

Registration as Society

A society is defined as a club, company, partnership or association of 10 or more persons, whatever its nature or objective, and not already registered under any other law. Society is suitable for membership or volunteer based groups, especially smaller groups with strong community links and not heavily dependant on donations and external funding.

Benefits and drawbacks

- Quick, easy and inexpensive to establish
- Donors prefer more formal business structure arrangements such as public company limited by guarantee
- Does not enjoy a separate legal identity status thus members are exposed to liability issues

Tax exemptions

Societies registered with the Registrar of Societies (ROS) are exempt from income tax if surplus funds are from members' contributions; or if over 50% of gross revenue receipts are from members and are not tax-deductible for members. For full tax exemption, the society must apply for Charity status after its registration

Statutory Requirements

- A minimum of 10 persons are required to form a society.
- Mandatory 3 key office bearers, i.e. President, Secretary and Treasurer who should be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents.
- Must audit accounts annually.
- Must file Annual Returns with Registrar of Societies Must draft a Constitution that governs the society

Societies are registered with the Registrar of Societies (ROS) and are governed by the Singapore Societies Act. You should seek professional advise if you are interested in registering a Society in Singapore.