

OB-1 ARTICLE III. Minimum Number Of Members Required To Start A New Club

Proposal for Revised Club Admission to JCNA submitted by Mark Stephenson, Jaguar Club of Central Arizona

Current requirements for new club admission to JCNA:

Article III. JCNA Membership Groups, Section 2. Requirements.

Any group of 20 or more, subject to Article II, may make application for club affiliation in JCNA. The group must submit, together with its affiliation application, a copy of its constitution or Bylaws. Granting of club membership will be contingent upon receipt by JCNA of the designated pro rata JCNA dues for the current year. The group must publish, at regular intervals, a newsletter or other publication which is distributed to members of the group.

History

A proposal was presented at the 2011 AGM to relax the rules for club entry. As I understood the reading, it removed all membership requirements from the applicant club and put the decision in the hands of the Board of Directors. The argument in favor of that proposal was “If you build it, they will come.” It’s a valid point that if you have a club it will be easier to attract new members. The counterpoint was eloquently made by the Susquehanna Valley Jaguar Club, that there were two groups competing to form a Central PA club. The 20-member requirement forced them to unite to create one of the JCNA’s club success stories, growing to 70+ members in the five years since they joined JCNA. During the discussion, Dick Maury proposed a middle ground where we have a lower standard for entry, and a probationary period during which the applicant club must reach the minimum requirement.

I suggested that we table the motion until the 2012 AGM 1) to give everyone adequate time to compose a coherent rule rather than having a committee of a hundred try to craft it on the fly, 2) to present the rule to the membership at large for discussion and consider their feedback. I was asked to make a proposal, which follows.

First, my justifications for the proposal I present.

There are a minimum number of people required to make any organization viable. Obviously you need someone at the top, the President. Someone is needed to handle the money, the Treasurer. The Secretary administers the club meetings and other duties. Because we are social organizations, communication is one of the most important functions of a club, therefore a Webmaster or Newsletter Editor is essential. If a club is to grow, it needs someone disseminating the benefits of club membership, contacting sources of new members, and pushing other members to do the same. That would be the Membership director. If a club doesn’t do anything, there’s no reason to join, so an Activities Coordinator/Director is essential.

Per the By-Laws, the purpose of JCNA, and by extension, local affiliated-clubs is to “promote interest in motoring, foster and encourage a spirit of mutual interest and assistance in the acquisition and preservation of Jaguar automobiles among owners ... to promote enhanced driving standards and to encourage skillful driving on the public highways; to promote interest in motoring activities, classes, exhibitions, publications and motor sports related to the marque.” There are three sanctioned competitions in JCNA designed to further those ends: Rally, Slalom, and Concours, plus the less structured High Performance Driving Education (HPDE) program.

For a new club to be successful, there should be members designated to learn the rules of the sanctioned events and how to successfully organize them. A Concours requires a director and a chief judge. Not all clubs will decide to hold all events, but I propose that they commit to learn how to hold these events as part of their application for JCNA affiliation.

Therefore, they would need a minimum of ten people assigned the titles and knowing the duties of President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Director, Activities Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Slalom Organizer, Rallymaster, Concours Chair and Chief Judge. This requirements will force an applicant club to have a broad core of active, involved, contributing members upon which to build.

PROPOSED Amendment to Article III, Sections 2 and 7 of the JCNA By-Laws:

Section 2. Requirements:

Affiliate Club. Any group of 20 or more, subject to Article II, may apply for full club affiliation in JCNA. The group must submit, together with its affiliation application, a copy of its constitution or Bylaws and a list of ten individuals each committing to learn and be able to perform the duties of President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Director, Activities Coordinator, Newsletter Editor or Webmaster, Slalom Organizer, Rallymaster, Concours Chair and Chief Judge. Granting of club membership will be contingent upon receipt by JCNA of the designated pro rata JCNA dues for the current year. The group must publish, at regular intervals, a newsletter or other publication which is distributed to members of the group.

Provisional Club. Any group that meets all the requirements of an Affiliate Club, except for membership, may apply for Provisional Club affiliation in JCNA in the same manner as an Affiliate Club. When the Provisional Club meets all the requirements of an Affiliate Club, that status will be granted automatically. If the Provisional Club does not reach Affiliate Club status within one year from the grant of provisional status, its provisional status is revoked.

Section 7. Representation: The right to address and vote at the AGM or any special meeting shall be limited to two (2) delegates from each JCNA ~~group~~ Affiliate Club in good standing. These delegates represent the interests of the general membership of each JCNA ~~group~~ Affiliate Club. Each JCNA ~~group~~ Affiliate Club may cast two (2) votes via delegate or proxy. Each JCNA officer and each JCNA director shall have the rights and privileges of a delegate, and shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

END OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

There is one key phrase in the Provisional Club requirements that means exactly what it says, but I don't want the scope to be underestimated: "meets all the requirements of an Affiliate Club..." Those requirements include not only that membership reach 20, but that there be ten members designated to hold the ten key positions in the club and that they are capable of performing the duties required of them. For example, the Membership Director will have to correctly add new members using JCNA procedures, the Treasurer will have to properly remit forms and payment to the JCNA Treasurer, there will have to be "a newsletter or other publication" distributed "at regular intervals" and the Chief Judge will have to meet his or her requirements as defined by the JCRC, including passing the Judge's Test, before the club is automatically granted Affiliate Club status.

There is no mandate that clubs hold any of the sanctioned events, so that is not required, but the fact that members of new clubs learn to how to hold them, should encourage their undertaking. As indicated in the original By-Laws and this amendment, applicants with 20 members or more can't be required to demonstrate proficiency, only commit to it, because there is no probationary period. Their application is either approved or denied by the Board at the time it is submitted. A probationary period for all club applicants is open for discussion if members think it might be beneficial. One thing a probationary period of, say, three months would do is give time for other clubs in the area to comment. I'm kind of surprised that there is no requirement that the Board of Directors inform clubs in the vicinity that a new club has applied for affiliation. Perhaps it's spelled out somewhere in JCNA policy. If anyone can refer me to it, that would be great. I think the Board of Directors should inform all the clubs in the region of the applicant and other clubs, if any, in a 200 mile radius of the applicant and give a reasonable time for comment before making a final decision.

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