ACRA and SIDâ??s Refreshed Director Training: What Is Confirmed So Far

Description

Singaporeâ??s refreshed Company Director Fundamentals programme is now concrete enough to schedule, but not a reason to invent a compulsory training deadline. ACRA and the Singapore Institute of Directors say registration will open in October 2026. The programme has ten bite-sized modules in two phases: six complimentary CDF 101 modules and four paid CDF 201 modules.

The ACRA-SID announcement also says participants who complete all ten modules will receive a joint certificate of completion. It does not state that every director must finish the programme by a universal statutory date. Boards should distinguish a useful capability pathway from a filing requirement.

Confirmed, versus still to check at registration

Item	Status	Board action
Registration	Opens October 2026	Nominate likely participants and watch the official page.
CDF 101	Six complimentary modules	Use as the common foundation for current and aspiring directors.
CDF 201	Four paid modules	Budget only after fees, schedule and participant fit are checked.
Certificate	Joint ACRA-SID certificate after all ten modules	Record completion without treating it as proof of board effectiveness.
Exact session dates and paid-module fee	Check when registration opens	Do not put an unverified price or attendance date in the board calendar.

This ledger prevents two common mistakes: announcing a course price that has not been checked, and presenting voluntary professional development as if it replaced directorsâ?? existing legal duties.

Who should take which phase?

CDF 101 is the logical baseline for a first-time director, a founder preparing to join the board, or an experienced executive who has never had structured director training. The six modules are intended to establish core legal, fiduciary and governance foundations with practical examples.

CDF 201 goes deeper. ACRA describes four paid modules addressing subjects including director duties, financial literacy, board and shareholder decision-making, corporate governance and risk. The better selection question is not seniority alone. It is whether a director can turn papers, financial information and competing stakeholder interests into an evidenced board decision.

Map training to board evidence

Learning need	Evidence the board should improve
Legal and fiduciary duties	Conflict declarations, abstentions, purpose and decision rationale
Financial literacy	Questions on cash, solvency, assumptions, variances and sensitivities
Board and shareholder decisions	Clear separation of reserved matters, approvals and follow-up owners
Governance and risk	Risk appetite, escalation thresholds, controls and review dates

A completion certificate is evidence of attendance and programme completion. It is not evidence that a board identified a conflict, challenged a forecast or monitored an action. Pair each module with one improvement to the board pack or minutes.

Start before October with a board-needs review

1. List every current and incoming director, appointment date and prior board training.
2. Review recent minutes for weak evidence: unexplained approvals, missing conflicts, vague owners or no deadlines.
3. Map those gaps to foundation or advanced learning.
4. Reserve time provisionally, but wait for the official schedule and fee before committing budget.
5. Ask each participant to apply one learning to the next relevant board paper.

The 2026 directors conference address describes the programme as a free foundational component followed by a paid deeper component, with registration in the fourth quarter. Read that alongside the later ACRA announcement, which gives the October opening and the six-plus-four structure.

Training does not reset legal exposure

Existing duties continue while a director waits for a course. Our guide to the May 2026 director-duty changes shows why a board-control file needs current statutory references. Where a company relies on a Singapore resident director, the resident-director compliance and exit file is a separate governance control, not a training substitute.

Directors should also avoid delegating the learning response entirely to the company secretary. The secretary can coordinate records and reminders; the board remains responsible for understanding the decision it makes.

A useful October decision

When registration opens, verify the official module descriptions, dates, delivery format and CDF 201 fee. Enrol people against identified board needs. Then record what changed in board practice. The value of the programme will not be the number of certificates in a folder, but whether papers are better challenged and decisions are more clearly evidenced.

Use recent minutes as the diagnostic

Select three decisions with financial, related-party or people consequences. Ask whether the papers identified alternatives, material assumptions, conflicts, dissent and follow-up. Where the record is weak, assign the matching CDF topic and a concrete documentation improvement.

For example, financial-literacy training can be paired with a new sensitivity page in investment papers. Fiduciary-duty learning can be paired with a standing conflict declaration and minute template. This makes the training decision observable.

A participant selection matrix

Director profile	Likely starting point	Additional need
First appointment	CDF 101 foundation	Company-specific induction
Founder-director	CDF 101 if no structured foundation	Conflict and stakeholder challenge
Experienced independent director	Gap-based CDF 201 modules	Sector, technology or risk refresh
Aspiring director	CDF 101	Observation and mentoring before appointment

The matrix is not an official enrolment rule. It is a board planning tool. Final module eligibility and sequence must follow the registration page.

After the module

Within one month, ask the participant to revise one board artefact and brief colleagues on the change. At the next annual board evaluation, test whether the improvement is being used. Attendance without application should not be counted as governance remediation.

Protect confidential material

Use anonymised or authorised examples when discussing company decisions in training. Do not upload board papers, personal data or legal advice to a course platform unless the company has confirmed the security, purpose and permission.

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