



## **American Club of Lyon Policy on Partisan Political Activities**

The American Club of Lyon (ACL) is a non-profit association governed by French law (loi de 1901) with the mission to foster social, cultural, and community connections among Americans and those with ties to the United States living in the Lyon region. In the interest of preserving an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members and respecting the legal and civic framework applicable to non-profit associations in France, the ACL adopts the following policy concerning partisan political activities.

### **1. Principles**

The ACL draws upon core principles and values shared by both the United States and the French Republic:

- American values of freedom of expression and freedom of opinion as granted in the US Constitution, combined with the long-standing norms separating civic associations and partisan political activities.
- French republican principles, including political pluralism, equality of citizens regardless of political belief, and the neutrality expected of associations that serve diverse communities.

As such, the ACL is a non-partisan organization that stands for the core values upon which both the United States and France were founded. For purposes of this policy, non-partisan means that the ACL does not support, oppose, or affiliate with any political party, movement, candidate, or political ideology. This policy letter clarifies how the ACL balances its non-partisan stance with the individual rights of its members.

While the ACL is a private association and not legally bound by political neutrality, it voluntarily affirms these shared values as guiding principles for its governance, activities, and communications. These principles are adopted by the ACL as a matter of inclusion and governance, not as a legal obligation.

### **2. Guidelines**

The ACL strives to create an inclusive environment for all its members. This inclusion extends to political views.

To ensure that no member feels excluded, pressured, or marginalized on the basis of political affiliation or ideology, the ACL maintains a non-partisan stance with respect to both American and French politics.

This neutrality applies to the ACL as an organization. In no way does this policy restrict the personal political opinions, affiliations, or civic engagement of individual members outside of ACL platforms and activities. The ACL supports the freedom of its members to express their views; however, the views of an individual cannot be interpreted as the views of the ACL.

### 3. Membership

Political ideology or party affiliation, or the absence thereof, shall not be a criterion for membership in the ACL, nor a means to deter membership. The ACL expressly prohibits discrimination on the basis of political opinion.

### 4. Communications

ACL communication platforms — including the ACL website, ACL newsletter, ACL Community on WhatsApp, and ACL Facebook page — cannot be used by the ACL Board or individual members to post, share, or disseminate any content that promotes, defends or opposes political parties, movements, elected officials, candidates, or their political platforms.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- political endorsements or opposition statements;
- invitations to political rallies, protests, or campaign events;
- calls to vote for or against a candidate, party, or ballot measure;
- sharing blatantly partisan opinions, commentary, or memes;
- political fundraising, campaigning, or lobbying to influence specific legislation; and
- any content that could be perceived as the ACL endorsing or opposing a political position.

Neutral, academic, historical, or informational references to political topics may be permitted when clearly contextualized and not advocacy-based, subject to the discretion of the ACL Board.

Leeway will be given to inform members or to allow discussion of proposed changes or enacted policies in either France or the US that specifically impact the American community in Lyon. Such topics may include, but are not limited to tax laws, French visas, voter registration, social security, and healthcare. Nevertheless, any post must remain respectful, factual, and in the interest of ACL members. Informational posts should present factual information or neutral summaries. Editorializing, value judgements, or partisan framing should be avoided. Posts that digress from this guidance, or that show disrespect to other members, may be removed by administrators.

Instructions on how to register to vote, explanations of voter eligibility, and reminders on voting deadlines in both American and French elections are permitted so long as they are non-partisan.

When in doubt, the author should contact an ACL Board Member or the designated platform administrator for prior approval. Removal of any post on an ACL platform in violation of this policy is at the discretion of the Webmaster or platform administrator, acting in accordance with this policy. Any discrepancy will be arbitrated by the ACL Board.

At the discretion of the ACL Board, links to partisan associations such as Democrats Abroad or Republicans Overseas may be provided at the bottom of the ACL newsletter or ACL website as a reference for those who want to engage politically in a partisan manner. Any such associations will be presented in a neutral and equivalent manner and may be revised or removed at the discretion of the ACL Board.

The ACL Board may determine to use ACL communication channels to reflect on current events or reiterate its support for democratic principles. Care will be taken to do so in a respectful, non-partisan manner.

## 5. Events and Activities

All ACL events are social and cultural in nature; they are not forums for political advocacy. All attendees at ACL events must respect the political beliefs of others or they could be asked to leave by the event organizer or an ACL Board representative. This includes guests of members and those who attend activities such as Coffee Chat or Improv that are open to non-ACL members.

All attendees are free to engage in private conversations about politics at ACL events, provided such discussions remain respectful, non-disparaging, and non-coercive. However, any organized political campaign, speeches, fundraising, or distribution of political materials is strictly forbidden at any ACL event or activity.

The ACL may host events such as Great Decisions for its members to specifically debate US or French policies, both foreign and domestic. All members are welcome to attend these events, and all ideas will be discussed respectfully regardless of the underlying ideology. Any discussion or policies advocated in these events are the positions of the individual members and do not reflect the position of the ACL.

The ACL will ensure compliance with applicable rules governing political neutrality during legally sensitive periods surrounding French elections and non-partisan use of public spaces.

## 6. Governance and Enforcement

This policy reflects a longstanding position of the ACL on political non-partisanship and has been adopted by the ACL Board in the interest of clarity, consistency, and inclusivity.

Members who wish to propose changes to this policy may submit their proposal in writing through the Secretary of the ACL. The ACL Board will consider all reasonable proposals but is under no obligation to amend this policy.

The ACL Board reserves the right to remove content from ACL platforms and communication channels or to restrict ACL events and activities that do not comply with this policy.

Members who repeatedly and willfully violate this policy could face expulsion from the ACL. Any such action will follow procedures set forth in the ACL bylaws and applicable French law.

The ACL Board and designated administrators will apply this policy consistently and in good faith.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Club of Lyon on 25 January 2026.



Adam Falk  
President



Emilie Sendra  
Secretary



Zoe Robert  
Treasurer

Enclosure: Partisan Political Activities Checklist for ACL Communication Platform Administrators



## **American Club of Lyon Policy on Religious Expression**

The American Club of Lyon (ACL) is a non-profit association governed by French law (loi de 1901) with the mission to foster social, cultural, and community connections among Americans and those with ties to the United States living in the Lyon region. In the interest of preserving an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members and respecting the legal and civic framework applicable to non-profit associations in France, the ACL adopts the following policy concerning religious expression.

### **1. Principles**

The ACL draws upon core values shared by both the United States and the French Republic:

- American values of freedom of religion and the separation of church and state, as reflected in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits government establishment of religion while protecting individual religious liberty.
- French republican principles, including freedom of conscience and respect for pluralism, and the principle of *laïcité*, which ensures the neutrality of institutions with respect to religion.

While the ACL is a private association and not legally bound by *laïcité* in the same manner as public authorities, it affirms these shared values as guiding principles for the association. These principles are adopted voluntarily by the ACL as a matter of inclusion and governance, not as a legal obligation.

### **2. Guidelines**

To ensure that no member feels excluded, pressured, or marginalized, the ACL maintains clear organizational neutrality with respect to religion.

This neutrality applies to the ACL as an organization. In no way does this policy restrict the personal beliefs or private religious practices of individual members. However, individual members are not allowed to use ACL events or ACL platforms to either promote their religious beliefs or demean the religious beliefs of others.

### **3. Membership**

As the ACL does not endorse or favor any religion or belief system, no particular faith or lack thereof will be a criterion for membership or a means to deter membership.

The ACL expressly prohibits any discrimination among its members on the basis of religion or belief.

#### **4. Communications**

ACL communication platforms — including the ACL website, ACL newsletter, ACL Community on WhatsApp, and ACL Facebook page — cannot be used to post, share, or disseminate any content that proselytizes or encourages adherence to a religious belief or non-belief, or that disparages any religion.

Prohibited actions include, but are not limited to:

- religious exhortations or language framing a religious text or figure as fact;
- invitations to religious events or gatherings;
- posts quoting or referencing religious text or doctrine; and
- any content that could be perceived as the ACL endorsing a particular faith.

Neutral, academic, historical, or cultural references to religion may be permitted when clearly contextualized and not promotional in nature, subject to the discretion of the ACL Board.

Invitations or discussions about a cultural event, such as a concert, art exhibit, or historical tour, held at a religious building or led by someone of a particular faith are permitted if the event itself is not religious in nature.

When in doubt, the author should contact an ACL Board Member or the designated platform administrator for prior approval. Removal of any post on an ACL platform in violation of this policy is at the discretion of the ACL Board, Webmaster, or platform administrator, acting in accordance with this policy.

#### **5. Events and Activities**

All ACL members must respect the religious beliefs or non-beliefs of other members at ACL events.

Individuals are free to wear symbols of their personal faith at ACL events and activities; however, no organized prayer or religious ceremony is permitted.

Members are free to engage in private conversations about religion at ACL events and to observe personal religious practices discreetly. No personal discussion on religion at an ACL event should disparage any faith or belief system, and no one should feel coerced to adopt the religious beliefs or non-beliefs of someone else at an ACL event or activity.

Where ACL events are held in municipal facilities provided by local authorities, the ACL will ensure compliance with applicable French rules governing neutrality and non-religious use of public spaces.

#### **6. Governance and Enforcement**

This policy reflects a longstanding position of the ACL and has been adopted by the ACL Board in the interest of clarity, consistency, and inclusivity.

Members who wish to propose changes to this policy may submit their proposal in writing through the Secretary of the ACL. The ACL Board will consider all reasonable changes but is under no obligation to amend this policy.

The ACL Board reserves the right to remove content from ACL platforms and communication channels or restrict the participation of individuals at ACL events and activities who do not comply with this policy.

Members who repeatedly and willfully violate this policy could face expulsion from the ACL. Any such action will follow procedures set forth in the ACL bylaws and applicable French law.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Club of Lyon on 25 February 2026.



Adam Falk  
President



Emilie Sendra  
Secretary



Zoé Robert  
Treasurer

Enclosure: Religious Expression Checklist for ACL Communication Platform Administrators or Moderators



## **American Club of Lyon Policy on Solicitation, Promotion, and Marketing to Members**

The American Club of Lyon (ACL) is a non-profit association governed by French law (loi de 1901) with the mission to foster social, cultural, and community connections among Americans and those with ties to the United States living in the Lyon region. In the interest of preserving a non-commercial environment for all members and respecting the legal and civic framework applicable to non-profit associations in France, the ACL adopts the following policy concerning solicitation, promotion, and marketing activities.

### **1. Principles**

The ACL exists as a social and cultural association. It is not a business networking forum, commercial contact list, or marketplace.

The ACL strives to create an environment for its members that is free of unwanted sales, fundraising, or other commercial activities. To ensure that ACL members are not subjected to unwanted marketing, any activity that seeks to monetize access to ACL members through solicitation, promotion, fundraising, or other marketing efforts during ACL events, through the ACL email distribution list, or on ACL communication platforms is prohibited without the prior written consent of the ACL Board. No individual ACL member data or contact details may be shared or provided to external organizations without the consent of the individual.

For purposes of this policy, external organizations include any:

- association, society, or club;
- government agency;
- religious or politically affiliated organization;
- non-governmental organization or charity;
- firm, company, business, or enterprise;
- multi-level marketing endeavor of any kind; or
- any individual or other entity seeking financial gain from ACL members.

This definition includes ACL members acting on behalf of, representing, or promoting an external organization or a personal business interest.

This policy applies equally to ACL members, guests, sponsors, and any other organizations or individuals interacting with the ACL or its members through ACL events or ACL communication platforms.

These principles are adopted by the ACL both as a matter of governance and to ensure compliance with the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## 2. Prohibited Actions

Without prior written authorization from the ACL Board, no person or organization may use ACL events or ACL communication platforms as a means to:

- promote a business, professional service, or commercial activity to ACL members;
- market, advertise, or sell products or services;
- solicit clients, customers, or business opportunities;
- solicit donations or financial contributions for external causes or organizations;
- distribute promotional materials, flyers, or branded items; or
- use ACL platforms or events for business prospecting or lead generation.

These prohibitions apply at all ACL events and across all ACL communication platforms.

## 3. Protection of Member Information

The ACL collects and maintains member contact information solely for legitimate association purposes related to communication, event organization, and administration of the club.

In accordance with the GDPR and applicable French data protection law:

- ACL member contact information (including names, email addresses, phone numbers, or other personal data) may be accessed and used only by authorized ACL officers and administrators for official ACL business;
- such information may not be copied, extracted, photographed, shared, retained, or repurposed for commercial, marketing, fundraising, or solicitation activities;
- ACL membership lists, event registration lists, sign-in sheets, mailing lists, and similar records may not be used to contact members for any purpose unrelated to ACL activities without the explicit prior consent of the individual member; and
- no ACL member data or contact details will be shared with external organizations or individuals for promotional or solicitation purposes without the explicit prior consent of the individual member.

Any member who receives another member's contact information through ACL activities is expected to respect the same principles and may not use that information for unsolicited commercial or marketing outreach. Misuse of member data may result in disciplinary action and, where appropriate, reporting under applicable data protection regulations.

## 4. Communications

ACL communication platforms exist to keep members connected with the community and informed of the social and cultural activities of the club. They are not intended to be used as channels to post, share, or disseminate content for the purposes of marketing, fundraising, promoting a business, or other forms of solicitation.

Accordingly, the ACL website, newsletter, Facebook pages or groups, WhatsApp communities, and any other digital or print communication tools of the ACL may not be used to:

- advertise or promote a business, product, or professional service;
- solicit clients, customers, or business opportunities;
- promote fundraising efforts for external organizations, campaigns, or causes;
- distribute marketing messages, promotional offers, or branded content; or
- generate commercial interest or financial gain.

Posts that appear informational but are primarily intended to draw attention to a member's business or services may be removed at the discretion of ACL administrators. Discrepancies will be arbitrated by the ACL Board.

## 5. Events and Activities

All ACL events are social and cultural in nature; they are not venues for business promotion or solicitation.

While casual personal conversation between members is not regulated, any intentional effort to promote goods, services, or causes to members during an ACL event is prohibited.

No promotional materials for any external organization may be displayed, distributed, or set-out at ACL events without prior written authorization from the ACL Board.

## 6. Exceptions

There are practical exceptions as this policy is not intended to restrict ordinary social interaction between members, even if that interaction leads to a transaction or business relationship. The following situations are permissible, provided they remain personal, mutually agreed, and non-systematic:

- casual conversation about work or personal updates shared in a social context;
- responding factually to a direct request for information about one's profession, as long as the response is not turned into an unsolicited marketing opportunity;
- voluntary exchange of business cards between individuals after a personal conversation;
- sharing information about local resources in a neutral and non-promotional manner;
- responses to direct requests from members seeking recommendations for local services such as restaurants, tutors, childcare, or English-speaking professionals;
- announcements related to member-led social initiatives or personal achievements that are not commercial in nature; and
- posts in a dedicated opt-in forum to buy, sell, give-away, or trade used household items or apartments such as the ACL Craig's List.

The distinction is whether the interaction arises naturally from personal interaction or whether an individual is intentionally using ACL access to market, promote, or solicit business from members.

Beyond the specified permitted communications, some leeway will be given within certain WhatsApp groups in the ACL Community dedicated to a specific topic if the post directly relates to the subject under discussion within the group. Any such post must clearly benefit the group discussion and must still avoid solicitation or overt promotion.

If interactions could reasonably be perceived as pressuring members into a transaction or cause annoyance through repeated marketing attempts, then the interaction is not permitted. When in doubt, members should seek prior guidance from an ACL Board Member or platform administrator. Complaints from ACL members are a clear sign that a line was crossed.

In addition to this policy letter, any member associated with a religious or politically affiliated group must act in accordance with the ACL policy letter on Religious Expression and the ACL policy letter on Partisan Political Activities. Religious or political organizations and those associated with those organizations will be given less leeway with the aforementioned exemptions. No religious or political organizations may market themselves through the ACL without the express written permission of the ACL Board. Any approved posts or comments referencing a religious or political organization or event must disclose its affiliation.

ACL administrators reserve the right to remove content that does not align with this policy, acting in good faith and in accordance with its intent.

## **7. Affiliation with the ACL and Sponsorship**

The name, logo, and identity of the American Club of Lyon (ACL) may not be used by any member, guest, business, or external organization for promotional, marketing, or commercial purposes without the prior written authorization of the ACL Board.

No individual or organization may imply that the ACL endorses, recommends, or is affiliated with a particular business, product, service, or cause. References to ACL membership or participation may not be used in advertising, websites, social media, or other promotional materials in a manner that suggests official support or partnership.

From time to time, the ACL Board may approve limited sponsorship arrangements to support specific ACL events or activities.

Any such sponsorship:

- must be approved in advance and in writing by the ACL Board;
- will be clearly defined in scope, duration, and form of recognition;
- will not permit sponsors to engage in direct marketing, solicitation, or sales directed at ACL members;
- will not involve the sharing of ACL member contact information; and
- must directly benefit ACL members through activities, events, or operational support.

When authorized, recognition of sponsors will be informational and discreet in nature and will not convert ACL events or communication platforms into commercial spaces. Any misuse of the ACL name, logo, or perceived affiliation for commercial or promotional gain is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with ACL bylaws and applicable French law.

## 8. Governance and Enforcement

This policy reflects the longstanding position of the ACL regarding marketing and solicitation directed at members and has been formally adopted by the ACL Board in the interest of clarity and consistency.

Members who wish to propose changes to this policy may submit their proposal in writing through the Secretary of the ACL. The ACL Board will consider all reasonable proposals but is under no obligation to amend this policy.

The ACL Board reserves the right to remove content from ACL platforms and communication channels or to restrict ACL events and activities that do not comply with this policy.

Members who repeatedly and willfully violate this policy could face expulsion from the ACL. Any such action will follow procedures set forth in the ACL bylaws and applicable French law.

The ACL Board and designated administrators will apply this policy consistently and in good faith.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Club of Lyon on 25 February 2026.



Adam Falk  
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Enclosure: Solicitation, Promotion, and Marketing to Members Checklist for ACL Communication Platform Administrators