

Safety, Health & Survival Section

- Two categories of membership are established within the Safety, Health and Survival Section; “Regular” members and “Affiliate-Partner” members.

CBR – FAILED 3/6/2026

LEGAL RULING: Because, under IAFC’s current membership structure, all prospective members appear to fall within at least one IAFC membership class, IAFC membership operates in practice as a threshold requirement for section membership. Thus, the SHSS section’s proposed amendment should not be approved by IAFC’s Board because the “partner” membership category would be inconsistent with IAFC’s Bylaws.

- ~~A. Regular Section membership is available to those individuals who are Regular or Associate members of the IAFC. Regular Section members are eligible to hold office in the Section and to vote on all section ballots. Failure to maintain Association membership will result in the loss of regular section membership.~~
- a. Regular Section membership shall be available to individuals who maintain Full (Regular), Basic, Life, Affiliate, or Associate membership in the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

CBR – PASSED 3/6/2026

IAFC Election - PASSED

- ~~1. Regular Section membership is also available to IAFC Life members. IAFC Life members do not pay Section dues. To receive free Section membership upon attainment of IAFC Life member status, the member must have been a dues-paying Section member for at least two consecutive years—at any time—prior to taking Life membership. These members of the Section are eligible to vote on all Section ballots but may not hold office.~~
- b. Regular Section members:
 - i. Must maintain active IAFC membership to remain in good standing;
 - ii. Are eligible to vote on all Section ballots; and
 - iii. Are eligible to hold office and serve on the Board of Directors of the Section, subject to all other applicable qualifications.
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- c. Failure to maintain qualifying IAFC membership shall result in the loss of Regular Section membership.

CBR – PASSED 3/6/2026

IAFC Election - PASSED

- Article V – Meetings and Elections, Section 4. Eligibility for Office
- *Section members who are Association **Partner** members of the IAFC **SHS Section** may not serve on the Section's Board of Directors.

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CBR – FAILED 3/6/2026

LEGAL RULING: Because, under IAFC's current membership structure, all prospective members appear to fall within at least one IAFC membership class, IAFC membership operates in practice as a threshold requirement for section membership. Thus, the SHSS section's proposed amendment should not be approved by IAFC's Board because the "partner" membership category would be inconsistent with IAFC's Bylaws.

- ~~To be an officer of the Section, the member must have served a minimum of one 3-year term as a member of the Section's Board of Directors.~~
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- **To serve as an officer of the Section, a member must be a current member of the Section's Board of Directors and have completed at least one (1) three-year term on the Board.**

CBR – PASSED 3/6/2026

IAFC Election - PASSED

- ~~At least eleven (11) of the fourteen (14) members of the Section's Board of Directors must be non-retired, current, Regular Section and IAFC members at the time of their candidacy and, if elected, must maintain IAFC and Section memberships for the duration of their term. No more than three (3) of the individuals serving as at-large directors, secretary, or treasurer may be retired chief officers.~~
- **At least nine (9) of the fourteen (14) members of the Section's Board of Directors must be non-retired, current Regular Section members and IAFC members at the time of their candidacy and, if elected, must maintain IAFC and Section memberships for the duration of their term. No more than five (5) of the individuals serving as at-large directors, Secretary, or Treasurer may be retired chief officers. If there are currently five retirees serving on the board, no additional retirees are eligible to be sworn in and serve on the SHS Section board.**
- **If the Chair or Vice Chair retires while in office, he or she shall be permitted to remain in office until the next regular annual meeting of the Section, when a new Chair or Vice Chair shall be elected by the membership to fill the vacancy.**

CBR – PASSED 3/6/2026

IAFC Election - PASSED

- Elected members of the Board of Directors are expected to actively participate in the governance and business of the Section.
- A Board member who fails to participate in a minimum of six (6) regularly scheduled Board meetings within a twelve-month period, and/or who demonstrates a pattern of non-responsiveness to official written communications, may be subject to removal from the Board in accordance with the procedures set forth below.
- For purposes of this section, non-responsiveness shall be defined as a failure to respond to official written communications of the Section within seven (7) calendar days, barring any special circumstances disclosed to the chair.
- Prior to any vote on removal, the Board member shall be provided written notice from the Chair identifying the basis for potential removal and shall be afforded a thirty (30) calendar-day opportunity to cure the deficiency by:
 - a. Participating in Board meetings as required; and/or
 - b. Responding to outstanding official written communications.
- If, following the cure period, the Board member remains out of compliance, the member may be removed from the Board by a majority vote of the sitting Board of Directors.
- Any Board member removed under this provision shall be ineligible to run for election to the Board for a period of three (3) years following the date of removal.
- **Excused Absences:**
~~Elected board members that fail to attend three consecutive monthly stated meetings shall be removed from the board and shall not be permitted to run for election to the SHS Board for a period of three years following. Board members may submit a written letter to the chair to request an excused absence from a meeting. Written requests for excused absence shall be read at the next monthly board meeting and voted upon by the full board of directors.~~
- Board members are expected to submit any anticipated absences in writing to the Chair and the Section's Staff Liaison. Absences will be considered excused at the discretion of the Chair and Staff Liaison.
- Excused absences may still be considered when determining a Board member's eligibility to remain on the Board if it is determined that the absences, even if excused, are excessive and prevent the member from adequately fulfilling their duties and responsibilities to the Section.

CBR – PASSED 3/6/2026
 IAFC Election - PASSED