

Becoming a Panda Players Member

Thank you for enquiring about becoming a member of Panda Players.

This document outlines the process for becoming a member.

1. Panda Players' Membership Secretary will provide forms (*see below*) which you should complete and return to the Membership Secretary.
 - a. A Panda Players Membership Application form - this asks for details about you and your experience and the type of membership you are requesting (*see the Panda Players Membership Classification and Fees document*).
 - b. A Panda Players Gift Aid form - this asks, if you pay income tax, that you indicate you are happy to gift aid your membership fee. This does not cost you anything! It simply means that Panda Players can claim 25% of your membership fee from HMRC. It would really assist Panda Players if you could tick to indicate that you wish to Gift Aid. However, this is not compulsory.
 - c. A Panda Players Membership Classification and Fees document - this explains each category of membership and how much it will cost to be a member.
2. Once you've submitted your forms to the Membership Secretary and if you're applying to be an Active Member, a date will be arranged for a fairly informal meeting with some Executive Committee representatives (possibly during or after a rehearsal). At this meeting, they will want to hear you;
 - a. sing something (it might be as simple as 'Happy Birthday') to hear if you can sing in tune
 - b. and, if you are planning to take part in our stage musicals, speak something (again a very short piece).

You can, if you wish, prepare a piece of text and/or a song beforehand and, whilst this is recommended, you don't have to do this. If you do, sheet music for the song would be useful. If you don't, the Executive Committee representatives will decide what they'd like to hear you sing and speak.

If you have any concerns or questions about this aspect of becoming a member, please discuss them with an Executive Committee member.

3. As soon as possible after the meeting (maybe even immediately after), you will be advised whether or not you have been successful in applying for membership. If successful, you will need to pay the current annual subscription [*see the Panda Players Membership Classification and Fees document*] and, once that is paid, you will be a member of Panda Players. The membership covers the year, or part of year, from 1st September to 31st August.
4. You will also be expected to take an active role on a sub-committee of your choosing.
5. At present, there is no entrance fee to Panda Players other than the annual membership subscription.

Being in a Panda Players Show

Once you are a member, you will be eligible to audition for a role in a production being presented by Panda Players.

You may audition for a principal role, at the first round of auditions for a production provided that;

1. you were a member prior to the 1st September before the auditions take place and
2. you have taken an active role in supporting Panda Players in the previous year, or since becoming a member *for example: by helping at a Panda Players show or event (backstage crew, front of house team, erecting marquee for barbecue, active sub-committee member, etc.)*

The Executive Committee will have discretion on what constitutes an active role.

3. However, also at the discretion of the Executive Committee, auditions for a particular production, possibly including first auditions, could be opened up to other members of Panda Players and/or non-members.

Neither being a member nor having auditioned guarantees that you will be able to take part in a production, particularly where the number of people wishing to take part exceeds the number required for that production.