

## Cockburn Masters Swimming Club Inc.

Post Office Box 1123

Bibra Lake WA 6965

ABN 61 193 929 683

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## CLUB LIFE MEMBERSHIP – CONSTITUTIONAL RULES, POLICY & GUIDELINES

### Current Life Membership Rules & Criteria

Clause 15 of the Club's Constitution covers Life Membership and currently reads as follows:

#### **15. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

*Life Membership of the Club will be considered in the case of distinguished service and providing that such person will have been a member of the Club for at least fifteen (15) years and/or served the Club on the Executive Committee for at least ten (10) years. The nominations for Life Membership must be confirmed by a three-fourths majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Club. Life Members shall, without payment of the Club's membership fee, have all the privileges of financial full members. Not more than one Life Member shall be elected in any one financial year.*

The concept of Life Membership of the Club was introduced in 2005, with the above Clause 15 being incorporated into the Constitution and approved by members at AGM. This Clause was constructed after extensive consultation with other Masters Swimming clubs, with the emphasis on "distinguished service" not just longevity of membership or longevity of service on the Executive Committee.

These are good benchmark indicators but the overriding requirement is that the primary factor for inclusion in any Life Membership nomination is "distinguished service".

Life Membership is the most significant honour Cockburn Masters can bestow upon a member. A Life Member will be exempt from payment of Club membership fees, shall be an honorary Club member for life and may receive other concessionary benefits at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

To date, the Club has recognised 6 Life Members – Geoff Edwards (2005), Faye Rogers (2006), Lyn Mollica (2007), Bevan Goodreid (2012), Russell Bunce (2014) & Nick Wyatt (2015).

Following a detailed review and consideration by the Executive Committee during 2015, it was unanimously agreed that the substance of the current Clause 15 should remain in place as it encapsulates the following simplistic key criteria and guidelines:

- a) Only considered in the case of distinguished service.
- b) Once distinguished service is evidenced, criteria requires the candidate to have:
  - a. Been a Club member for a minimum of 15 years; and/or
  - b. Served on the Executive Committee for a minimum of 10 years.
- c) No more than 1 Life Membership shall be awarded in any single financial year.
- d) Nominations to be approved by a 75% majority of members.



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In addition, it was considered beneficial to the Executive (and members generally) if a certain aspects of a “Policy” could be documented to clarify the process involved – particularly the nomination and approval process, and also the eligibility criteria.

### **Policy & Guidelines**

The Constitution (Clause 15) will be supported by the following 2-part guideline which the Executive adopted as a reference guide to assist the Executive and any member requesting further information about the Life Membership process either generally or when contemplating making a nomination.

#### ***Part 1: Nomination & Approval Process***

The following “step by step” guide is in place to assist both members and the Executive in assessing future nominations:

- 1.1 A nomination may be made by any financial member of the Club.
- 1.2 Any nomination must be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December annually.
- 1.3 A written nomination must contain nominator’s reasons for the nomination including all relevant attributes, achievements, details of nominee’s distinguished service to the Club and a confirmation from the Registrar or Secretary that the qualifying criteria has been met (15 years’ membership and/or 10 years’ Executive service).
- 1.4 The Secretary will include consideration of all annual nominations received as part of the agenda for the first Executive Meeting convened after 1<sup>st</sup> January annually.
- 1.5 The Executive shall review and, after majority approval, endorse a single Life Membership nomination for consideration by the members.
- 1.6 The approval required from members may be obtained in 1 of 3 ways:
  - 1.6.1 A resolution proposed at an AGM to be approved by a 75% majority of those present and entitled to attend the AGM;
  - 1.6.2 A resolution proposed at an EGM to be approved by a 75% majority of those present and entitled to attend the EGM; or
  - 1.6.3 By obtaining written/email consent from 75% of the Club’s members in response to a specific circulating resolution of members conducted prior to the AGM.
- 1.7 Any Life Membership nomination endorsed and approved in this way shall be awarded to the nominee at the AGM, with a presentation of a Life Membership badge and Certificate.

#### ***Part 2: Eligibility Criteria***

“Distinguished Service” shall and must remain the key determinant in all Life Membership nominations in the future. This is subjective and open to different interpretations but ultimately it will be determined by its merit on a discretionary basis by the Executive Committee when considering any nomination and before determining whether or not to make a recommendation to the Club members.



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For reference, while not specifically defining “Distinguished Service” or trying to limit or stipulate inclusions in future nominations, the following are all considered relevant areas of service:

- a) Executive Committee roles & impact
- b) Jetty to Jetty Committee roles & impact
- c) MSAWA roles & impact
- d) Non-Executive roles (eg social, E1000, safety, registrar, communications) & impact
- e) Volunteering roles (eg event organising, officiating, helping) & impact
- f) Promotion of the Club & its members
- g) Promotion of swimming
- h) Critical influence (significant financial impact, actions to prevent Club decline etc)
- i) High personal standards
- j) Role model & encouragement/development of other members

In addition to being able to clearly demonstrate Distinguished Service, all nominees must have:

- a. Been a Club member for a minimum of 15 years; and/or
- b. Served on the Executive Committee for a minimum of 10 years.

In summary, the Executive Committee endorses the policy approach whereby the current Clause 15, supplemented with the above Policy & Guidelines, will serve as the process for future members and the Executive to follow.

Adopted by the Executive Committee

12 August 2015



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