



Western Districts  
Baseball Club Inc



## Life Membership Policy

### 1) Preamble

The object of Life Membership is to publicly recognise the outstanding service or contribution of a player, volunteer, employee or benefactor. Life Membership is a significant honour conferred only in exceptional circumstances and one that recognises effort, loyalty and contribution to the club. It should retain its prestige and not be awarded easily.

### 2) Eligibility

Any current club member can be nominated for Life Membership by another current club member, with the nomination seconded by another other club member.

### 3) Criteria

Life Membership should not be considered as a competitive matter and nominees must be considered individually on their personal attributes and achievements and not in comparison to other Life Members, nominees or persons not nominated. Criteria for the granting of Life Membership should take into account both quality of service and length of service.

- a) Candidates must satisfy the following criterion while having been an active member of the Club for a significant time (this time can be accumulative);
- b) The nominator should be able to demonstrate a significant contribution by the nominee to the running of the club over a majority of those years of membership.
- c) Have made a sustained and significant contribution to the club;
- d) To have contributed to the club to the degree necessary for Life Membership, a nominee will necessarily have been an active member for a significant time. While there is no 'minimum' period of membership, a period of 10 years' active membership is an indicator of a long term commitment.
- e) It should be noted that achieving the minimum duration of membership will not in any way automatically guarantee the award of Life Membership.
- f) Given outstanding service on a club committee or as a club official;
- g) Provided outstanding service to the club in some other capacity;
- h) Required substantial and commendable personal input;
- i) Through their activities, have significantly progressed the club's development;
- j) It has been conspicuous, seen by the members in its execution or seen by the members as an enduring legacy;
- k) Results in the organization and sport being substantially, demonstrably and positively changed by that contribution;
- l) Contributes positively to the reputation and standing of the organisation and the sport
- m) It should go without saying that the character, personal standing and behaviour of the candidate should be beyond reproach.



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### 4) Nomination Procedure

- a) To nominate a club member for Life Membership, a Nomination form must be completed. The nomination will contain evidence of the candidate's satisfaction of the criteria listed in Clause 3.
- b) The nomination may be proposed by any current club member and seconded by another club member.
- c) Any nomination, including supporting evidence, will be circulated by the Secretary to the full Committee by email, no later than one month prior to the scheduled Annual General Meeting.
- d) The Committee will vote on the nomination by return email to the Secretary no later than two weeks from receipt or will be voted upon at the next scheduled Committee meeting.
- e) All Committee members should be aware that it is not necessary for a Life Membership to be granted each year.
- f) The ballot will be open, not secret.
- g) Failure to respond in the required time frame will be taken as assent.
- h) Any Committee member who votes against the nomination must provide reasons and/or evidence for their rejection of the nomination. If no reasons are provided, the vote will be treated as informal and will not be counted.
- i) As stated in Clause 3, nominees must be considered individually on their personal attributes and achievements and not in comparison to other Life Members, other nominees or persons not nominated.
- j) If a vote against a nomination is based on such grounds, the vote will be treated as informal and will not be counted.
- k) Unanimous approval of all formal votes returned by Committee members is preferred, but not essential for the nomination to be recommended to the Annual General Meeting for confirmation.
- l) If formal votes are received which object to the nomination, an urgent special meeting of the Committee will be called to discuss the objection/s.
- m) If the Committee meets to discuss an objection to a nomination, and unanimous support for the nomination cannot be reached, the objection shall be moved and put to the vote of members present at the meeting. If a majority of two thirds or more of those present vote against the objection then the objection shall be dismissed and Life Membership recommended to the Annual General Meeting.
- n) Any recommendation for the award of Life Membership will be moved at the Annual General Meeting. As any recommendation would carry the support of the Committee, a simple majority of those present is sufficient to approve the recommendation.



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### 5) Recognition

A person receiving life membership is entitled to;

- a) A Life Membership plaque
- b) Attend all member meetings of the club;
- c) Have their name added to the roll of honour and publicly displayed;
- d) Receive all member publications;
- e) Receive suitable recognition at the AGM and club presentations;
- f) Will not be liable for club membership fees or playing fees.

### 6) Retraction of Life Membership

Life Membership may be retracted where the recipient has conducted him/herself in a manner that reflects directly and adversely on the image or activities of the Club or upon failure of a Life Member to observe any by-laws, constitutional requirements or for reasons such as bringing the name of the Club into disrepute.

This provision will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances. As part of the deliberation the Life Member in question is also to be given an opportunity to present his/her case for retention of his/her status.

A simple majority of the board is required to overturn life membership or dismiss the claim.

Their membership will be forfeited upon the passing of a Committee resolution as per section 10 of the Constitution.

A Committee decision to remove a Life Membership may be appealed as per section 11 of the Constitution.