

# Membership costs

## National Suzuki Associations

Membership fees are set each year by the ESA Board of Directors. The cost of membership is the same for full and associate members.

At present the membership rates are €735 + a fee of €30 per teacher member (A or B) each year. This is a method of calculation only in order to decide on the national association's contribution to the ESA. The national association is free to make its own fee structure, where membership fees for different membership categories (teachers, parents and others) can be defined.

## New national Suzuki associations

New associations pay no membership in the year of election (year 0) or for the following two years (years 1 and 2). During that period they must collect membership and build up their own organisation and teacher training programme. In year three they pay 20% of the full membership; in year 4 they pay 50% and in year 5 this rises to 100%. Please see table I below for further details.

## Individual Associate membership

At present this is €48 per person per year, regardless of membership categories. Fees may be paid in advance for more than one year. Reduced membership is available to members in countries with lower GDP / PPP (see weighting rules for associations, below). Individual associate membership is payable from the start of membership.

## 'Weighting': Reduced payments for all national Suzuki associations in countries with lower GDP / PPP

At the meeting in 2007, the ESA board agreed on a scheme whereby countries with weaker economies, lower salaries and exchange rates, are asked to pay only a weighted amount of membership costs. The calculation is based on the World Bank's PPP (Purchasing Power Parities) index.

In practice this means that our 'new' countries in Central and Eastern Europe pay only around 50% of full fees. In the first of paying membership this means that they pay only 10% of the full cost for their membership numbers. In year 4 (the second year of making a contribution) this rises to 25%. Please see tables I and II for details and examples.

**TABLE I** Transitional membership payments by new National Suzuki Associations

|                            | <b>Payments to ESA</b>   | <b>Internal collection of memberships</b>  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Year 0<br>Year of election | No payment to ESA<br><i>Weighting</i> rate is determined ( to be reviewed every two years) | Association must begin to collect national memberships   |
| Year 1                     | No payment to ESA  | Association pays half of weighted fees to internal development projects  |
| Year 2                     | No payment to ESA  | Association pays equivalent of full weighted fees to internal development  |
| Year 3                     | 20% of weighted membership fees payable to ESA   | Association increases the collection of membership fees and fundraising to cover ESA payment and its own development |
| Year 4                     | 50% of weighted membership fees payable to ESA   | The association continues to develop its membership programme  |
| Year 5                     | 100% of weighted membership fees payable to ESA  | Continuation of development  |

**TABLE II – Examples of transitional membership and weighting**

The examples below show membership for two different countries, each with 20 A and B members.

The two examples are based on countries which have 20 A and B members. This would currently entail membership costs of €735 ('country fee') + €30 per A and B member = €1335 per year.

Country A is a typical Western European country (A) with average or above average GDP / PPP, such as Luxembourg or Austria

Country B is a Central or Eastern European emerging economy with GDP / PPP figures which are between 40% and 60% of Western European averages, such as Latvia or Bulgaria

| Country   | Weighting | Election year<br>2009 | Year 1:<br>2010 | Year 2<br>2011 | Year 3:<br>2012 | Year 4<br>2013 | Year 5<br>2014 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Country A | 100%      | 0                     | 0               | 0              | €267            | €667.50        | €1335          |
| Country B | 50%       | 0                     | 0               | 0              | €133.50         | €333.75        | €667.50        |

Figures will change as teacher numbers change; or if ESA membership costs change; or if the weighting rate changes.

**Payment of membership**

Payment instructions and Bank Details are available from the ESA office

National Associations are advised to contact ESA if any problems or questions arise.