on the following criteria:
- 6.15.1 They are a nurse or midwife as defined within this Constitution.
- 6.16 Any association or individual wishing to withdraw from membership shall give twelve months' notice in writing to the CNMF Executive Secretary. There will be no refund of membership fees to any association or individual resigning from membership.
- 6.17 In the event of any country leaving the Commonwealth the CNMF Board shall make a recommendation, to be confirmed by a vote of the CNMF full membership, regarding the continuation of the existing membership in the CNMF of the CNMF member in that country.