

Rainier Agility Team (RAT)

Membership Information

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

- Individual Membership: One vote at club meetings
- Family Membership: Up to two votes at club meetings. Family members must be related or living in the same household.

ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues amounts are set by the board. They are collected annually before Feb 15, or a date set by the board.

PROCESS TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER

- **Application:** Complete the membership application. Mail the application and dues to the Membership Committee Chair or bring it to your first in-person meeting and give it to the Membership Committee or a Board member, who will forward it to the Membership Committee.
- **Introduction:** The applicant's general information will be emailed to all current members. Following this publication of the applicant's information, RAT Members will have 30 days to submit a written objection to the Board. If there are no objections, after 30 days the applicant will automatically become a RAT member.
- **Member in Good Standing:** Once applicant has attended a meeting or volunteered at a RAT event, the applicant will be granted one year of *gifted* Member-In-Good-Standing (MIGS) status. This means they are eligible for all of the benefits of a MIGS, except for the right to vote. Once the applicant has volunteered at two events within the first year, they will become a full MIGS and have the right to vote.

EXPECTATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS

RAT encourages 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. If you are new to agility, ask your sponsor for advice on what jobs to volunteer for at events.

One reason new members are encouraged to get involved in club meetings and events during their first year is that members must meet a minimum meeting and service requirement to keep MIGS status after the first year. These requirements are outlined below.

RETAINING MIGS STATUS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR

A RAT member is a 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 at least one Club meeting during each 12-month period. To facilitate participation from all Club members, the dates and times of meetings should be published at least three months in advance. In addition, meetings will be held on different days and at different times throughout the year, and include both in-person and virtual internet meetings. Even with these arrangements, we recognize 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. A member shall work at a minimum of two RAT-sponsored events during each 12-month period. The following are examples of ways to "work at an event":

- Volunteer during trials for jobs such as ring crew, timer, scorekeeper, leash runner, helping with course-building, etc.
- Serve on the Trial Committee. Contact the trial chair or anyone on the Board to learn more about these positions.
- Haul equipment/ trailers.
- Help with food preparation and organization.
- Assist with setup and/or teardown of equipment.
- Assist with organizing RAT demonstrations, fun runs, etc.

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 MIGS

All members (Individual and Family) can participate in all events sponsored or co-sponsored by RAT and attend general RAT meetings. All 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.

MIGS, however, are entitled to the following additional privileges:

- Discount on RAT-sponsored events, including trial entry fees.
- Priority admission to club-sponsored seminars and events (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 a MIGS.

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 the annual dues are paid. Thus, this member will still receive RAT Tales, still be welcomed at meetings and RAT-events, and still be able to attend RAT practices. MIGS status can always be regained by fulfilling the requirements outlined above.