



APPENDIX 29: Statement of Member Rights and Responsibilities

In order to improve upon and support members' safety within the organization, this Statement of Rights and Responsibilities pulls together pertinent pieces from Mensa's already-existing Constitution, Bylaws, ASIEs, and other approved policies. It is intended to make it easier for members to understand what they can and cannot do, and to help Ombudspersons navigate complaints and conflicts. Since this statement is a summary of other approved policies, it will be updated automatically as pertinent policies are amended or added without requiring further AMC approval. Also, technical corrections to this statement may be made, if the existing language or references within this statement should be found to be in conflict with the already-existing Constitution, Bylaws, ASIEs and other approved policies that this statement seeks to summarize. Such corrections may be made without requiring separate approval, provided that the AMC must be notified of any such corrections.

In the event that there is any conflict between this statement and the actual provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, ASIEs, or other approved policies referenced herein, the original source documents shall take precedence.

Qualification for Membership:

1. Test at or above 98th percentile on a qualifying intelligence test. [Constitution Article III:A]
2. Pay dues. [Constitution Article III:C.1.d]
3. Have no documented outstanding sanctions or debts to American Mensa, its Local Groups, its recognized Gatherings, Mensa International, Ltd., other national Mensas, or the Mensa Foundation. [ASIE 2001-075]

Rights—as a member in good standing, one is entitled to:

1. Attend all official Local, Regional, and National events unless sanctioned. [AML Bylaws Article IX.3]
2. Receive all pertinent Local, Regional, and National publications. [ASIE 2011-028; Minimum Standard Bylaws 4.A & 4.B]
3. If under 18, be accompanied by a parent or guardian at Mensa functions. [ASIE 2003-013]
4. Express opinions as members of Mensa, provided those opinions or actions are not expressed as being those of Mensa as an organization. [Constitution Article II:C]
5. Participate in pertinent Local, Regional, and National online discussion venues. [ASIE Appendix 23]
6. As a parent, receive notification and control consent before a minor may subscribe to a defined Internet communication service. [ASIE Appendix 15 and Appendix 23]
7. Vote in Local, Regional, National, and International elections even if not physically present. [Constitution Article XII:C; AML Bylaws Article IX:6]
8. Run for office. [AML Bylaws Article III.6]

9. Enlist the services of the National Ombudsperson. [AML Bylaws Article VIII.2.b]
10. Use the Mensa name, logo, and contact lists for personal non-commercial use. [ASIE 0000-032]
11. Form a SIG. [AML Bylaws Article XI]
12. Use Mensa display materials for marketing and recruitment efforts approved by the organization. [Local Group Charter Appendix 25]
13. Invite or exclude individuals, including Mensa members, at one's discretion when hosting any activities which are not official functions—whether in a private home or at a public location. [ASIE 2020-006]
14. As a host (or a member of the Local Group's governing body), evict a member or guest for unacceptable behavior at any event, even official meetings. [ASIE 0000- 111]
15. Manage one's privacy preferences both within Mensa and for external communications. [ASIE Appendix 15]
16. Not be suspended from membership or expelled without a fair and impartial hearing. [AML Bylaws Article IX: 5]

Responsibilities—as a member, one's responsibilities include:

1. Allow Mensa to openly verify that one is a member. [ASIE Appendix 15]
2. Permit one's name and address to be published in Mensa listings. [Constitution Article III: C.1.e]
3. Refrain from the commercial use of the Mensa membership list or any portion thereof unless authorized by the AMC or its designee. [ASIE 1986-062]
4. Destroy all copies of membership information at the end of a term or upon request from AML. [Membership Data Agreement 4]
5. Refrain from using the Mensa name or logo in any Internet platforms without the permission of the Name & Logo Committee. [ASIE 1989-101]
6. Refrain from posting in any online communities or services any confidential information or information that would infringe upon the proprietary, privacy, or personal rights of others. [ASIE Appendix 15 and Appendix 23]
7. Refrain from expressing, in Mensa events and venues, bigotry and prejudice, which are antithetical to the nature of Mensa. [ASIE 1998-132]
8. Refrain from posting direct or implicit threats of violence or harm, child abuse, or sexual harassment. [ASIE Appendix 23]
9. Adhere to the specific conduct guidelines of each Local, Regional, or National event, or communication venue. [ASIE Appendix 23]
10. When in dispute, exhaust all avenues of settlement and redress within Mensa before taking the dispute to external authorities. [Constitution Article III:D]
11. Abjure any profiting from Mensa operations. [Articles of Incorporation]
12. Refrain from attempting to influence legislation or political campaigns on behalf of Mensa. [Articles of Incorporation]
13. Make responsible decisions regarding the use of alcohol and comply with all local, state, and federal laws relating to alcohol service and consumption. [ASIE 2007-085]
14. Be responsible for the behavior of any non-member guest at the event location and during the period of the event. [ASIE 2000-132]
15. When offering a private home for an official Local Group meeting, grant all Local

Group members the right to attend. [ASIE 2020-006]

16. Refrain from recording sessions that occur at Mensa events for commercial purposes without providing prior notification to and receiving permission from those being recorded. [ASIE 2002-148]
17. Refrain from reproduction and/or publication of copyrighted material from sessions that occur at Mensa events without permission from the copyright holder. [ASIE 2002-148]
18. When at National Mensa events, respect commonsense rules for public behavior, personal interaction, common courtesy, and respect for private property. [ASIE 2021-011]
19. When at National Mensa events, refrain from harassing or generally objectionable behavior. Examples of objectionable behavior include, but are not limited to, the following: Unwelcome physical contact, verbal aggression, and other forms of harassment towards other attendees, presenters, vendors, or event staff (National Office and hotel); Disruption of presentations, game play, or any other events organized by Mensa in the general event space at the event venue, hotels, or other Mensa-contracted facilities; Violation of policies regarding event space reserved for children and teens (and their guardians); Intoxication, to the point of interfering with other members or becoming a hazard to oneself; Tampering with food or drinks consumed by others; Damage or destruction of Mensa-contracted venue space; and Violation of any rules of the event space or host. [ASIE 2021-011]
20. Follow any and all Code of Conduct or Terms of Service rules and expectations pertinent to any National, Local, or Regional events, or Internet Communication Services. [ASIE 2021-011 and Appendix 23]
21. Cooperate with the National Ombudsman by furnishing requested information or documents concerning any matter received for review and decisions directly to the National Ombudsman upon request. [AML Bylaws Article VII:3.d.]
22. Refrain from any intentional misrepresentation in dealings with or under the auspices of Mensa, including falsifying records. [Acts Inimical 1]
23. Refrain from unauthorized use of Mensa property, including copyrights, trademarks, and trade names. [Acts Inimical 2]
24. Refrain from threatening, intimidating, coercing, calumniating, or otherwise interfering with persons involved in the authorized activities of Mensa including volunteers, appointees, or paid staff members. This includes ongoing, pervasive, or acute harassment of a National Office staff member or volunteer in the context of performing their duties, or regarding a legally protected personal characteristic. [Acts Inimical 3]
25. Refrain from endangering the well-being of others; willful damage to property; illegal or improper use of funds of Mensa; willfully besmirching the public reputation of the society. [Acts Inimical 4]
26. Refrain from making a knowingly false or misleading oral or written statement to a Hearings Committee. [Acts Inimical 5]
27. Refrain from knowingly or negligently revealing or communicating the content of any meeting or deliberations described as confidential in the Bylaws or the ASIEs including, but not limited to, any closed session of the AMC, the content of National

- Hearings, or the deliberations of a Regional Hearing. [Acts Inimical 6]
28. Refrain from retaliation against any member for participating in the Hearings process, regardless of role or outcome. [Acts Inimical 7]
 29. Discharge any debt to Mensa, within sixty days after written notice of the existence of the debt has been sent to the debtor. [Acts Inimical 8]
 30. Comply with any levied National, Regional, or Local Group Sanctions. [Bylaws Article IX, Sections 5–7; ASIE Appendix 3, 5, 6, and 18]
 31. Not be under membership sanctions. [Constitution Article III:F]

Note:

Some rights and responsibilities are so obvious that they are never directly spelled out. These include the right to run for office, vote, use the Mensa name and Logo, receive publications, attend AMC meetings, participate in online discussion venues, and the expectation to adhere to any Codes of Conduct set for Regional or Local Group activities. The bracketed references for those rights contain implied permissions.