

SOP 103 Membership Definitions and Requirements

Purpose

To identify the classifications of membership within SARTI.

Classifications of Membership

SARTI shall be composed of three (3) classifications: Active member, Associate member, and At-Large member.

At-Large member

Shall be persons who are at least eighteen years of age, can contribute to SARTI, and do not regularly fulfill the obligations of Active members. At-Large members may not represent SARTI at a search.

At-Large members may fall into the following At-Large categories:

1. Honorary Member/Advisor
2. Honorary Life Member
3. Honorary Group Member

Associate member

Shall be persons elected by the membership who are at least eighteen years of age, can contribute significantly to SARTI, and who do not regularly fulfill the obligations of Active members. Associate members may not represent SARTI at a search. Associate members do not have a vote in any SARTI matters and may not hold an office in SARTI.

Active member

Shall be persons elected by the membership who are at least eighteen (18) years of age, have met the requirements of the probationary period and have been favorably approved by the general membership following the probationary period as set forth in the By-laws. Active members must hold Active Training

Status as specified in SOP 105 prior to the election to office. Active members may hold office and vote.

Active members may fall into the following Active categories:

1. Trainee
2. Operational Tracker (OT)
3. Tracking Technician (TT)
4. Tracking Specialist (TS)

Probationary Applicant Procedure

The application process is defined in the By-laws.

Any new member that wishes to obtain Active Membership must agree to serve a probationary period of not less than six months from their application date. They must also attend at least two trainings within a twelve month period beginning at their date of application.

Any person seeking membership after previously having their membership terminated for any reason, excluding delinquent dues, may be subject to repeat the probation period.

During the applicant's probation, they must not state, declare, sign-in at searches or otherwise represent themselves as having been approved by SARTI as achieving Membership. They are also not eligible to vote in any SARTI matters and may not hold an office in SARTI.

After the six month probationary status, the applicant must be approved by the groups Training Committee. After which, the applicant must be recommended to the group by the groups Training Officer or designee and approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the active members attending a regularly scheduled meeting. The group will discuss the applicant and vote on the applicants' promotion to Active status without the applicant being present.

All probationary members have 24 months to complete all requirements for Active membership. If a member fails to achieve said requirements within 24 months they must submit another application for membership with appropriate fees or request transfer to Associate membership status.

Active Member Definitions

1. Trainee
 - a. Must be at least 18 years of age

- b. Be a member in good standing and completed the six month probationary period.
- c. Be willing to follow the suggestions of tracking persons with higher recognized classification.
- d. Have met the requirements set forth in SOP 104 Field Readiness Requirements.
- e. Have read and understand "Field Member Trainee Standards" as approved by SARTI.
- f. Be reviewed by the Training Committee every 12 months.

2. OPERATIONAL TRACKER (OT)

- a. Have completed all requirements of COVSAR Standard 7400 for Operational Tracker, including all prerequisites in 7405, all requirements under 7406, and completed all appropriate forms under 7407.
- b. Have completed all testing stations listed in 7409 and received necessary scores as outlined in 7410.
- c. Have submitted to the group Training Officer the completed copy of the appropriate forms under 7407 for either certification or recertification as appropriate for signature
- d. Every three years recertification will be accomplished by submitting the completed Operational Tracker Position Task Book as outlined in COVSAR Standard 7407.2.
- e. Be reviewed by the Training Committee every 12 months.

3. Tracking Technician (TT)

- a. Have completed all requirements of COVSAR Standard 7500 for Tracking Technician, including all prerequisites in 7505, all requirements under 7506, and completed all appropriate forms under 7507.
- b. Have completed all testing stations listed in 7509 and received necessary scores as outlined in 7510.
- c. Have submitted to the group Training Officer the completed copy of the appropriate forms under 7507 for either certification or recertification as appropriate for signature.
- d. Every three years recertification will be accomplished by submitting the completed Tracking Technician Position Task Book as outlined in COVSAR Standard 7507.2.
- e. Be reviewed by the Training Committee every 12 months.
- f. Have an Operations Kit as listed in the Virginia Tracking Standards, 7100 Group Tracking Standards, 7100.1.1 Operations Kit.

7. Tracking Specialist (TS)

- a. Have completed all requirements of COVSAR Standard 7600 for Tracking Specialist, including all prerequisites in 7605, all requirements under 7606, and completed all appropriate forms under 7607.

- b. Have completed all testing stations listed in 7609 and received necessary scores as outlined in 7610.
- c. Have submitted to the group Training Officer the completed copy of the appropriate forms under 7607 for either certification or recertification as appropriate for signature.
- d. Every three years recertification will be accomplished by submitting the completed Tracking Specialist Position Task Book as outlined in COVSAR Standard 7607.2.
- e. Be reviewed by the Training Committee every 12 months.
- f. Have an Operations Kit as listed in the Virginia Tracking Standards, 7100 Group Tracking Standards, 7100.1.1 Operations Kit.

Membership Dues

Membership Dues are required on a yearly basis and are due at the beginning of each year in January. The members will be given until the end of February to send in their dues, either by mail to the Treasurer, or to any BOD member at the February training.

1. Honorary Memberships: No dues are required for any Honorary Memberships.
2. Life Members: No dues required.
3. Associate Memberships: Yearly dues are \$10.00
4. Active Memberships: Yearly dues are \$20.00

Membership Certifications

All active members are required to maintain not only their Tracking certifications but their STM or STL and if required, MTM certifications as well to remain active within SARTI. SARTI will sign any application for certification or recertification presented with accompanying documentation relevant to certification for an active member, on a case by case basis.

Operational Statement

Those members who have reached an Operational Status continue to demonstrate proficiency and growth in human tracking, signcutting, ground search tactics, lost person behavior, animal tracking, navigation, and wilderness survival. Their professionalism in working with incident staff, ground teams, responsible agents, the public, and VDEM must be exceptional. Willingness to instruct and share knowledge should be continually demonstrated