



# SUOMEN SAUNASEURA FINSKA BASTUSÄLLSKAPET THE FINNISH SAUNA SOCIETY

## RIGHT TO USE SAUNAS AND VASKINIEMI SAUNATALO'S VISITATION GUIDELINES

### 1. General

As specified in Section 6(1) of the rules of Suomen Saunaseura ('Society'):

*'The Executive Committee serves as the Society's Board. It manages the Society's affairs and finances, and leads the activities.'*

As specified in Section 12(1) of the Society's rules:

*'The Executive Committee decides annually on the Society members' rights to use the Society's saunas and on the members' fees.'*

These rules were adopted and confirmed, in accordance with the above sections and the Associations Act (503/1989, incl. amendments), at the Executive Committee meeting 7/2020 on 15 April 2020.

### 2. Members' right to use the saunas

According to Section 3 of the Society's rules, the Society may have the following types of members:

- a) an honorary chairperson and honorary members
- b) permanent members
- c) full members
- d) youth members
- e) foreign members
- f) community members
- g) supporting members.

Apart from the community and supporting members, all members have unlimited access to Vaskiniemi Saunatalo's saunas during the men's and women's slots (right to use the saunas) available at the time.

However, the Society has the right to deny a member's right to use its saunas, either for a single session, for a fixed period or until further notice, based on the following grounds:

- The member has missed the last payment date of their membership fee;
- The member has other unpaid debts to the Society (e.g. joining fee, sauna bathing fee or café bill);
- The member does not present their membership card when signing in or cannot reliably prove their identity with picture ID;



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- The member is obviously inebriated or under the influence of narcotic substances;
- The member and/or their guest has repeatedly disregarded the recommendations on the sauna etiquette and bathing peace at Vaskiniemi, adopted based on Section 12(2) of the Society's rules and confirmed by the Executive Committee, and has not, after having been notified of the matter by the Executive Committee, rectified their behaviour. Maintaining a peaceful atmosphere at Vaskiniemi also entails appropriate and polite behaviour towards the staff members.

The café staff or the Executive Director may deny access to the saunas for a single session on the abovementioned grounds. Additionally, the Chairperson of the Society's Executive Committee or a member may, while present at the premises, deny an access right at the café staff's request.

A decision to deny access to the saunas for either a fixed period or until further notice is made by the Society's Executive Committee. However, access by members who are in arrears with their membership fee or owe some other debt to the Society will be denied without a separate decision until further notice, based on these rules confirmed by the Executive Committee, until the Society has received the missing payments. (In accordance with Section 5 of the Society's rules, an unpaid membership fee, as well as the wilful and repeated disregard of the Society's recommendations mentioned above, may also lead to a member's expulsion.)

A member's right to use the saunas is personal. It may not be transferred, even for a single visit, to a third party. This also applies to family members living in the same household (see Section 3 on underage family members). When signing in, a member must present picture ID, if requested.

Supporting members may not use the saunas. Two representatives of a community member may use the saunas at the same time (two per visit), provided that the community member has notified the Executive Director well in advance about the identity of their representative(s) and any accompanying guests, as specified in Section 5 (Access to saunas by members' guests). The Executive Director will send the information to the café on the day of their visit. A community member's representative must be able to prove their identity reliably when signing in (e.g. with picture ID). The right of a community member's representatives to use the saunas may be denied or restricted as applicable, on the same grounds as described above for other members.



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### **3. Use of saunas by members' children and family members**

A Society member who has a right to use the saunas may bring their underage children and other underage children living in the same household as guests to use the saunas at Vaskiniemi. However, the Executive Committee stresses that the member will be responsible for the children throughout their visit to Vaskiniemi. This includes the member's sole responsibility to monitor and guide young children (incl. a guest's child) and remain in the immediate vicinity of the children throughout the visit. For example, small children may not be left in the café while a member visits a sauna, and must be monitored by the member in question at all times.

The Executive Committee makes separate decisions on family saunas, their times, dates and specific guidelines.

### **4. Sauna bathing fees and other fees at Vaskiniemi**

The Executive Committee confirms Vaskiniemi's sauna fees annually, factoring in the following:

- The Executive Committee's Chairperson and members are exempt from the sauna fee while they are serving in the Committee (Section 12(3) of the Society's rules);
- The Executive Committee has also decided, based on the rule above, that those Society members that the Committee has appointed to the Society's various other committees will be exempt from the sauna fee while their committee appointment remains valid;
- The Executive Committee Chairperson and members, as well as the representatives that the Society has nominated for the International Sauna Society, have a right, on behalf of the Society and without incurring sauna fees, to bring guests in order to introduce them to the Society's activities and Vaskiniemi, provided that the Society representative in question negotiates this well in advance with the Executive Director.

If a guest brought to Vaskiniemi by a Society member, in accordance with Section 5 (Access to saunas by members' guests), has any unpaid fees or café bills, the Society member in question will be responsible for making the payments to the Society.



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## **5. Access to saunas by members' guests**

Unless otherwise stated later in Section 5, a Society member other than a community member, who has a right to use the saunas, may bring one guest to Vaskiniemi, while a community member's representatives may bring (a total of) four guests per sauna bathing session. An exception to this rule is Fridays, when Vaskiniemi is dedicated to use by members only, based on the Executive Committee's decision. The exception is valid from 6 April 2018 until further notice. Under exceptional circumstances, the Executive Director may grant an exception to this outside of peak hours, but such arrangements must be negotiated with the Executive Director well in advance.

Newly selected members of the Society may not bring guests to Vaskiniemi during their first six months of membership.

The aforementioned guest restriction on Fridays does not apply to: (a) a member's underage family members, to whom applies Section 3 (Use of saunas by members' children and family members), even on Fridays; and (b) non-members visiting with a guest card, as specified in Section 6 (Vaskiniemi Saunatalo's guest cards). However, a non-member visiting with a guest card may not bring guests to Vaskiniemi on Fridays.

A member serving as a host must arrive and sign in at the same time as their guests. Guests must sign out of Vaskiniemi no later than when the member serving as their host signs out.

A member serving as a host is responsible for ensuring that their guests are aware of the Executive Committee's recommendations on the sauna etiquette and maintaining a peaceful atmosphere at Vaskiniemi, and that they adhere to the recommendations throughout their visit. Neglecting or disregarding these recommendations will be considered to be the host's fault, and as a result the member may be denied access to the saunas, as stated in Section 2 (Members' right to use the saunas).

## **6. Vaskiniemi Saunatalo's guest cards**

Based on the Executive Committee's prior decision, the Society has so-called guest cards for Vaskiniemi. These cards are personal and grant the holder a right to 1–10 sauna bathing sessions at Vaskiniemi, free of charge. Each guest card is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. The Executive Director makes the decisions regarding granting these cards. A guest card may also be given to a person who is not a member of the Society. A guest card holder who is not a member of the Society has a right to bring guests to Saunatalo during their visits, as stated for member types other than community members in Section 5 (Access to saunas by members' guests), and a member's responsibilities when it comes to their guests, specified in these rules, will apply.



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## **7. Presentation saunas**

The members may present Finnish sauna culture to a larger group of sauna lovers by booking a so-called presentation sauna slot at Vaskiniemi. These slots are only granted to members for the purpose of illustrating sauna culture.

More details about the presentation slots (times, dates, prices, booking procedure, other terms and conditions), confirmed by the Executive Committee, can be found on the Society's website.

## **8. Validity and other regulations**

These rules were confirmed at the Society's Executive Committee meeting 7/2020 on 15 April 2020. The rules will remain valid until further notice, until the Committee makes a decision, where necessary, on an amendment or repeal.

If the Society's registered rules and these rules are found to be conflicting, the registered rules shall apply. If an individual written decision, made by the Executive Committee after these rules were confirmed, and these rules are found to be conflicting, the later individual decision of the Executive Committee will be adhered to.

A member whose right to use the saunas has been denied based on these rules, unless for a single session, may request that the Executive Committee process the matter. A processing of a matter pertaining to a denied use of saunas (return of a right to use the saunas) must be requested from the Executive Committee by submitting a written statement about the matter to the Executive Director. The matter will be processed at the next Executive Committee meeting following the statement's receipt. At that time, the Committee may make a final decision on the matter, or postpone the processing until the first meeting after the current meeting if necessary to review the case (e.g. to hear the member in question or other individuals). The Executive Committee will submit its final decision without a separate request in writing to the member.