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DOCUMENT

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WOSM registration fee

Support document for Draft Resolution 2024-B

By the World Scout Committee



SCOUTS
Creating a Better World

WOSM registration fee

By the World Scout Committee

This Conference Document has been developed to inform Member Organizations about the WOSM registration fee system, the outcome of monitoring the evolution of the economic and Scout membership situation over the last triennium. This document presents the revised fee system that is being proposed to the 43rd World Scout Conference.

Conference proposal:	Draft Resolution 2024-B
Related document:	Conference Document 4A
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Languages

The official languages of WOSM are English and French. The World Scout Bureau will make all Conference Documents available in both languages. When possible, it endeavours to also make them available in Arabic and Spanish. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Conference Document or any other official document of WOSM, the English text will prevail.

1. About WOSM's registration fees

Member Organizations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) should be mindful of the following:

- The [Constitution of WOSM](#) requires in Article XXIII.1 that each Member Organization shall pay an annual registration fee to WOSM.
- Registration fees must be seen as a Member Organization's constitutional obligation deriving from its membership of WOSM, and should not be confused with an *individual fee per Scout* or a *return on investment* through the provision of services.
- The registration fees collected from Member Organizations are used to meet some, but not all, of the operational costs required to achieve the triennial plans at World and Regional levels, as approved by the World and Regional Scout Conferences.
- It is up to each Member Organization to determine how it will raise the funds needed to pay its registration fee.

2. Background

Key background information on the registration fee system for WOSM in recent triennia can be found below. It is important to note that concerns regarding the WOSM annual registration fee have been discussed at the last five World Scout Conferences.

2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of Conference Resolution 2011-02.• WOSM registration fees were fixed for all Member Organizations for 10 years.• This was to enable time to explore new registration fee systems and for Member Organizations to increase membership with no financial impact.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Task Force on WOSM Fees was established by the World Scout Committee to develop a new registration fee system.• Extensive research, wide consultation with Member Organizations and more than 14 different options were explored by the Task Force.
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One option was identified by the World Scout Committee in July 2017 and Member Organizations were invited to provide feedback.• Workshops were held in Regions, and at the World Scout Conference in August 2017.• Further global consultations occurred in September 2017 and again in January 2018 to identify areas of concern.
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The World Scout Committee Task Force on WOSM Fees proposed a registration fee system to the World Scout Committee based on extensive feedback from Member Organizations.• The proposed registration fee system was endorsed by the World Scout Committee in April 2018.• Circular No 28/2018 provided details to all Member Organizations, and invited further feedback. Support resources included an overview, short video, responses to frequently asked questions and an online simulator enabling Member Organizations to get an indicative annual registration fee according to the proposed system.
2018 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed registration fee system was presented at each Regional Scout Conference, to each newly elected Regional Scout Committee and on many other occasions at various events.
2020 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In April 2020, Member Organizations decided by referendum to extend the 2011 registration fee system for one more year, due to the inability of the World Scout Conference to meet in 2020.• In November 2020, WOSM's COVID-19 survey identified significant economic and membership impact in Member Organizations worldwide.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of Conference Resolution 2021-02
2022-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A contact group on the WOSM Fees was established with the mandate to review the economic situation of Member Organizations and the registration fee situation to make a proposal.

As part of the Operational Framework 2021-2024, the World Scout Committee appointed a contact group to address the requests in Conference Resolution 2021-02 regarding the WOSM registration fee system. The mandate of the contact group was to review the economic situation of Member Organizations based on data of the World Scout Bureau and the registration fee situation to provide a proposal to the World Scout Committee on the future of the WOSM registration fee.

3. WOSM registration fee system proposal

Cognisant of the financial strains experienced by both Member Organizations and WOSM, extensive discussions were taken during this time to identify a proposal for a one-time adjustment to the WOSM registration fee. This adjustment is intended to address inflationary pressures while acknowledging the ongoing financial difficulties faced by Member Organizations and WOSM itself. The decision to implement this adjustment reflects a careful balance between mitigating immediate financial pressures and ensuring the long-term sustainability of WOSM and its members.

The World Scout Bureau has conducted conversations with Member Organizations to present this proposal to them and assess the level of agreement for its consideration by the Conference. In addition, Member Organizations will have opportunities ahead of the Conference to learn more about the proposal during the pre-engagement webinar on 28 April 2024, in online discussion opportunities and through breakout sessions during the Conference in August.

3.1. Key considerations

3.1.1. Situation of Member Organizations

The World Scout Committee's WOSM fee contact group analysed the post-pandemic situation of Member Organizations over the course of the triennium. They noted a slight improvement in the capacity of Member Organizations to pay the WOSM registration fees, feeling that this is one indication of a general economic recovery. Additionally, the group looked at the latest WOSM census data over the 2021-2024 Triennium, which showed some Member Organizations experiencing continued declining membership rates, but overall, there was a strong global recovery of Scout membership. The findings of the last full census of this triennium furthermore show significant membership growth across the Movement, returning the worldwide Scout Movement to its pre-pandemic size.

3.1.2. Global inflation

The current situation of global inflation is complex and multifaceted. In response to the nuanced nature of global inflation, a comprehensive analysis was completed that identified the following three key datasets to shed light on this important information.

- A historic overview of the evolution of global consumer prices since 2011, based on World Bank data, indicated a 37.02% increase of the global prices of goods and services globally, averaging at 3.08% per annum.
- A similar analysis conducted in countries where WOSM operates its Support Centres, revealed a higher average annual increase of 4.06%, significantly surpassing the global average. Notable variations in inflation rates among different countries of operation were observed.
- A forecast based on International Monetary Fund data, projected a continued rise in consumer prices until at least 2027, estimating an annual increase of 4.6%, notably higher than the pre-pandemic global average of 3.08% per annum.

These insights underscore the importance of considering inflationary trends in the proposed WOSM registration fee to ensure the financial sustainability of WOSM.

3.1.3. WOSM's operating budget

The impact of rising inflation on WOSM's operating budget is significant and requires careful consideration. The freeze of WOSM's registration fees since 2011, coupled with inflation exceeding 40% in countries where WOSM operates its support centres, has placed continued strain on WOSM's core income. This strain is exacerbated by the ongoing elevated inflation globally, which directly affects the operations and budgets of the World Scout Bureau across its Support Centres worldwide.

While part of the strain can be alleviated through WOSM's business development and resource mobilization strategy, there remain limitations to fundraising for core operations. Thus, an adjustment for inflation in registration fees would help alleviate some of the pressure experienced in financing essential core operations.

3.1.4. Assessment timeframe

Following the approval of Conference Resolution 2021-02, the request was to assess WOSM’s registration fee system considering the post-pandemic economic and Scout membership situation. It was only by early 2023 that the World Scout Committee felt confident in the stabilisation of its Member Organizations post-pandemic, both in terms of individual membership numbers and financial standing. Consequently, a comprehensive review of the WOSM registration fee system and calculation methodology within this triennium was not feasible. However, considerable discussions commenced regarding potential immediate measures that could be put in place to address the needs of WOSM and be agreeable to Member Organizations in the current context and timeframe remaining until the 43rd World Scout Conference.

The desire in the timeframe remaining was to maintain the existing calculation methodology to ensure stability and predictability for Member Organizations, but to add a slight increase to each Member Organization’s fee to adjust for inflation.

3.1.5. 5% inflation adjustment

Considering these various factors, it is necessary for WOSM to adjust its registration fee to account for global inflation, opting to propose a 5% increase in the WOSM registration fee for each Member Organization. This adjustment, despite being nominal, reflects WOSM's commitment to maximising its efficiency for providing services to Member Organizations and implementing other strategies such as business mobilisation and fundraising efforts to mitigate a more substantial financial impact on Member Organizations.

3.2. Example of fee proposal

Below is an example of Wakanda Scout Organisation’s registration fee payment to WOSM based on the proposed WOSM registration fee and adjustment for the consideration of the Conference through Draft Resolution 2024-B. This example is specific to Wakanda and is only a representation of how the WOSM fee registration system would be implemented as of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, until such time that the World Scout Conference decides on a change.



**This fee would be in place until otherwise decided by the World Scout Conference.*

4. Proposal for decision of the 43rd World Scout Conference

The proposal itself aims to use the same WOSM registration fee calculation methodology as approved by the Conference in 2011, and adding a 5% increase to the fee of each Member Organization.

This adjusted fee would be in place until such time that the Conference decides it is beneficial to review the system. This leaves the future of the WOSM registration fee system at the discretion of the World Scout Conference and the next World Scout Committee, enabling them to assess WOSM’s financial needs and Member Organization fee payment capacity.

Draft Resolution 2024-B – WOSM Registration Fee found in [Conference Document 4A](#) presents the proposal for consideration of the 43rd World Scout Conference.

As this Draft Resolution is in relation to WOSM’s registration fee, two-thirds majority of votes in favour would be required for this proposal to be adopted. Specific considerations must also be taken for any potential amendments that Member Organizations may wish to propose. More information can be found in the [Conference Document 2 - Rules of Procedure](#), rules 6.b, 6.3.d, and 6.3.e.