

If you are a citizen or resident of a country that does not yet have an AIDA entity (i.e. a National Member or Observer Member), you may wish to consider forming an AIDA entity in your country. Please note that no country may have more than one AIDA Member (AIDA Statutes, Section 4.1).

Typically, a group in a country without an AIDA entity first applies to become an Observer Member; after it has acquired additional experience and expertise among its members, it may then apply for full National Member status. Please note that only the AIDA Assembly may admit Observer Members or National Members; although the AIDA Board will review applications for completeness etc., no entity can become a member of AIDA until it receives a positive vote from the Assembly. Accordingly, no entity may use the AIDA name, trademark or other logo until it has been approved as either an Observer Member or National Member by the Assembly.

The following paragraphs describe the requirements for and rights of both Observer Members and National Members.

### **Observer Members**

In order to apply for Observer membership, a group must: (i) be in a country that does not have an existing AIDA National member; (ii) have at least ten freedivers as members; and (iii) have statutes that would meet the requirement for a National member under AIDA's Statutes. There is no annual fee for Observer Members.

An Observer member is permitted to: (A) have a non-voting representative in the AIDA Assembly; (B) have competitions that meet AIDA requirements (such as sponsorship by an existing AIDA National member) placed on the calendar, and have results go to ranking list; (C) send athletes to world championship competitions, with Board approval (subject to meeting standard performance requirements, fee requirements from the regulations, etc.); and (D) be listed as an Observer member on the AIDA International website.

### **National Members**

In order to apply for AIDA National membership, a group must: (i) be in a country that does not have an existing AIDA National member; (ii) have at least 24 freedivers as members, which meet the minimum freediving education requirements noted in the New Member Policy; (iii) have statutes that meet the requirement for a National member under AIDA's Statutes; (iv) have at least one resident instructor; and (v) have at least two resident AIDA judges. There is an annual fee for National Members (for 2011, that fee was €150).

A National member is permitted to: (A) have a voting representative in the AIDA Assembly; (B) have competitions placed on the calendar, and have their results go to ranking list (this includes sponsorship of competitions in countries without an AIDA National); and (C) send athletes to world championship competitions; (D) be listed as a National member on the AIDA International web site.

If you are interested in establishing an AIDA organization in your country, or have questions about this process, please contact the AIDA Secretary at: [secretary@aidainternational.org](mailto:secretary@aidainternational.org)

Best regards,

Secretary, AIDA International