



# Life Membership Policy

## Purpose

Life membership is awarded to a member in recognition of exceptional service over a period of many years.

## Privileges of a Life Member

Life members shall be exempt from annual membership subscriptions, but shall otherwise have the full rights and privileges of a Sailing Member.

## Life Membership Nomination Process

In outline, the process for managing Life Membership nominations is:

- a. The Secretary receives a Nomination Form and confirms that the form is complete. Incomplete forms are returned to the nominating member;
- b. Complete forms are presented, by the Secretary, to the Committee of Management, at the next scheduled meeting. This is in the form of a Motion that "the nomination be recommended to the Membership for consideration";
- c. The Committee reviews the nomination against the criteria (see Evaluating a Nomination for Life Membership below). If the nomination does not meet the criteria the Motion fails and the nomination is returned to the nominating member, by the Secretary, with an explanatory note. Otherwise, the Motion is voted on by Secret Ballot (see Voting to Recommend a Nomination to the Membership); and
- d. Where the Committee votes to recommend the nomination, the nomination is held by the Secretary for the next Annual or Special General Meeting. The nomination is then presented to the membership for consideration and voting again by Secret Ballot. Otherwise the nomination is returned to the nominating member - as the ballot is secret there can be no explanation given.

## Nominations for Life Membership

A member nominating another member for Life Membership is to complete a Life Membership Nomination form and have the nomination Seconded by another member.

In addition to the Nomination Form, a nomination may be supported by statement/s or other documents from the nominator or other members to add weight to the nomination.

Nominations for Life Membership shall be put to the Committee of Management (COM) by the Secretary as a Motion to recommend the nomination to the Club Membership at the next Annual or Special General Meeting. The COM shall evaluate the nomination against the below criteria before voting by secret ballot. For a nomination to be presented to the membership the Motion must receive an affirmative vote of not less than 80% of the Committee members present at the meeting.

## **Number of Life Members**

The maximum number of living Life Members shall be at the discretion of the Committee of Management.

## **Evaluating a Nomination for Life Membership**

In evaluating a Life Membership Nomination the Committee of Management shall assess the nomination against the following criteria in that the nominee:

- a. is a member of the Albury Wodonga Yacht Club;
- b. has been a member of the Albury Wodonga Yacht Club for an aggregate of not less than 10 years;
- c. has contributed to the development and betterment of the Club in a very significant and conspicuous manner for not less than 5 years;
- d. has conducted themselves in an exemplary manner for a prolonged period such that they would be considered a role model within the Club or Sailing Community;
- e. has consistently exhibited and promoted the qualities and Values of the Club as well as Good Sportsmanship; and
- f. compares favourably to present and previous Life Members at the time of their nomination and, at the time of their nomination, there is no other member equally or more worthy of the honour.

## **Voting to Recommend a Nomination to the Membership**

Life Membership should not be awarded simply because the nominee meets the above criteria. Committee Members should consider their vote as a conscience vote reflecting the general view of the Club's membership.

## **Unsuccessful Nominations**

Where a nomination does not meet the criteria or does not have Committee support, the nomination is to be deemed to have failed. The nominator is to be advised of the outcome in writing, by the Secretary, within 14 days of the Committee's determination.

## **Determining to Award Life Membership**

The Membership shall award Life Membership to the nominated member where, by secret ballot, not less than 75% of the members entitled to vote support the nomination.

Where a nomination has the requisite membership support at an Annual or Special General Meeting the nominee shall be awarded Life Membership from the date of such meeting.

## **Removing Life Membership**

Once awarded Life Membership would not normally be withdrawn except in extraordinary circumstances. Life Membership may only be withdrawn from a member by a motion supported by 75% of the members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

## Explanatory Notes

The Table below provides a notated mapping between the Club's previous Constitution and the current Life Membership Policy.

<b>Pre-2013 Constitution</b>	<b>Current Policy</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Their shall not be more than 14 Life Members at any time.	The maximum number of living Life Members shall be at the discretion of the Committee of Management.	It seemed that having a fixed number of Life Members didn't provide for variations in total membership.
The nominee shall have been a member of the Club for not less than 10 years.	[The nominee] has been a member of the Albury Wodonga Yacht Club for an aggregate of not less than 10 years	There is a little ambiguity insofar as does the nominee have to be a member continuously or in aggregate. The revised criteria is clearer.
The nominee is to have given outstanding service as an office bearer or in a designated capacity for not less than 5 years.	Nil.	Requiring that the nominee have served on the Committee of Management seemed a little too prescriptive and would discriminate against members who, for one reason or another, does not believe they could serve on the Committee but is otherwise deserving of Life Membership.  Equally, the term "designated capacity" is undefined has little relevance in our Club today.
The nature of the service contributed must be seen to have been very significant to the development and betterment of the Club.	[The nominee] has contributed to the development and betterment of the Club in a very significant and conspicuous manner for not less than 5 years.	Fundamentally the same, simply updated the language.
The Nominee must overall merit favourably compared with the present and or previous Life Members at the time of their nomination, and at the time of their nomination there is not to be any other member equally or more worthy of honour.	[The nominee] compares favourably to present and previous Life Members at the time of their nomination and, at the time of their nomination, there is no other member equally or more worthy of the honour.	Fundamentally the same, simply updated the language.
The Bestowal of Life Membership is to be reserved to only the very few really top performances, and the honour must not	Nil.	Given the other criteria that would need to be met it wasn't believed that this criteria had any relevance and was therefore not transferred.

under any circumstances be downgraded to a long service award.		
A motion before the Committee to recommend the election of a Life Member shall be determined by secret ballot and require an affirmative vote of 80% in favour; of the number of members present at the Committee meeting.	<p>[At a meeting of the Committee of Management] the Motion is voted on by Secret Ballot.</p> <p>The Membership shall award Life Membership to the nominated member where, by secret ballot, not less than 75% of the members entitled to vote support the nomination.</p>	Previously, the decision to award Life Membership was made solely by the Committee of Management. It seemed more appropriate for the membership to vote and therefore to award Life Membership 'to one of their own' rather than simply the Committee. The Committee however, vets a nomination to ensure that all criteria before a nomination is presented to the membership.
Nil.	[The Nominee] has conducted themselves in an exemplary manner for a prolonged period such that they would be considered a role model within the Club or Sailing Community.	A new criteria which reflects to weight placed on a person "being of good character" in today's society.
Nil.	[The Nominee] has consistently exhibited and promoted the qualities and Values of the Club as well as Good Sportsmanship.	A new criteria. If we are a values based club it then stands to reason that to be considered for life membership a member should exhibit these values.