

## Membership and Dues

### Guidance for State Coalitions

Jump\$Start state coalitions were initially created as non-membership organizations. Interested supporters got involved by becoming a Board or Committee member; but there was no general membership category and, therefore, the Bylaws template does not address membership. Many Jump\$Start state coalitions maintain this structure.

State coalitions that wish to have members may do so; but should read up on membership organizations and seek counsel; before taking steps to establish what it means to be a member of your coalition. If your state coalition has members, but your Bylaws do not already address membership, they probably need to be amended. Nolo has this article on the [Difference Between Membership and Nonmembership Nonprofits](#) and LegalZoom's [Does a Nonprofit Have to Have Members](#) outlines different types of memberships.

At the national level, we refer to “Partners” rather than “members” – believing that Partner organizations don’t belong to the coalition, but rather *are* the coalition – and our Partners are organizations rather than individuals. Jump\$Start Partners are non-voting and do not have a voice in decision-making. This excerpt from Article II of national Jump\$Start’s Bylaws (amended 2.21.2019) outlines what it means to be a Jump\$Start Partner.

#### *Section I. Partners*

*The Coalition shall consist of an unlimited number of non-voting Partners, which are national entities that share an interest in promoting the mission and goals of the Jump\$Start Coalition.*

*Through the Coalition, Partners form an alliance in which they cooperate in joint action, each with their own self-interest.*

*(a.) National Coalition Partners. National Coalition Partners (Partners) are companies, organizations, and agencies that serve or operate in multiple U.S. states and demonstrate an established commitment to the financial literacy of youth. Partners may be non/not-for-profit organizations; corporations, businesses, or sole proprietorships; public or non-profit post-secondary institutions or university centers; or agencies of the federal government.*

*i. Sustaining Partners. Sustaining Partners are National Coalition Partners that make a significant, annual contribution to the Jump\$Start Coalition, the amount of which is set from time to time by the Board of Directors. Sustaining Partners may receive special recognition or considerations.*

*(b.) Joining the Coalition. Entities interested in joining the Coalition submit an application to join, which is considered by the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee submits its recommendations to the Board of Directors and the entity is added as a Partner when approved by majority vote at a regular or special meeting of the Board.*

*(c.) Removal. Partners are removed from the Jump\$Start Coalition: (i) at their own request; (ii) upon non-payment of dues for over one full year; or (iii) when the Board, by majority vote, determines that the entity is no longer suitable as a Partner.*

*(d.) Dues. The Board of Directors shall decide whether and in what amount Partners shall be assessed annual dues.*

*(e.) Expectations. Partners are expected to demonstrate support for the Jump\$Start Coalition mission in ways determined by each Partner and to uphold the Coalition’s commitment to collaboration and effective financial education.*



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#### **Dues**

If your state coalition assesses dues or some other membership fee, it should be addressed in your Bylaws; but, it is generally recommended that specifics, such as amounts, are left out so that you can change them from time to time without needing to amend the Bylaws first.

See also the toolkit guidelines on Bylaws.