

# West Point Association of Graduates Policy Library

Responsible Office: AS  
POC: Director of Class Services  
Effective Date: 2/1/24  
Review Date: 2/9/24 by NV  
CEO/COO Approval: Approved

## ASE-WPAOG Ring Melt Policy

---

### POLICY STATEMENT

Starting with the Bicentennial Class of 2002, Class Rings from USMA graduates have been donated to the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) for inclusion into the gold used for the rising First Class rings. This program is a meaningful celebration of the tangible connection between past and future graduates. Ring Donors, families, local graduates, cadets, United States Corps of Cadets (USCC), and WPAOG are invited to attend the Ring Melt. The WPAOG accepts all West Point class rings donated to the Class Ring Memorial Program. Graduates, family members of graduates, and trustees may donate West Point class rings for the specific purpose of incorporating the gold into the class rings of future graduates.

### REASON FOR POLICY

To standardize specifications for accepting donated class rings to the program and establishing uniformity for what is accepted.

### PROCEDURES

#### 1. Rings

- Only gold West Point class rings are accepted.
- Miniatures purchased as official class rings are accepted.
- Gifted miniatures, pendants, lapel pins, etc. from graduates to loved ones are not accepted.
- WPAOG prefers that all stones are removed from the ring prior to its donation.

#### 2. Donating a Class Ring

- A graduate's ring may be donated to the Ring Melt once.
- The WPAOG will accept rings for a specific melt on a first come, first accepted basis, up to 70 rings. If a ring is donated for including in a specific melt, WPAOG must receive the ring no later than September 1<sup>st</sup> of that year's melt.
  - (Example: A graduate would like to include their ring in the ring melt for the Class of 2026. The Class of 2026's Ring Melt takes place in 2025. Thus, WPAOG must receive the ring to include in the melt no later than September 1, 2024.)
- Including a piece of a Class Ring into a melt is not considered a donation and is supported on a case-by-case basis. Individuals who include a piece of their ring are not considered a donor.
- If a Second Class cadet has a mother or father whose ring has been donated to the Cadet Library Ring Display, the family may request approval from the library to have a portion of gold removed for the cadet's Ring Melt. The gold from that ring will be added to the Legacy Gold. A biography may be submitted. This will not be considered a donation, as the ring has already been donated to the Cadet Library.
- A Memorial Article is requested for each deceased graduate whose ring has been donated. A Ring Melt biography is requested from each living graduate who donates a

ring. These documents are to be completed and provided to WPAOG by September first for the following year's Ring Melt.

- Anonymous ring donations are not in the spirit of the program and will not be accepted.
- Questions regarding the program go through the Class Subcommittee (Alumni Support Committee) for review/discussion/vote.
- Individuals who donate a class ring to the Ring Memorial Program will receive a Tax Receipt, as the donation is considered a "Gift in Kind" to WPAOG.

**ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY**

USMA Graduates, family members of graduates, and trustees.

**WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY**

USMA Graduates, family members of graduates, and trustees.

**WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR THIS POLICY**

WPAOG Sharepoint.