



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate

Bruce R. Rakfeldt

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03 March 2026

To: Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps League

Subject: Proposed National Bylaw Change

In accordance with the National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 10020, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the 2026 National Convention.

IRT: National Bylaws Section 515, b., (1), (c) Note

CURRENT:

Section 515. Categories of Membership

b. **Associate Member**. Those individuals not qualified for regular membership in the Marine Corps League who espouse the principles and purposes of the Marine Corps League as contained in its Congressional Charter and meet the criteria in Section 515, b., (1) below may upon application to a detachment be accepted for associate membership in the Marine Corps League. Upon acceptance, associate members will pay dues in the same amount as prescribed for regular members, including initiation fees.

1. Enrollment Criteria

- (a) Individuals must have reached the statutory minimum age for enlistment into the armed forces of the United States;
- (b) Individuals may join who have never served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States;
- (c) Individuals who are serving or have served honorably* in other branches of the armed forces of the United States;

Note * - "**Served Honorably**" is determined by the last DD Form 214 or certificate of discharge that the applicant received. A General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable. An Entry Level Separation (ELS) or Uncharacterized Discharge is not acceptable (Rev 2025)

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 515. Categories of Membership

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RATIONALE:

It has been brought to my attention that it is contradictory that someone who attempted to complete Marine Corps boot camp (or any military service boot camp), but didn't finish it, is not allowed to join when others, who never even signed up for the military, are allowed to.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce R. Rakfeldt,
National Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League