

REGULATION ON HONORARY MEMBERSHIP (FELLOW STATUS)

Intl. Software Developers Association

SmartSng.Dev International Software Developers Association

Approved by resolution of the Council of the Association pursuant to clauses 3.2.5 and 6.2 of the Bylaws. Effective as of the date of publication.

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1. General Provisions and Purpose

1.1. This Regulation is adopted by the Council of the Association pursuant to clauses 3.2.5 and 6.2 of the Bylaws and establishes the single standard, the composition of the expert body, and the procedure for nomination, expert evaluation, and conferral of the highest grade of membership — the status of **Honorary Member** of the Association (referred to in the Association's documents as *Fellow*; the terms "Honorary Member" and "Fellow" denote one and the same highest grade).

1.2. The Honorary Member (Fellow) status is an exclusive, merit-based grade of membership. It is conferred for **outstanding, sustained, and documented achievements** in software engineering and information technology. The status is not a ceremonial title, is not conferred for service to the Association as an organization, and is not conferred automatically.

1.3. This Regulation and the standard it applies **apply equally to every person who seeks or holds the Honorary Member status**, regardless of country of residence, place of employment, length of membership, or any other circumstance. No person may obtain the status on terms other than those set out in this Regulation.

2. Structure of Membership Grades (Separation of Levels)

2.1. The Association establishes two separate, structurally distinct grades of membership:

- **Member** — the open, profession-based grade. Admission as a Member imposes **no achievement requirement whatsoever**: alignment with the Association's target profession and compliance with clause 3.1 of the Bylaws are sufficient. This is the base level, to which the outstanding-achievement standard **does not apply**.
- **Honorary Member (Fellow)** — the highest, structurally separate grade, conferred solely for outstanding achievements as judged by recognized experts in accordance with Sections 3–6 of this Regulation.

2.2. The Honorary Member grade is a **structurally separate pathway** with its own achievement threshold and its own expert procedure. Attainment of the open Member grade **confers no right** to the Honorary Member status and is not counted as an achievement toward it. The open grade and the Honorary Member grade are structurally insulated from one another; the requirements of the open grade neither lower nor substitute for the standard of Honorary Membership.

2.3. The Honorary Member status is **not equated** with a "senior" employee, with tenure, or with a job title. It is the single highest grade of the Association governed by this Regulation; there is no intermediate "honorary" level.

3. Standard for Conferral of the Status (Mandatory Requirement)

3.1. The Honorary Member status **shall be conferred solely and exclusively** on a person who has presented objective documentary evidence that the person possesses an **outstanding record of accomplishments** and has made **significant, sustained contributions** to software engineering and information technology that have **contributed importantly** to the advancement or application of the field and have brought significant value to the profession and to society.

3.2. This requirement is a **single mandatory requirement**. It cannot be substituted for, supplied, or made up by any combination of other circumstances. In particular, the following, **whether by themselves or in the aggregate, do not satisfy** the requirement and do not constitute an outstanding achievement:

- the level of education or the number of years of professional experience;

- holding a position or being employed in any occupation, including leadership or senior engineering roles (team lead, senior engineer, and the like), regardless of the employer's revenue or reputation;
- ordinary mentorship or training of colleagues;
- participation in evaluating the work of colleagues at one's employer (performance review and the like);
- income exceeding that of peers in one's country or region;
- recommendations by colleagues or current members standing alone;
- service to the Association as an organization, recognition as such, or potential ability;
- payment of dues, a paid subscription, or the purchase of the Association's publications or services.

3.3. The outstanding-achievement standard is stated **conjunctively** (joined by "and," not "or"): a candidate must demonstrate both (i) an outstanding record of accomplishments and (ii) their significant and sustained impact on the field.

3.4. An illustrative list of types of evidence may be published (for example: a significant independent professional award; authorship of a widely used technology, body of research, or open-source work that has had a measurable impact on the field; a foundational contribution to the creation of a successful technology product or enterprise; significant publications or presentations recognized by the community; service as a judge in authoritative professional competitions; broad professional recognition). Any such list is **strictly illustrative**: each item is merely **possible evidence** of the single requirement in clause 3.1 and **never** constitutes an independent sufficient basis for conferral.

3.5. Evidence must be **objective, documentary, and verifiable**. Unsupported assertions, a candidate's self-asserted statements without corroboration, and a mere link to a repository or proof of involvement in a project **are not evidence** of outstanding achievement and are insufficient for conferral.

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4. Admission Committee (the Expert Body That Reviews Candidates and Confers the Status)

4.1. The achievements of candidates for the Honorary Member status are evaluated by the **Admission Committee** (hereinafter the *Committee*) — a standing body of the Association that reviews applications and **approves the membership of every member** of the Association, and that also conducts the **expert review of candidates for honorary membership** and con-

fers that status. The evaluation of a candidate for honorary membership is a substantive expert judgment, not an administrative review of an application form, and is not delegated to the administrative staff of the Association.

4.2. The members of the Committee are recognized national or international experts in software development and information technology; current Honorary Members of the Association may also serve on the Committee. Each member of the Committee holds at least one externally verifiable mark of recognized standing in the field — fellow or senior membership of a recognized professional body (e.g. IEEE, ACM), a full academic appointment, a significant independent professional award, or service as a judge on an authoritative jury or program committee; for any honorary candidate a majority of the evaluating members must hold such externally verifiable standing independent of the Association. The Committee **renders an expert judgment on the evaluation of the achievements** of each candidate against the standard set out in Section 3.

4.3. Eligibility to serve on the Committee is determined by the same expert-qualification criteria established for judges in the Association's Regulation on Professional Certification. A member of the Committee must:

- hold **at least one externally verifiable mark** of recognized standing, independent of the Association (IEEE/ACM fellowship or senior membership, a full academic appointment, a significant independent award, or service as a judge of an authoritative competition or publication);
- be a recognized **expert** in their professional field, confirmed by public or professional achievements;
- have a **proven contribution to the industry** — participation in professional communities, expert councils, conferences, publications, open-source projects, or mentorship;
- possess a **reputation for independence and competence**, with professional opinions acknowledged by peers;
- demonstrate **membership in professional associations**, participation in expert juries, councils, or other institutions of professional recognition;
- have **no conflict of interest** with the candidate, the candidate's employer, or the nominator, and adhere to ethical and confidentiality principles.

4.4. Composition and transparency. The Admission Committee is formed by the Council of the Association; its composition is rotated periodically to ensure both continuity and turnover. The composition of the Committee and a summary of the qualifications of its members are **published openly**, including on a dedicated public page of the Association's website — the Admission Committee page.

4.5. The processes of conferring the Honorary Member status and of professional skills certification are **independent and separate**. The Admission Committee and the certification panel of judges may rely on a common definition of expert qualification (the Regulation on

Professional Certification); however, skills certification is not a basis for conferring the Honorary Member status, and the status does not replace certification.

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5. Procedure for Nomination, Expert Evaluation, and Conferral

5.1. Eligibility floor. A person may be considered for the Honorary Member status if, at the time of nomination, the person is a Member of the Association. Length of membership is immaterial and is not counted as an achievement; the sole basis for conferral is the standard in clause 3.1.

5.2. Nomination and self-nomination. A candidate may be nominated by any member of the Association, or may apply on their own behalf (self-nomination); no nomination or seconding by a current Honorary Member is required, and length of membership is immaterial. A single standard — clause 3.1 — applies to every candidate regardless of the route of nomination, with no elevated bar for self-nominees. The nomination is made in a written submission setting out the basis for the candidate's compliance with the standard in clause 3.1.

5.3. Documentary dossier. The candidate (or the nominator) submits a set of objective documentary evidence of achievements, mapped against the published standard. The burden of proof rests with the nominating side.

5.4. Expert evaluation. The Committee conducts a substantive expert evaluation of each candidate's dossier against approved criteria. Each nomination is evaluated by no fewer than three members of the Committee, and an **individualized written expert evaluation** is produced that ties the specific achievements of that candidate to the standard in clause 3.1. The Committee's decision is made collegially.

5.5. Conferral. The Honorary Member status is conferred **solely by the Admission Committee** on the basis of the expert evaluation. No other body and no administrative staff of the Association confer the Honorary Member status.

5.6. Recording. A person on whom the status is conferred is issued official confirmation from the Association; the information is entered into the Unified List of Members with an indication of the Honorary Member grade.

6. Selectivity

6.1. The Honorary Member status is conferred on persons of the highest level of achievement who meet the standard in Section 3. **No fixed quota** is set for the number of conferrals: what is decisive is conformity with the outstanding-achievement standard, not a numeric cap.

6.2. The selectivity of the procedure is an essential feature of it: the procedure provides for both the conferral and the **refusal** of the status on the basis of the expert evaluation.

6.3. The Association annually **publishes selection statistics** — the number of persons nominated and the number on whom the status was conferred during the year — to corroborate the exclusivity of the grade. The Association also maintains and publishes a **roster of current Honorary Members**.

7. Evidentiary Standards

7.1. The evaluation of a candidate is based solely on **objective, documentary, and verifiable** evidence. A candidate's self-asserted statements that are not corroborated by evidence are not taken into account.

7.2. Members of the Committee are guided by the principles of objectivity, independence, confidentiality, and uniformity of standards. A member of the Committee who has a conflict of interest with the candidate, the candidate's employer, or the nominator is recused from evaluating that nomination.

7.3. Individualized expert evaluations are internal documents of limited access. The published standard, the composition of the Committee and the qualifications of its members, the selection statistics, and the roster of current Honorary Members are made publicly available.

8. Official Letter of Conferral

8.1. Upon the written request of a member who holds the Honorary Member status, the secretariat of the Admission Committee issues an **official letter of the Association** that: (i) reproduces the published standard for conferral of the status; (ii) states the date of conferral and the decision of the Admission Committee; (iii) explains **on the basis of which specific outstanding achievements of that person** the status was conferred; and (iv) **names the expert evaluators of the Committee** who conducted the evaluation, together with a summary of their qualifications.

8.2. Such a letter is signed by the chair of the Admission Committee and by an authorized representative of the Association and is an official document of the Association.

9. Final Provisions

9.1. This Regulation is approved by the Council of the Association pursuant to clauses 3.2.5 and 6.2 of the Bylaws and takes effect as of the date of publication. The date of adoption and of entry into force is recorded in signed minutes.

9.2. This Regulation is forward-looking and applies to nominations submitted after the date of its entry into force. Persons who received honorary status before this Regulation took effect may be **re-evaluated** by the Admission Committee against the standard in clause 3.1 in the manner determined by the Council of the Association; conformity with this standard is confirmed only upon the results of such evaluation.

9.3. Amendments to this Regulation are made by resolution of the Council of the Association.