

LIFE MEMBERSHIP POLICY

1 Purpose

- 1.1. Life Membership is the Club's highest honour and recognises members who have given **outstanding service** and/or **exceptional playing contribution** to the Club.

2 Authority

This policy complements the Club Constitution clause 7.4.4 Life Membership and the Club Bylaws.

The **Executive Committee** is the decision-maker and may elect Life Members in accordance with the Constitution.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1. A nominee must be a current or former member of the Club and satisfy **at least one** of the following:

Outstanding service pathway

The nominee has given **outstanding service** to the Club for **at least nine (9) years** (not necessarily continuous), through roles such as (but not limited to): player, coach, team manager, trainer, medical/support staff, executive committee/administration, volunteering, fundraising, sponsorship, events, facilities, junior development, or other significant contribution.

- 3.1.1. Qualifying service: For the purposes of clause 3.1, "nine (9) years" means at least nine (9) seasons/years of active service to the Club in one or more roles (cumulative), whether continuous or non-continuous.
- 3.1.2. Qualifying roles may include (but are not limited to): Executive Committee positions, committee roles, team manager, trainer, medical/support staff, coaching, volunteering (match day or operational), fundraising, sponsorship, events, facilities, junior development, or other substantial Club service.
- 3.1.3. Outstanding service indicators (non-exhaustive): demonstrated leadership and reliability; consistent contribution above normal expectations; positive cultural impact; significant outcomes delivered (e.g., growth, retention, fundraising, governance, facilities); and service provided across multiple seasons in roles of responsibility.
- 3.1.4. Service must be evidenced in the nomination by roles held, years/seasons served, and examples of impact (refer Section 5).

3.2. Playing pathway

The nominee has played **at least one hundred and fifty (150) league games** for the Club.

- 3.2.1. Definition of league games: “League games” (Football and Netball) means official rostered home-and-away and finals matches played in an approved league competition for the Club’s senior league teams. Pre-season, scratch matches, practice matches and forfeited matches do not count
- 3.2.2. Where records are incomplete, the Life Membership Committee may use reasonable evidence to verify games (e.g., league records, team sheets, annual reports, published statistics).

3.3. Conduct and values

Life Membership will only be awarded where the nominee’s conduct is consistent with Club values and codes of conduct.

4. Nominations

- 4.1. **Who may nominate:** Any member may nominate a person for Life Membership (Constitution 7.4.4.3).
- 4.2. **Nomination format:** Nominations must be made in writing on the approved nomination form and include supporting evidence (see Section 5).
- 4.3. **Timing:** Nominations for Life Membership will open for a period of **one month** during July each year. This timeframe is intended to provide the Executive with sufficient time to assess nominations and, where applicable, prepare for inductions to be presented at the club’s **Presentation Night**. Any variation to this nomination period must be approved by the Executive Committee.
 - 4.3.1. Late nominations: Nominations received outside the nomination period will not be accepted unless approved by the Executive Committee. Where approved, the Executive Committee may defer consideration to the following season.
 - 4.3.2. Incomplete nominations: Where a nomination lacks required information or supporting evidence, the Secretary may return it to the nominator for completion within a specified timeframe. If not completed, the nomination may be deferred.
- 4.4. **Confidentiality:** Nominations and deliberations are confidential until the decision is confirmed and the Club is ready to announce the outcome.

5. Evidence Requirements

A valid nomination should include:

- 5.1. Nominee details and membership history (if known).
- 5.2. A summary addressing the relevant eligibility pathway (9 years outstanding service and/or 150 league games).
- 5.3. A service record (roles held, years, achievements/impact) and/or a playing record (league games, seasons, leadership, awards where relevant).
- 5.4. At least **two (2)** supporting statements from members (recommended).
- 5.5. Any known conflicts of interest declared by the nominator.

6. Life Membership Committee

- 6.1. The Executive Committee may establish a **Life Membership Selection Committee** to assess nominations and provide recommendations.
- 6.2. The Life Membership Committee is a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Committee and operates under its direction.
- 6.3. The Life Membership Committee will review nominations against this policy and provide a written recommendation to the Executive Committee.
- 6.4. Committee composition: The Life Membership Committee will consist of an odd number of voting members (minimum five (5), maximum nine (9)) to minimise the risk of tied votes. The Secretary (if appointed) may attend meetings but is not entitled to vote.
- 6.5. Chair voting and tied votes: The Chair is entitled to a deliberative vote only and does not have a casting (tie-breaking) vote. If a vote is tied (including where abstentions result in a tie), the nomination is not carried and must be referred to the Executive Committee for decision. The Committee may also note whether the matter is deferred pending further information.
- 6.6. Independence: To avoid perceived conflicts, the executive committee should not be appointed as voting members of the Life Membership Committee. They may be invited to provide information or records if required.

7. Conflicts of Interest

- 7.1. Any person involved in assessment or decision-making who has a conflict (real or perceived) must declare it.
- 7.2. Where a conflict exists, the person must not participate in discussion or voting on that nomination.
- 7.3. **Nominator conflict:** A member of the Life Membership Committee who has nominated, seconded, or materially assisted a nomination is taken to have a conflict of interest and must not participate in discussion or voting on that nomination.
- 7.4. **Maintaining odd voting numbers:** Where conflicts of interest result in an even number of voting members for a nomination, the Executive Committee may appoint an alternate voting member for that nomination only.

8. Assessment and Recommendation Process

- 8.1. The Life Membership Committee (if established) will:
 - verify evidence where possible (service records, game records, committee minutes, league records, etc.).
 - assess the nomination against the criteria in Section 3.
 - provide one of the following recommendations: support / do not support / defer pending further information.
- 8.2. Where no Life Membership Committee is established, the Executive Committee may assess nominations directly.

9. Decision and Voting

- 9.1. The **Executive Committee** will consider nominations and any recommendations provided.
- 9.2. The Executive Committee may:
 - elect the nominee as a Life Member.
 - defer the nomination to obtain further information.
 - decline the nomination.
- 9.3. The decision will be recorded in Executive Committee minutes.
- 9.4. Voting threshold: A nominee will be elected as a Life Member only if supported by a simple majority (more than 50%) of eligible Executive Committee members present and entitled to vote. In the event of a tied vote, the motion is lost and the nomination may be deferred for further consideration or declined, at the Executive Committee's discretion.
- 9.5. Where the Executive Committee defers a nomination, it may request further information and reconsider the nomination at a later meeting or in the following season.

10. Notification and Announcement

- 10.1. The nominee (or their family, if appropriate) will be notified confidentially prior to any public announcement.
- 10.2. Life Membership is typically announced at the **AGM/Presentation Night**, unless otherwise approved.
- 10.3. Unsuccessful nominations: Where a nomination is declined, the Executive Committee will record the reasons in minutes. The nomination may be resubmitted in a future season, including with additional evidence or after further qualifying service. –

11. Privileges of Life Members

- 11.1. Life Members retain all privileges of an Ordinary Member but are **not required to pay an annual subscription** (Constitution 7.4.4.4).
 - 11.1.1. Playing Members – Player Membership
 - 11.1.2. Non-Playing Members – Social Membership
- 11.2. Additional recognition/benefits, inductees will receive a life membership badge, honour board recognition, invitations, etc. determined by the Club.

12. Register and Records

- 12.1. The Secretary will maintain a Life Members Register including the date/year of election, preferred contact details and citation/summary of service. Personal information will be stored securely and will not be published without the Life Member's consent.
- 12.2. Nomination documents will be stored securely as Club records.

13. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every **24 months** or earlier if required by constitutional or operational changes.