

2023 IRTA Membership Application



IRTA[®]

Raising the Standard of the Trade and Barter Industry Since 1979

P.O. Box 202, Irvington, Virginia 22480 U.S.A.

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The mission of IRTA is to provide all Industry members with an ethics based global organization dedicated to the advancement of Trade and Barter industry through the use of education, self-regulation, high standards and governmental relations. As an IRTA member your organization will join a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to raising the value and perception of the Trade and Barter Industry to the business, professional, financial, and educational communities worldwide. Every IRTA member is expected to uphold the IRTA Code of Ethics in all their business practices, and actively participate in furthering the mission of IRTA.

Company Name:					
Company Address:					
City/State or Province:		ZIP:		Country:	
Company Website:					
Name of Responsible Official:		Title:			
Phone Number:		Fax Number:			
Email Address:					
Membership Type:		(see definitions on page 5)			
SSN# of Responsible Official		(or country equivalent)			

Years in the Modern Trade and Barter Industry:

10+ years

3-9 years

1-2 years

Startup

Please tell us how you learned of IRTA:



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Each of the following four questions must be answered in full:

- 1 In the space below, list the names, titles, and addresses of companies in which you were, or are currently, 10% or more stockholder, officer, and director of in the last 10 years. If any of these were affiliated during the preceding 10 years with a) another barter company, or b) a bankrupt company, state the name of the company and the nature of the relationship. If any of these have a trade account with the applicant company, state the current balance in the account and the amount of any outstanding trade credit loan to that person or company.

	Company Name	Title	Address
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

2. Have the owners, operators or directors of the applicant been convicted or plead guilty to a serious criminal offense?

Yes No

If yes, explain below:

3. Have the owners, operators, officer, or directors of the applicant entered into a consent order or decree, or been convicted or found in violation of applicable local, state or federal laws or regulations involving a) fraud or b) securities violations or c) franchising violations in the performance of barter or trade activities or other endeavors?

Yes No

If yes, explain below:

4. At the present time, is the owner, operator or any officer of the applicant a subject of a current criminal proceeding or investigation or civil suit alleging fraud, securities, or franchising violations relating to any barter or trade activities or other business activities?

Yes No

If yes, explain below:



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Two references from two current IRTA members must accompany this application.

1	Name:		Company Name:	
	Phone:		Email:	
2	Name:		Company Name:	
	Phone:		Email:	

Published Members and Statistics:

Number of published members as of January 1, 2023:	
Trade volume, sales only, or from your 1099B tax reporting, for last fiscal year:	

These statistics will remain confidential

Dues Payment Method:

Dues are assessed and paid on an annual basis. Dues may be paid in full when due or on a monthly basis.

Please enter the dues amount paid herein:	\$	Cash	UC	USD
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Check enclosed made payable to IRTA

Please bill the following credit card:

Cardholder Name:		Date:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge entire amount to my card					
<input type="checkbox"/> I will pay the full amount in monthly instalments plus a 10% service charge (i.e., if cash dues are \$1000.00, \$91.66 will be billed 12 times to equal \$1,100.00)					
Card Number:		<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Signature:		Exp. Date:		CCV:	

Clear the trade portion of dues through the following UC account: (If you do not currently have a UC account, you are required to pay the trade portion in cash.)

Universal Clearinghouse Account Name: _____

Pay trade amount in cash (use same payment method listed above)



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I certify that the information submitted is true and correct. I agree to support the purposes of the International Reciprocal Trade Association and abide by its Code of Ethics, regulations, and dispute resolution procedures.

I understand that membership is not automatic, but subject to review and approval by the IRTA Membership Committee. I understand and agree that my application will remain in "Candidate Member" status until notice of approved membership is received, and until such time, identification as an IRTA member or use of the IRTA logo is not permitted without specific authorization by IRTA.

I authorize IRTA to make inquiries in connection with consideration of this application including background and credit checks on any corporate or individual applicant for membership in the organization and/or officers and directors of an applicant. In the event of bankruptcy, insolvency and/or the failure of my IRTA member businesses or corporations, I agree pay all past dues amounts owed IRTA and as signer of the agreement agree to be personally liable for any and all debts, (cash or trade) that are owed to IRTA.

I have read, I understand, and I agree to abide by the IRTA Code of Ethics. I agree to participate in any ethics complaint brought before me through the IRTA Ethics Committee. I agree to report accurate member information to IRTA when requested.

Owner/Principal Signature:		Date:	
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Remit completed application (four pages) with payment in full to:
P.O. Box 202
Irvington, VA 22480

If paying with a credit card, please coordinate the payment through Ron Whitney at IRTA's home office at (757) 393-2292.

NOTE: Universal Clearinghouse (UC) membership requires a separate membership agreement. Please contact the IRTA office for a copy of the UC agreement.



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Year 2022 IRTA Membership Category Descriptions and Dues:

- IRTA Applicant Member Exchange: \$ 500 USD OR \$ 300 USD & 200 UC
Brand new exchange networks in their first three years of operations are eligible for Applicant Member status. These are exchanges that begin operations with no prior exchange operating experience. After one year of successful completion of the requirements, the Applicant Member will become a IRTA Regular Member. This class of membership is limited to one year only from the date of initial acceptance into IRTA. Applicant members are not eligible to run for IRTA board seats or vote in IRTA board elections.
 - Non-Profit Exchange networks may apply for IRTA Applicant Membership.

- IRTA Standard Member: \$ 1,000 USD & 500 UC
Exchange networks must complete member requirements for IRTA Standard Membership. Standard Members are eligible to run for board seats and have one vote per election. Corporate Trade Exchanges must refer to Dues Schedule for Corporate Barter Company on page 6. Note: Licensees and franchisees that opt for the Standard IRTA Membership level do have the right to vote.

- IRTA Large Exchange Member: \$5,000USD & 5,000UC
For barter exchanges with over 2,500 members. One vote regardless of number of members.

- IRTA Exchange Licensors: \$ 2,500 USD & 2,500 UC
Membership for Headquarters (HQ) only. Must meet member requirements for IRTA Licensor Membership.

- IRTA Exchange Franchisors \$ 2,500 USD & 2,500 UC
Membership for Headquarters (HQ) only. Must meet member requirement for IRTA Franchisor Membership. See below for the membership option for Franchisees:
 - Trade Exchange Franchisee/Licensees:
 - Level 1: \$ 500 USD/250 UC. For companies that have 1 to 15 franchisees.
 - Level 2: \$375 USD/200 UC. For companies that have 16 to 30 franchisees.
 - Level 3: \$250 USD/150 UC. For companies that have 31 and above franchisees.

All Franchisee levels above do not have the right to vote in IRTA board elections. The parent company IRTA member, or franchisor IRTA member retains one vote for the entire group.

- Associate Member \$1,000.00 USD
An individual, partnership, corporation or firm who subscribes to the objectives of IRTA and wishes to lend support to IRTA through membership. This class of membership cannot be issued a UC account and is not eligible to vote.

- Non-Industry Member Category \$2,500/2,500 UC
This category is designed for large companies who have internal barter divisions or utilize barter/trade substantially in their business model. All Standard UC fees apply and a 10% cash UC transaction fee on the sale applies to this category.

- Corporate Trade Company or Financial/Banking Company \$10,000/10,000 UC
Includes corporate barter companies and financial/banking entities.



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IRTA CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

In promulgating a code of ethics the International Reciprocal Trade Association (“IRTA”) and members of IRTA (“Members”) recognize the efficacy of establishing a self-regulating process to sustain an ethical climate to assure public and business confidence in the barter industry. (Approved by the IRTA Global Board of Directors on 9/19/11 & the IRTA Membership on 9/20/11).

IRTA members recognize that membership in IRTA carries with it the responsibility of conducting themselves and their barter exchanges, corporate exchanges, internet exchanges and/or community currency organizations in a manner that is consistent with the IRTA goal of providing the most professional, ethical, and well managed organized barter programs to the public.

ALL IRTA MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING CODE OF ETHICS:

In the event a violation occurs with any section of this Code of Ethics, the party determined to be in violation will be subject to the disciplinary provisions as described in Article XII herein.

I. General Principles

- a) IRTA members shall operate their businesses within the bounds of the law and comply with all laws, regulations rules and ordinances for the jurisdiction they reside.
- b) IRTA members shall establish internal rules, procedures and practices in their business operations that will serve the best interest of the public and their clients.

II. Tax Reporting Compliance

- a) U.S. Member exchanges will abide by the IRS reporting requirements as defined in the Tax Equity & Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. 1099B forms must be distributed to all exchange members that had sales for the exchange’s fiscal year and exchanges must report their annual sales to the IRS annually.
- b) U.S. member exchanges agree to communicate the reporting requirements of TEFRA to all exchange member prospects. Additionally, IRTA members are encouraged to highlight TEFRA reporting requirements in their marketing and sales materials, including their websites.
- c) Non-U.S. exchanges must adhere to the governmental reporting requirements of their given jurisdictions.

III. Advertising & Marketing

Members shall be truthful with regard to their spoken, printed or internet-based representations regarding their barter exchange and in their marketing materials, specifically but not limited to;

- a) The number of active members in their exchange. Active members are defined as those members who have made a purchase or sale within the last twelve (12) months.
- b) The limited scope of products and services available.
- c) The accurate trade volume of their exchange.
- d) Accurately communicating all restrictions related to an offering to its exchange members.

IV. New Member Sign-Ups - Unfair Competition

- a) Exchanges are not permitted to gift unearned trade dollars to new members who sign-up with their barter exchange.
- b) Exchanges are not permitted to match clients’ positive trade balances from another barter exchange, (this does not apply to corporate AR credits). Nor are exchanges permitted to pay-off a client’s credit line from another exchange or convert any portion of another exchange’s members’ balances into their own exchange.
- c) Exchanges are not permitted to offer clients of another exchange a free membership or reduced fees in their exchange in an effort to induce clients into their exchange, unless such free membership or reduced fee policies are the customary practice of the exchange.

V. Discrimination

Members shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion or gender in hiring employees, acceptance of clients or establishment of any other business relationship.

VI. Trademarks – Corporate Names

No person or company shall engage in the unauthorized use of the trademark, trade name, corporate name or slogan of another business. Nor shall any person or company purchase the domain names or materially similar domain names of other companies so as to restrict the rightful owner their inherent ownership benefits.



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VII. Liability For Territories, Licensees & Franchisees Offices

- a) When IRTA members expand their core operations through the creation of franchisees, licensees or territories, IRTA members agree to comply with all Federal, State, local or jurisdictional requirements related to the creation of such business entities and agree to supply IRTA with documentation verifying compliance with such regulatory laws.
- b) When IRTA members establish territory's, licensee or franchisee offices of the parent company, the licensor or franchisor shall be liable for the trade debts of the territory, licensee or franchisee office in the event of termination of the territory, licensee or franchise office. Should the territory, licensee or franchisee be a separate legal entity and declare bankruptcy, the IRTA member parent company shall be liable for the trade debts of the territory, licensee or franchisee regardless of whether the territory's, licensee's or franchisee's corporate entity was legally discharged in bankruptcy court.

VIII. Acquisition of Barter Exchanges

When IRTA members are involved in the purchase of another exchange every effort will be made to protect and honor the negative and positive balances of all the accounts, including reciprocal accounts, of the acquired exchange in an equitable manner.

IX. Direct Solicitation of Other Trade Exchange Members

- a) IRTA exchanges are not permitted to knowingly contact or solicit for membership the members of another IRTA member exchange. This prohibition against poaching another exchange's members is absolute and applies to, but is not limited to direct personal solicitation, telephone, fax, e-mail and internet solicitation.
- b) If the alleged poaching activity is presented to IRTA via an Ethics Complaint the burden of proof is on the complainant to show beyond any reasonable doubt that the alleged improper poaching activity took place. Such burden of proof is a high threshold.

X. Investigative Powers Granted to IRTA With Ethics Complaints

When evaluating all IRTA Ethics Complaints, the IRTA Ethics Committee reserves the right to interview IRTA member employees, independent contractors and sales prospects. IRTA also reserves the right to inspect any and all documentation related to any claim brought by an IRTA Ethics Complaint, be it on paper, e-mail, social media or other internet forum. IRTA members agree in good faith to provide all information requested by the IRTA Ethics Committee. Such information shall be held confidential by the Ethics Committee. Withholding of any material information by either the complainant or respondent shall be grounds for a decision in favor of the non-withholding party, and shall be made at the sole discretion of the IRTA Ethics Committee.

XI. Time Limitation on Bringing Ethics Complaint

The alleged occurrence which is the subject of the Ethics Complaint must have occurred within two years on the filing date of the Ethics Complaint.

XII. Disciplinary Provisions

IRTA members found in violation of the IRTA Code are subject to the following disciplinary actions by IRTA:

- First Offense: A letter of reprimand will be sent to the violating party and notice of such action shall be posted on the IRTA website for a period of thirty (30) days.
- Second Offense: The violating party's IRTA membership shall be suspended for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days and notice of such suspension shall be posted on the IRTA website. The violating party also will not be permitted to attend IRTA Conventions or participate on the IRTA Global Board or IRTA Committees during their suspension.
- Third Offense: The violating party's IRTA membership will be automatically terminated. The principals, officers and/or managing director of such entity shall not be permitted to re-apply for membership in IRTA with a different entity for a period of five (5) years.

XIII. Amendment of Ethics Code

The Global Boards of Directors of IRTA shall review this Code of Ethics from time to time and any revisions or amendments shall be ratified by two-thirds majority vote of the members.