

# Palouse-Clearwater Search and Rescue Standing Rules

## Introduction:

The mission of Palouse Clearwater Search and Rescue (PCSAR) is to aid in the search for, and rescue of, missing/overdue/lost people, primarily in a non-urban environment, and to assist law enforcement in crime scene evidence searches.

PCSAR is an all-volunteer organization. Members are motivated by their desire and willingness to help others, rather than by the possibility of monetary reward or public recognition.

## Expectations of members:

- Ongoing development of technical skills and knowledge in support of PCSAR's mission.
- Using respectful communication and behaving in a professional manner when representing PCSAR.
- Show dedication to the group and its mission.

The Standing Rules for PCSAR are intended to be an objective-as-possible way to measure and manage these expectations. PCSAR Officers are authorized and accountable for observing member development and participation while working with members to meet the expectations set forth by the Standing Rules.

## Membership conveys the privilege of, and eligibility for:

- Voting on group actions.
- Serving as an Officer.
- Receiving electronic messages from PCSAR.
- Receiving summons to a search.
- Assisting in Search Base operations.
- Operating "in the field" during a search.
- Leading a PCSAR operational search team when authorized by the Incident Commander(s).

## All interested people are welcome (and encouraged) to attend:

- PCSAR Regular business meetings
- PCSAR training events
- PCSAR public service events

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**SR 1: To gain membership to PCSAR, applicants must meet certain requirements.** Some are defined by the Latah County Sheriff, some from the Latah County Search and Rescue Council (SARC), and some from PCSAR:

1. Applicants must pass a background check conducted by the Latah County Sheriff's Office.
2. Submit a PCSAR application which includes providing information and agreeing to the principles and rules of PCSAR.
3. Attend and actively participate in three regular business meetings within a six (6) month period.

When all the above requirements have been met, the applicant absents themselves and the Members present vote to grant, or not to grant, membership to the applicant. A simple majority is required to grant membership.

## **SR 2: New members are expected to attain and maintain these certifications:**

1. Show valid certification in Basic First Aid/CPR (or higher training level) or attain certification within twelve (12) months of being membership.
2. Show documentation of blood-borne pathogen training within twelve (12) months of membership.
3. Attend Council-taught training on Meth Lab Awareness at the first opportunity.
4. Obtain certification within six (6) months in the following training modules available at the FEMA > Emergency Management Institute > Independent Study website <https://training.fema.gov/is/>
  - a. IS-100.C: Introduction to Incident Command System (aka ICS-100)
  - b. IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (aka ICS-700)

## **SR 3: Members are expected to actively participate by:**

1. Paying dues of \$10.00 per year starting with their first annual meeting in April.

2. Attending a minimum of six (6) regular business meetings per consecutive twelve (12) month period. Remote attendance is allowed for up to two (2) regular business meetings out of the required six (6) regular business meetings per each consecutive twelve (12) month period.
3. Attending a minimum of 50% of PCSAR field training events per each consecutive twelve (12) month period and, when offered, SAR Council-wide trainings.
4. Keeping First Aid/CPR certifications up-to-date (renewed/current).
5. Responding to SAR mobilizations as a Member's availability allows.
6. Using respectful communication and behaving in a professional manner when representing PCSAR during all meetings, trainings, public service/outreach events, and searches.
7. Failure to satisfactorily meet these expectations may be considered a lack of commitment or insubordination and result in termination from PCSAR.

**SR 4: If a member is unwilling or unable to meet the membership requirements, an Officer may contact the member to discuss the situation.** If a member does meet the requirements during a regular calendar year (January to December), except new member attendance is tracked by their join date for their first year, then they can be placed on probation. Probation will last for the following year. If they meet requirements during that time the member is removed from probation, however if the member fails to demonstrate an improvement within this time period, membership may be terminated by the Officers. If the Officers vote to terminate membership, the member shall be notified of this action in writing and all privileges are revoked upon the date of the vote.

**SR 5: A member may petition the Officers to become an Inactive member if unable to meet the membership requirements.** Inactive membership status may be granted for up to six (6) months. To return to active membership status, an inactive member must attend a business meeting and request reinstatement to active status. The reinstatement request is to be decided upon by the Officers.

**SR 6, Section A: Members are encouraged to attain and maintain these skills to the best of their abilities:**

1. Knowledge of the Incident Command System (ICS) during a search.
2. Operate in mountainous terrain while carrying a field pack.
3. Awareness of clues, "sign" and other course of travel indicators.
4. Ground search methods.
5. Crime scene preservation.
6. Lead a ground search team.
7. Perform a debriefing interview.
8. Perform Base Camp tasks such as Radio Operator, Unit Liaison, Sign-In

**SR 6, Section B: Members are required to attain and maintain the following:**

1. Have a field pack that includes items listed in the Pack Contents document.
2. Off-grid navigation (compass, GPS, and map reading) techniques.
3. Radio use and procedures.

**SR 7: Members are required to participate in the communications platforms utilized by PCSAR Officers.** Platforms may include messenger applications for mobile devices, computers, talk/text messages, email, and traditional landline telephone.

1. PCSAR uses the Slack messenger tool as our primary mode of communication outside of meetings and trainings. The Slack PCSAR Workspace <pcsar-unit.slack.com> is for active PCSAR members only and all active members are required to participate so they can receive messages, meeting minutes and training information, as well as send messages to the group and/or individual members.
2. PCSAR utilizes a traditional email address <pcsar.idaho@yahoo.com> as a secondary means of communication, mainly for recruiting, fundraising, and other communication with non-members/inactive members.
3. Regardless of the communication platform used, members will be respectful, polite, and professional. The elected officers shall assist with moderation of public channels.
4. Member contact information contained within the PCSAR membership roster, call-out list, state roster, etc. is for PCSAR and Latah County Search and Rescue Council (SARC) membership use only.