

# Darebin Women's Sports Club Incorporated

## Life Member Policy (August 2022)



## Purpose

This policy sets out the minimum criteria to be eligible for nomination for Life Membership of the Darebin Women's Sports Club (the Club), and the process of appointment in accordance with Rule 13 in the DWSC Constitution. In the event of any inconsistency, the Constitution takes precedence over this Policy.

A Member who has rendered special service to the Association over a period of time may be appointed a Life Member.

Life Membership is intended to be an award of significant distinction to recognise special, meritorious, or exceptional service made by individuals to the Club. Life Membership is the highest honour that can be bestowed by the Club and should be regarded with prestige by members of the Club and recipients alike.

## Eligibility

### 1. Suitability

When considering any nomination, the following will be taken into account:

- the general attitude and demeanour of the nominee so that it reflects a dedication to the values of the Club;
- a demonstrated commitment to the principles of good sportspersonship; and
- a history of conduct that has consistently reflected positively upon the Club.

### 2. Length of Service

A nominee for a Life Membership must have demonstrated a significant, sustained and high quality history of service enhancing the reputation and future of the Club overall. The emphasis should be on the quality of the service rather than the length necessarily, however in general this history of service should extend over ten (10) years, which need not be consecutive years.

### 3. Nature of Service

A nominee for Life Membership should have a history of service to the Club other than purely playing service. Nominees are entitled to have their contribution to the Club as a player be given due consideration, however Life Membership is awarded for a Member with outstanding meritorious service usually more than length of playing service.

Examples of services which may be considered include:

- Significant volunteer contribution in an official role such as coaching, support crew, committee
- As a player, has played a significant number of games, contributed to the competitive success of teams over multiple seasons, and been a leader and/or role model for other players and juniors at the Club. Typically, a player would not be considered for Life Membership until retired from elite competition level sport.
- Outstanding leadership qualities in some or many areas of the Club
- Meritorious service at other association, state or national levels that brings good repute and benefit to the Club
- Contributing to the enhancement, growth or sustainability of the Club in a significant way
- Increasing the participation of girls, women and gender diverse people in sport through communication, promotion and advancement of the sport/s
- Advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders and peak bodies that significantly enhances the reputation or success of the Club
- Significant contribution to the advancement of the purposes of the Club (in accordance with the Constitution)

It is not necessary for all the above examples to be satisfied, and this list may not encompass all scenarios that could demonstrate outstanding special service.

#### **4. Life Membership is not granted automatically**

Satisfaction of the eligibility criteria described in this policy does not infer automatic granting of Life Membership.

#### **5. Extreme circumstances**

These eligibility criteria may be adjusted in extreme circumstances, including but not limited to posthumous appointment of Life Membership.

## **Nominations Process**

### **1. Who can nominate**

Any current Member of the Club may nominate someone for Life Membership. It is suggested that any Club member wishing to make a nomination, should work with other members to put in a joint nomination, in order to provide comprehensive and detailed information to support the nomination. This is not essential but does help the Club in assessing and progressing the nomination to decision promptly.

### **2. How to make a nomination**

Nominations for Life Membership must be forwarded in writing to the Club Secretary and should include the Member's reasons for putting forward the Nominee for Life Membership, referencing the eligibility listed in this policy.

Nominations should be received by the Secretary no later than 31 August usually, or other such time as the Board may determine. Nominations are confidential to the Board and the nominator/s.

### **3. Board appointment**

The nominations received shall be discussed and considered at the next Board meeting of the Club.

If the nomination is supported by a majority of the Board, and the President, Vice-President and Secretary have all voted on the matter, then the nomination is successful and the nominee is appointed Life Member of the Club.

If the nomination is not supported, for any reason, this will be communicated to the nominator with the written outcome and a statement of reasons.

### **4. Number of nominations**

In general, a maximum of only one Life Member would be appointed each year. The Club recognises that exceptional circumstances may arise. It will then be at the discretion of the Board as to how many are appointed. Alternatively, it is not mandatory to select a Life Member each year if a suitable candidate is not nominated.

### **5. Awarding of Life Membership**

Life Membership will be awarded at the next significant club event such as the season presentation evening or Annual General Meeting.

## **Entitlements**

Life Members receive:

- Free membership of the Club for Life, including voting rights
- Prominent recognition in Club history, events and marketing materials

- Invitation to AGMs and all formal and special events; and
- Any other such entitlement as the Board determines from time to time.

## **Removal**

Where a Life Member conducts themselves in a manner which is deemed by the unanimous decision of the Board to be contrary to the interest of the Club, or bring the Club into disrepute, the Board may proceed in terminating the Life Membership.

A Life Member may resign their Life Membership at any time. Life Membership is not transferable.