



BC Association of Farmers' Markets VENDOR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM POLICY

Approved by BCAFM Board of Directors on September 11th, 2019

PREAMBLE

As indicated in BCAFM Bylaw 2.2 the BCAFM defines two classes of membership:

Farmers' Market Members	Voting
Vendor Members	Non-Voting

The policies outlined in this document pertain to BCAFM Vendor Members and have been established by the BC Association of Farmers Markets (BCAFM) Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution of the BCAFM

Vendor membership with the BCAFM is annual, voluntary and not required to sell at a BCAFM member farmers' market.

Individual BCAFM member farmers' markets may have their own vendor membership programs and requirements, and these are independent and separate from the BCAFM Vendor Membership program.

KEY BYLAWS

Below are the relevant, key BCAFM bylaws which pertain to Vendor Members, referenced and highlighted for background purposes in this policy document. Please refer to the complete set of bylaws as needed which can be found on our website at bcfarmersmarket.org

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

- (i) "Farmers' Market" means a market located in British Columbia comprised exclusively (100%) of vendors who grow, make, bake, raise or wild harvest the products they sell, all of which products must be grown or processed in British Columbia, and which prioritize primary producers/farmers and food, all in accordance with such criteria as may be established by the Board from time to time;



- (m) "Members" means those Persons and Organizations that are, or that subsequently become, members of the Society in any class of members in accordance with these Bylaws and that, in either case, have not ceased to be members of the Society;
- (aa) "Vendor" means a Person or Organization located in British Columbia that grows, makes, bakes, raises or wild harvests the products it sells at a Farmers' Market operated by a Farmers' Market Member, all of which products must be grown or processed in British Columbia;
- (bb) "Vendor Member" means a Vendor that has become a Vendor Member of the Society in accordance with these Bylaws and has not ceased to be a Vendor Member;

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.2 Classes of Membership

There will be one (1) class of voting membership, called Farmers' Market Members, and one (1) class of non-voting membership, called Vendor Members.

2.3 Subject to the provisions of this section, an Organization may be eligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member if it:

- (a) operates at least one (1) Farmers' Market; and
 - (b) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.
- A Person is not eligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member.

2.4 A Person may be eligible to be accepted as a Vendor Member if he or she:

- (a) is a Vendor;
- (b) is nineteen (19) years of age or older;
- (c) is ordinarily resident in British Columbia; and
- (d) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Person is not eligible to be accepted as a Vendor Member if he or she is:

- (e) an employee of the Society;
- (f) a contractor for services with the Society with an annual aggregate value of \$10,000 or more; or
- (g) the spouse of a Person referred to in either paragraphs (e) or (f), above.

An Organization may be eligible to be accepted as a Vendor Member if it:

- (h) is a Vendor;
- (i) is ineligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member;
- (j) carries on regular operations in British Columbia; and
- (k) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.



3. MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

3.1 In addition to any rights conferred by the Act, a Member in good standing has the following rights and privileges of membership, by class:

Farmers' Market Members

- (a) to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings;
- (b) to make or second motions at a General Meeting and to speak in debate on motions under consideration in accordance with such rules of order as may be adopted;
- (c) to exercise a vote on matters for determination at General Meetings;
- (d) may nominate eligible Persons for election as a Director, in accordance with these Bylaws;
- (e) may serve on committees of the Society, as invited; and
- (f) may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society, in accordance with such terms and criteria as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

Vendor Members

- (g) to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings;
- (h) to speak in debate on motions under consideration in accordance with such rules of order as may be adopted;
- (i) may serve on committees of the Society, as invited; and
- (j) may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society, in accordance with such terms and criteria as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

3.2 A Member who is not in good standing has the right to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings, and may participate in programs or initiatives of the Society (subject to eligibility) but is suspended from all of the other rights and privileges described in Bylaw 3.1 for so long as he or she remains not in good standing.

3.3 Dues

The Board will, by Board Resolution, determine from time to time the dues and/or fees payable by Vendor Members and in the absence of such determination by the Board, dues are deemed to be nil. Once determined, dues and/or fees payable by Vendor Members are deemed to continue each year until altered by Board Resolution.



POLICY & CRITERIA

The Bylaws are supported by additional policy and criteria for BCAFM Vendor Members as follows:

VENDOR MEMBERSHIP FEES

As indicated in Bylaw 3.3 the Board hereby establishes that vendor dues will be \$75 per year and will be due by January 1st of each year. Dues paid at any time during the year will not be prorated.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As indicated in Bylaw 2.6:

- 2.6 An eligible Person or Organization may apply to the Society to become a Member by:
- (a) submitting a completed application, in such form and manner as may be established by the Society, to the Society;
 - (b) by submitting payment for applicable fees or dues; and
 - (c) submitting such information or documentation as the membership coordinator may require to confirm eligibility for membership.

The BCAFM will establish an *online* membership application which will require the vendor member to state which BCAFM member farmers' markets they sold at in the previous year (if applicable) and the BCAFM member farmers' markets they intend to sell at in the current/upcoming year. This will ensure that vendor members are selling at approved BCAFM member farmers' markets and eligible for Vendor Membership program benefits.

The BCAFM website outlines the benefits of vendor membership for subscribing to the BCAFM Vendor Membership Program.

The online membership application may include other information requests as determined by the BCAFM to determine membership eligibility.

At its sole discretion, BCAFM may determine eligibility and/or deny membership enrolment to any vendor in the BCAFM Vendor Membership Program at any time.