

SWISS BETTER GOLD ASSOCIATION CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Swiss Better Gold (SBG) Association is a Swiss-based non-profit association that promotes responsible sourcing practices that supports artisanal, small- and medium- scale miners improve their social and environmental practices over time and connects them directly with international buyers.

To achieve its mission, the SBG Association brings together a collaborative network of industry, finance, civil society, academia and other precious metal industry representatives to support the development of transparent, accountable, and responsible value chains from mine to market.¹

Membership is open to legally constituted and represented entities that are either active in precious metals supply chains through the processing, transformation, manufacturing and/or commercialisation of gold, platinum and other precious metals containing products or are willing to actively support the SBG Association's mission.

1. MEMBER CATEGORIES

Applicants may join the SBG Association under either of the following member categories:

Supply Member status is open to any industry representative or organisations willing to establish direct supply chains with SBG-accredited producers, to purchase SBG accredited material and, subsequently, generate the associated SBG Impact Premium proportional to these purchases.

Support Member status is open to any legal entities that wish to support the development and implementation of the activities of SBG but are not directly involved in sourcing, transformation and/or manufacturing. They support the objectives of the Association through support contributions and/or other in-kind support in areas identified by the Association.

2. BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The SBG Association nurtures collaborative, participative and consensus-based member relationships conducive to efforts in assessing, consolidating and enhancing responsible sourcing practices. To this end, all members are encouraged to participate in field missions and engage in various workstreams, including workshops, working groups and/or taskforces established by the Association on pre-competitive topics.

Further,
Supply Members may benefit from:

¹ See Art. 3 of Bylaws for more information about the SBG Association's objectives

- Support in establishing responsible mine-to-market value chains starting from understanding the member's requirements (ESG, CSR, DD, operational, logistic or other), in view of connecting accredited producers, refiners, intermediary traders and end-buyers in a long-term supply partnership;
- Access to relevant accreditation, monitoring and assurance information relating to SBG producers which are part of their supply chains;
- Reports or notifications on producer accreditation status within the SBG continuous improvement workplan including re-accreditation, suspensions or other;
- Regular supply and country risk assessments as well as events that might affect their supply chains;
- Access to regular members on-site missions to visit SBG's network of producers;
- Access to the full range of SBG's key performance indicators relating to each member's supply chain, in support of their CSR / ESG reporting; and
- Use of approved SBG membership and sourcing claims, including eligible provenance claims for gold sourced through the SBG programme, and use of the SBG trademark in communications².

Support Members may benefit from:

- Annual reporting on the use and impact of their contributions to support the activities of the SBG Association;
- Updates on programme activities, progress and impact generated through supported activities; and
- Use of approved SBG membership claims and trademark to communicate their commitment to responsible gold sourcing, including claims in relation to their support contribution to the programme³.

SBG recognises that members' needs may go beyond this list and, therefore, additional or bespoke services beyond the above membership benefits will be subject to separate agreements depending on scope, availability and subject to applicable fees.

3. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

By becoming a member, companies and organisations agree to comply with the Association Bylaws and Conditions of Membership, as amended from time to time by the Association.

The rights and responsibilities of all categories of Members are set out in Article 6 of the Association Bylaws.

Further, each member category has a number of specific responsibilities as follows:

Supply members will support the development and implementation of the activities of the SBG through their purchases of accredited material and payment of the associated SBG Impact Premium.

² See the SBG Claims guide for more details.

³ See the SBG Claims guide for more details.

Members are expected to have a sourcing strategy which allows use of SBG accredited material in their production cycles and to make purchasing commitments that are meaningful and proportional to the size of their organisations.

Initial purchasing volumes as well as medium-term sourcing targets and overall long-term goals to be pursued through the collaboration between the supply member and SBG are defined individually with each supply member. These targets will depend on the member's sourcing ambitions and the availability of eligible material. Therefore, supply members will be asked to estimate and commit to an annual sourcing target, which will enable the Association to conduct relevant accreditation work on the ground and enable the fulfillment of these sourcing objectives.

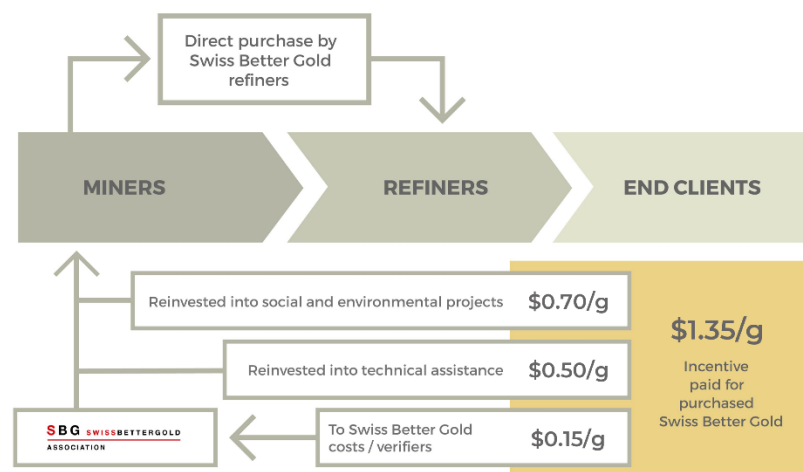
To cultivate an engaged and dynamic membership, members' sourcing commitments will be reviewed and discussed annually with each supply member. Where a supply member has not established an SBG value chain within one year of joining the Association, membership will be shifted to the Support Member category until a viable sourcing plan has been established.

Support members will contribute to the Association through an annual support contribution, proportional to the size of their organisations (see section below), and may further support the fulfilment of SBG's mission with either discretionary donations and/or in-kind support in areas where the Association will deem them necessary for its activities.

4. MEMBERSHIP COSTS

The SBG Association relies on different financial streams to support its activities and achieve its mission. These mechanisms enable meaningful private-sector funding for the transformation of artisanal, small- and medium-scale mining operations, supports technical assistance activities, and fosters the sustainable development of partner producers and their communities by addressing gaps identified through the SBG programme:

1. The **SBG impact premium** generated through purchases of SBG-accredited material by SBG supply members represents the primary funding mechanism of the SBG programme as a whole. Once Supply Members source SBG-accredited Step 2 material, they shall pay an Impact Premium of USD 1.35 per gram of fine gold purchased. This Impact Premium serves as a self-funding mechanism and is reinvested as follows:



2. While Support Members do not source directly from accredited producers, their annual **support contributions** also help drive the transformation of the sector by funding technical assistance activities. The minimum annual support contribution for a support member is set to twice their membership fee.
3. The Swiss Better Gold Association **membership fees** are based on a company's total consolidated annual revenues for the most recently completed fiscal year, as declared by the company. Members do not have to declare their exact annual revenue figure but only the level of revenues in accordance with the table below.

Annual revenues	Annual fee level
> 50Mio CHF	12,000 CHF
>2Mio CHF	6,000 CHF
<2 Mio CHF	1,500 CHF

4. Members may also make voluntary and discretionary **donations** to enhance the programme's impact and support technical assistance activities.

These contributions are voluntary and can be made by Supply and Support Members to advance the Swiss Better Gold Association's technical work, continuous improvement processes, and broader objectives. These contributions may reflect a member's corporate social responsibility strategy, philanthropic commitments, or other motivations aligned with the SBG approach.

Such contributions may be earmarked for specific work areas or ESG criteria, based on identified needs and the priorities of the contributing Member. Open to both member categories, they are not linked to sourcing commitments, purchases, or communication requirements. Producers retain full discretion as to whether they engage in a sourcing relationship with any contributing Member.

5. Finally, supply members **sourcing Step 1 material** may contribute an impact premium for it. As these producers are not yet fully accredited under the SBG

system, such contributions will be used to support SBG's technical assistance activities on the ground.

5. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for membership shall be submitted in writing to the SBG Association Secretariat (secretariat@sbga.ch), for the attention of the President, and shall include:

- a completed membership application form; and
- a motivation letter describing the applicant's activities in the precious metals sector, the reasons for seeking membership and its commitment to the mission and objectives of the SBG Association.

Applicants are expected to review the Association Bylaws and these Conditions of Membership before submitting their application.

The Board shall review each application and make a recommendation for acceptance or rejection to the members.

Membership shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members, either:

- by written circular resolution, at the discretion of the President; or
- at the next General Assembly.

The applicant shall be informed of the outcome of the membership application following the members' decision.

Membership becomes effective on the date the membership application is accepted by the majority of the current members and in the absence of any substantiated objection.

6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall commence on the date the membership application is approved by the Association and shall continue unless terminated in accordance with Article 7 of the Swiss Better Gold Association Bylaws.

Members may terminate their membership by giving written notice to the Board of Directors at least two months before the end of a calendar year.

The Association may terminate membership if a member acts contrary to the Bylaws or the interests of the Association or fails to fulfil its duties and obligations as a member.

7. REFERENCES

- Association Bylaws (original in French, English translation)
- Swiss Better Gold Claims Guide

- Swiss Better Gold Sourcing Strategy
- Swiss Better Gold Fund Policy

All reference documents are available on the Swiss Better Gold Association website:
<https://www.swissbettergoldassociation.ch/>