

SCoM Snowsport England affiliation

There are two parts to this document, Part 1 is an assessment of the costs and benefits of SE affiliation, and an explanation of why we have chosen not to seek re-affiliation from 1 November 2025. Part 2 summarises SE individual membership benefits, and how you can become a member if you wish to do so.

Part 1 – review of SE affiliation and its costs and benefits

1. Snowsport England (“SE”) is a National Governing Body (“NGB”). Its year runs from 1 November to 31 October. For many years SCoM has been affiliated to SE, for which we have paid an annual fee. Up to 31 October 2025 it was based on the number of members in the club. In the year ending 31 October 2024 the fee was c. £1400. Affiliation, and the payment of the fee, provided us with certain benefits, primarily insurance, but also the ability to use SE’s logo and to be listed on its website.
2. On its website is [more information about what SE does](#). It sets out the primary roles of an NGB as being sporting-related (rather than as a recreational activity), including the following statement:

“Affiliating to Snowsport England gives your club and your members benefits with real advantages. You are also helping to support the grassroots of Snowsport and provide opportunities for everyone to get involved, no matter their experience or location.”
3. On 1 November 2025 SE changed the affiliation scheme. Rather than charge each club an annual sum based purely on the number of members, it has made affiliation free for clubs, but as a requirement of their insurance they must ensure that all of their members have individual SE membership.
4. SE states that the new structure aims (in short) to:
 - Ensure affiliated organisations and members are correctly insured.
 - Offer broader membership options, recognising that current and future members enjoy our sports in different ways.
 - Improve value and benefits for members, including a new rewards platform.
5. There is a banded fee structure for SE members, from £5 to £120 per annum, but most SCoM members would fall into the lowest-price category. On the basis of 260 members, total affiliation costs would be about £1300 per annum, which is broadly in line with historic affiliation costs.
6. Under the heading “Why affiliate to Snowsport England as a club?” is a list of reasons to become affiliated. Of potentially most interest to us are:
 - Safeguarding Support – helping you provide a safe and happy environment for children, young people, and adults.
 - Public Liability Insurance – giving you peace of mind should the worst happen.
7. The Committee has examined the costs and benefits of affiliation. We spent some time last year assessing what affiliation provided, prompted by a periodic review by SE of our safeguarding procedures. During this process it became clear that SE’s safeguarding requirements are aimed primarily at clubs which (a) focus largely or wholly on snowsport as a sport rather than as a recreation, (b) have facilities of their own, (c) have significant numbers of minors as members, (d) engage in instruction, training and competition, and (e)

have a strong volunteer structure. Early in the process, SE's safeguarding lead questioned why, given what SCoM does, we were affiliated at all.

8. The Committee's view was that safeguarding alone was not a sufficient reason to remain affiliated, but that we certainly needed liability insurance. We asked a number of questions both of SE and its insurers about specifically what level of cover SE insurance gave us. It took a number of exchanges to get a clear statement. Initial responses stated that we were not, for example, covered for activities such as walks or social events, although we later had confirmation that we would be covered. The insurance does not provide any cover for our overseas skiing trips (although we did not expect that it would, and members are in any case required to have their own travel insurance). Our main UK skiing activity is the regular Snow Centre sessions. However, the club only facilitates, rather than runs, these events. Members skiing on their own (perhaps taking advantage of the SCoM discount) do so at their risk, and where they are under instruction this should be covered by the instructors' liability insurance. The final element of insurance was such matters as Directors' and officers' liability.
9. Having had these discussions, we concluded that much of what SE insurance offered was not necessary, and that we might be able to get tailored insurance elsewhere. As a result, we secured liability insurance with a separate company, for about a third of the price of the SE affiliation cost.
10. There was a further issue about continuing with SE affiliation, which was SE's decision to transfer the cost of affiliation from the clubs to their members. SE proposed three options for signing up members:
 - Option A: Ask members to become members of SE directly; or
 - Option B: Collect membership data and membership fees from members. Send all of this information to SE to bulk upload; or
 - Option C: A hybrid approach where some become members of SE directly, while other members' details are provided by the organisation as a bulk upload.
11. The Committee was not happy with this approach. First, it would place the burden of cost directly on members, for something which their SCoM membership fees had previously paid. Second, there would be a significant logistical task of either encouraging members to sign up, or alternatively to seek members' consent for the use of their personal data for such a purpose. Third, we believe there to be a substantial subset of members who do not want, or would not benefit from, SE membership. Even if the club were to pay for membership/affiliation, as it has previously done, there would potentially be a substantial data processing burden.
12. Although the club is no longer affiliated to SE, that does not mean that the club does not in principle support SE's objectives, but they have little overlap with the objectives of the club as set out in our Constitution. Under the old structure, there was an option for SCoM to become an Associate Member by paying a £125 annual fee, which would have allowed us to use SE's logo on our website and publicity material, and also to be listed on SE's Club Finder search. We are disappointed that SE no longer offers associate membership, although we will keep under review SE's affiliation and membership offerings. We do support SE's approach to safeguarding. We have our own safeguarding process, and over the coming months will ensure that it follows current best practice.

Part 2 – individual SE membership

1. The Committee's decision not to seek re-affiliation does not mean that club members cannot seek SE individual membership. You should be aware that if you do take part in snowsport activities on a sporting/competitive basis, these are entirely outside our activities as a club and you will not be covered by the club's insurance. Four SCoM members currently have individual SE membership. Should you wish to consider becoming a member, you may find the following guidance helpful. You can find further information about membership categories and benefits [here](#). It will be your responsibility, based on information from SE, to ascertain that it is suitable for your needs.
2. There are seven categories of members where fees are payable, as well as a non-member category available only to coaches and instructors licensed with other organisations. They are:
 - Green - £5
 - Green volunteer - £10
 - Blue - £20
 - Red coach & instructor - £50
 - Red compete junior - £35
 - Red compete - £70
 - Black - £120
3. Blue and red are for those who are competing or training, or who are instructors or coaches. Black is for anyone who would like travel insurance in Europe. Green is for "a recreational skier/snowboarder within an affiliated organisation setting, where the activity would fall under the remit of a Snowsport England (or equivalent) instructor and would not require a coaching licence."
4. Most benefits are limited to the more expensive categories. A rewards platform (discounts etc) is available but only for categories costing £10 or more. The only listed benefits for a Green member are:
 - Worldwide public liability insurance
 - A monthly newsletter
 - Supporting the growth of the sport
5. Other links you may find interesting:
 - [Travel insurance](#) (for black membership only)
 - [How to become an SE member](#)
 - [SE membership non-member route](#)

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