



BC Association of Farmers' Markets
VENDOR MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Approved by BCAFM Board of Directors on April 19th, 2022

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 only 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

(k) "Farmers' Market" means either:

1. a market operated by a Farmers' Market Member and located in British Columbia comprised exclusively (100%) of BC Vendors and Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendors, 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; or
2. an online market operated by a Farmers' Market Member comprised exclusively (100%) of BC Vendors, 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;"

- (dd) “Vendor” means a BC Vendor or a Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor;
- (ee) “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;
- (c) “BC Vendor” means a Person or Organization located within 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, made, baked, raised, or wild harvested and processed (as applicable) in British Columbia;
- (v) “Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor” means a Person or Organization that is not located within British Columbia, or whose food products are not grown, made, baked, raised or wild harvested within British Columbia but who is located in Canada not more than 300 kilometres away from the applicable Farmers’ Market at which it intends to sell food (and only food) products it has itself grown, made, baked, raised, wild harvested and processed (as applicable) within 300 kilometres of the applicable Farmers’ Market; made, baked, raised or wild harvested, all of which food products must be grown, made, baked, raised, wild harvested and processed (as applicable) within 300 kilometres of the applicable Farmers’ Market;

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 Eligibility for Farmers’ Market Membership

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 Eligibility for Vendor Membership

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

- (a) is a BC Vendor or a Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor;
- (b) is nineteen (19) years of age or older; and
- (c) 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 BC Vendor or a Qualified Extra-Provincial Food Vendor;
- (i) is ineligible to be accepted as a Farmers' Market Member;
- (j) carries on regular operations in British Columbia, or within 300 kilometres of a Farmers' Market; and
- (k) agrees to advance the purposes and support the activities of the Society.

3. MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

3.1 Rights

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 Member not in Good Standing

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.

POLICY & CRITERIA

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

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Vendor Membership Fees

The BCAFM Board of Directors establishes Vendor Membership Program fees. Current membership fees are \$75 per year and will be due by January 1st of each year. Vendor membership applications will be accepted at any time during the year but will not be prorated.

Application for Vendor Membership and Benefits

Only Vendors who sell at or intend to sell at a BCAFM member farmers' market are eligible to apply to this BCAFM Vendor Member program.

An eligible Vendor may apply to BCAFM to become a BCAFM Vendor Member by:

(a) submitting a completed online application; and (b) submitting payment for applicable fees; and

(c) submitting information or documentation as the membership coordinator may require to confirm eligibility for membership.

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

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.

BCAFM Vendor Membership Program Grace Period

Occasionally, farmers' markets may for one reason or another choose not to return as BCAFM member farmers' markets. Vendors already enrolled in the annual BCAFM vendor membership program for insurance benefits or other reasons will not be penalized should a farmers' market does not renew its BCAFM market membership in that given year.

A grace period of 1 YEAR shall be extended to BCAFM Vendor Membership Program members whose farmers' market they were attending has chosen not to renew their BCAFM Farmers' Market membership.