

BY-LAW NO. 7

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND FEES

COMMENCED: Draft – November 2019

LAST UPDATE: Discussed and endorsed as amended at Special General Meeting held on 30 November 2019

1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

This By-law applies to all categories of Club membership, which shall be unlimited and consist of its Officers, Active Members, Reserve Active Members, Award Members, Long Service Members, Life Members, Cadet Members, Junior Activity Members, Associate Members, Probationary Members and Honorary Vice-President Members of the Association, all of which categories are defined in the Club Constitution (Clause 11).

1.1 Probationary Membership

(a) Probationary Membership shall be the designation of any person from the time period between applying for membership and the gaining of an award and/or granting of a formal category membership by the Board of Management;

(b) Probationary Members shall not be entitled to use the Club premises or facilities until such time as they are officially notified of acceptance of their membership by the Board of Management.

1.2 Junior Activities Membership (Nippers)

(a) A person may be accepted as a Junior Activity Member from the age of 5 years up to a maximum age of 13 years on a seasonal basis. Age for a season is determined as at midnight on the 30 September at the commencement of that season. Such persons shall be required to gain the relevant Junior Activity Certificate for that person's age group;

(b) The key focus for five and six-year-old Junior Activity Members shall be play, participation and fun, with guidelines to support this focus to include:

- (i) Beach activities that emphasis games and group activities;
- (ii) Water activities to be limited to shallow water near the water's edge; and
- (iii) No competition for these age groups other than that involved in fun games.

1.3 Cadet Membership

(a) A Cadet Member shall be of the age qualification as defined in SLSA's Manual (i.e., Over 13 years and Under 15 years of age) and, who has obtained the Surf Rescue Certificate or passed an annual proficiency test;

(b) Members must be proficient Surf Rescue Certificate holders and undertake patrols in order to retain Cadet Membership;

(c) Water safety duties alone will not be considered as undertaking patrols;

(d) Cadet Members shall not have voting rights.

1.4 Active Membership

- (a) Active Members shall:
- (i) be Bronze Medallion holders;
 - (ii) fulfil patrol and Club obligations, as provided by SLSA and the Member's Club Constitution;
 - (iii) qualify in an annual Skill Maintenance test unless a Member has obtained their Bronze Medallion in that season;
- (b) To retain Active Membership, members must meet conditions (i)-(iii) and undertake patrols. Water safety duties alone will not be considered as undertaking patrols;
- (c) Any Member who does not wish to undertake Club patrols, but otherwise meets the criteria for Active Membership shall be required to take up an alternative category of membership as may be provided for by the Club Constitution. In doing so, the Member shall not be entitled to count any years in the alternative category as service for qualifying for Reserve Active or Long Service Membership;
- (d) Active Members have the right to be present, to debate and to vote at General Meetings.

1.5 Reserve Active Membership

- (a) Generally, a Member must have completed at least 35 hours of patrol duties for 8 years of active service to meet the patrol service requirements for Reserve Active Membership;
- (b) Requests for Reserve Active Membership will be determined by the Director of Administration and Membership in accordance with this clause and the member's overall patrol record. A right of review of that decision shall lie with the Board of Management whose decision shall be final;
- (c) If anyone who has undertaken their patrol duties with another club or clubs and is not already a Reserve Active Member and seeks Reserve Active Membership, they are required to provide proof of their previous patrol duties with that other club or clubs;
- (d) To be eligible, the details of their patrol duties at the other club or clubs must be the equivalent to that applying to Members who have undertaken their patrol duties at Maroochydore SLSC, unless otherwise excused by the Board of Management;
- (e) Reserve Active Membership previously granted by other clubs will be recognised;
- (f) To maintain Reserve Active status, Members shall:
- (i) fulfil their patrol obligations (minimum of 12 hours per patrol season);
 - (ii) complete their annual Skills Maintenance test; and
 - (iii) have the right to be present, to debate and vote at General Meetings provided Clause (i) and (ii) are met;
- (g) Failure to fulfil patrol obligations may result in the Member being required to show cause to the Director of Administration and Membership why his or her membership category should not be changed to any other category for which the member is qualified.

1.6 Long Service Membership

(a) Members granted Long Service Membership shall be exempt from all patrol duties;

(b) Long Service Membership may be granted to Active Patrol Members who hold a Bronze Medallion and have completed ten (10) years of patrol service; or to Reserve Active Members who have completed eight (8) plus four (4) years of Reserve Active patrol service; and have performed a minimum of 350 hours of rostered patrols aggregated over ten (10) years. A minimum of 25 hours must be performed each season. Water safety hours will not be taken into account for the calculation of minimum hours;

(c) Award Members (e.g., Radio Officers or First Aid Officers) may apply for Long Service Membership with an equivalent period of patrol service to that of a Bronze Medallion holder;

(d) A Member who has undertaken their patrol duties with another club or clubs and is not already a Long Service Member seeks Long Service Membership, is required to provide proof of their previous patrol duties with that other club or clubs;

(e) To be eligible, the details of their patrol duties at the other club or clubs must be the equivalent to that applying to Members who have undertaken their patrol duties at Maroochydore SLSC, unless otherwise excused by the Board of Management;

(f) Requests for Long Service Membership shall be determined by the Director of Administration and Membership in accordance with this clause and the Member's overall patrol record. A right of review of that decision shall lie with the Board of Management whose decision shall be final;

(g) Long Service Membership previously granted by other clubs will be recognised after the Member completes two (2) patrols (morning, afternoon or full day volunteer patrol) in the season of the transfer and thereafter exemption from all patrol duties will apply. Patrols must be completed by 31 December of the transfer year;

(h) Long Service Members have the right to be present, to debate and to vote at General Meetings.

1.7 Award Membership

(a) In accordance with the SLSA Membership directives, to retain Award membership, members must be proficient holders of one or more of the following SLSA Awards and undertake patrols and/or other Club obligations commensurate with their qualifications:

- (i) Radio Award/s;
- (ii) Resuscitation Certificate;
- (iii) Surf Rescue Certificate;
- (iv) Advanced Resuscitation Certificate or;
- (v) First Aid Award/s (or equivalent);

(b) Award Members shall have the right to be present at General Meetings, but shall not have voting rights unless elected to office or to a position which is provided with voting rights by the Club Constitution.

1.8 Past Active Membership

(a) A financial Member who holds a Bronze Medallion and/or an Award, and has been an active patrol Member for the previous three (3) years, may be granted Past Active Membership by the Board of Administration and Membership and endorsed by the Board of Management, if this Member subsequently is unable to complete patrol duties as required;

(b) Past Active Members through a majority vote of their membership may, from time to time, assign a name to their membership purporting to identify their membership category within the Club upon endorsement by the Board of Management;

(c) Past Active Members shall not have voting rights unless elected to office or to a position which is provided with voting rights in the Club Constitution;

(d) Past Active Members shall not be entitled to count any years in the alternative category as service for qualifying for Reserve Active or Long Service Membership.

1.9 Associate Membership

(a) Unless otherwise approved by the Board of Management, a person Under 30 years of age shall not be admitted as an Associate Member, apart from a Junior Activity Parent/Guardian;

(b) Associate Membership may be granted to persons who may or may not hold a SLSA Award;

(c) Associate Members shall have a joining and/or annual membership fee substantially greater than fees of other categories of membership;

(d) Associate Members shall be entitled generally to the use of Club facilities, however may not be entitled to use Club surf lifesaving equipment or Club gym facilities, unless approved in writing by the Board of Management;

(e) Associate Members shall not have voting rights unless elected to office or to a position which is provided with voting rights in the Club Constitution;

(f) If an Associate Member successfully undertakes training and attains the Bronze Medallion, he or she qualifies as an Active Member of the club.

1.10 Honorary Vice-President Membership

(a) Honorary Vice-President Membership may be granted to persons who contribute to the Club by way of donation (financial and service), sponsorship including Perpetual Club Awards and the like within a financial year;

(b) Honorary Vice-President Membership does not entitle the person to have access to any marketing or advertising rights in respect of their business;

- (c) Honorary Vice-President Members may be entitled to the following benefits:
- (i) invitation as a guest to Maroochydore SLSC functions as approved by the Board of Management;
 - (ii) receipt of official Club communications (i.e. newsletters, Facebook, publications);
 - (iii) receipt of a club merchandise pack, the contents of which shall be as determined by the Board of Management;
- (d) The list of proposed Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be prepared by the Director of Administration and Membership and the Director of Marketing and Promotion in consultation with the President, General Manager and Life Governors;
- (e) Members may nominate persons to be considered for Honorary Vice-President Membership by Club Council on the day of the mid-season General Meeting. No limit shall exist for the number of Honorary Vice-Presidents endorsed;
- (f) The listing of endorsed Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be written into the Maroochydore SLSC Annual Report for the year of that contribution;
- (g) Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be advised in writing of their appointment. They will receive regular communications from the Club as appropriate;
- (h) Honorary Vice-President Members shall not have voting rights.

1.11 Life Membership

Life Membership may be granted to Member(s) who have displayed exemplary conduct and rendered long and distinguished service to the Association and Surf Life Saving; and have demonstrated such service in an active and/or administrative capacity for a minimum period of fifteen (15) non-consecutive years. Refer to By-Law 9 Life Member and Life Governor Conferral.

2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SURCHARGE

- (a) Any Member (not including Junior Activity Members or Associate Members) who renew his or her annual membership after 30 September will be required to pay a membership fee surcharge by way of levy in addition to their membership fees;
- (b) At the complete discretion of the Board of Management, the Board shall set the amount of the surcharge each season for membership categories (Active, Cadet, Reserve Active and Long Service);
- (c) In the case of membership fees paid other than in person, the renewal date shall be the date the application for membership and payment is received in the office.

3. MEMBERSHIP FEES AND LEVIES

- (a) The Membership Fee shall be set by the Board of Management. The Membership Fee shall consist of direct costs linked to membership including, but not limited to insurance (Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, Directors insurances, WorkCover); Association fees and charges, and Club administration costs;

(b) Only financial members are covered by SLSQ Insurances and WorkCover and are entitled to utilise Club facilities and enjoy Member benefits;

(c) The Board of Administration and Membership may require Members to pay levies for specific purposes and/or training costs for SLSQ or SLSA award training in addition to any membership fees that may be payable;

(d) The amount for such levies or training costs shall be set by the Board of Management on recommendation of the Board of Administration and Membership.

4. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) All financial Members shall have access to Club facilities with the exception that a time constraint may be placed on Junior Activity Members at the Clubhouse;

(b) All financial Active, Reserve Active, Long Service, Life Members, Life Governors and Club Officers shall have the right to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, General Meetings and Special General Meetings of the Club Council. All other Members may attend such meetings but have no voting rights;

(c) All Active and Cadet Members may apply in writing to the Director of Administration and Membership requesting leave of absence from their patrol duties, stating reasons and time for such leave. The Director of Administration and Membership in consultation with the Director of Surf Life Saving will determine the outcome of the request and advise the member in writing;

(d) All Members shall abide by the Club Constitution, By-Laws and Policies of the Club and the Association.

5. RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

(a) Members shall apply annually for renewal of membership by submission of the prescribed Association Form and payment of the prescribed fee on 01 July each year;

(b) Should the application for renewal of membership be refused, the Member shall have the right of appeal in writing through the Director of Administration and Membership to a General Meeting;

(c) For a Member to be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting, he or she shall be required to have paid their fees and have their membership application accepted prior to the commencement of the meeting;

(d) Any Member who fails to renew his/her subscription by the required date shall lose all rights and privileges in the Club and shall cease to be a Member. In these circumstances, application for membership re-acceptance is permitted, provided the prescribed Form is submitted accompanied by the current fees, and further provided that the Board of Management shall have the sole right to grant or refuse such application. In this respect, the Board may act on the recommendation of the Board of Administration and Membership.