

REGULATION

Awarding Life Membership

2026



This Policy was adopted by the IDNA Board on 25 February 2026

NETBALL ILLAWARRA REGULATION

REGULATION FOR AWARDING LIFE MEMBERSHIP

1 PURPOSE

In accordance with authority provided by Section 41 of the Illawarra District Netball Association Constitution, the Board has created this Regulation that sets down the administrative and procedural requirements for Service Awards of the Association. This regulation is to be interpreted in accordance with the Constitution.

2 DEFINITIONS

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| Highly Meritorious Service: | This is service to the Association of a superior quality that has contributed to improving the management and/or operations of Netball Illawarra and which has benefitted the members |
| Exemplary Nature | Worthy of being commended and/or a role model to others and containing elements of having changed the nature of the operations of the Netball Illawarra for the better. |
| Distinguished Service | This is service to the Association of a quality that has contributed to the development of the management and organisation of the Association. |

3 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Overview Of The Life Membership Award

- (a) This part of the Regulation pertaining to Life Membership shall be read in conjunction with the Constitution. Should there be any conflict between the content of this regulation and the content of the Constitution then the content of the Constitution shall take precedence over this regulation.
- (b) Life Membership is the highest recognition for service to the Association available and, as such, only a few will ever reach the level of involvement and commitment necessary to be awarded Life Membership
- (c) Such involvement in the Association for a member to be even considered for Life Membership must be over a sustained period of time and have resulted in the progression and development of the Association, both as a recognised entity in the Illawarra and as a force in Netball generally, both on the court and in the administration and governance of the sport.
- (d) Such involvement in the Association must also leave a legacy for the Association, on which future development of the Association can be built

3.2 How The Award Works

- (a) The importance of the awarding of Life Membership is such that the processes and procedures for awarding Life Membership, unlike the other Service Awards, are enshrined in the Constitution
- (b) The importance of, and regard with which Life Membership is held, the award is normally given to only one recipient in any year. This is not, however, a rule of the award. Similarly, Life Membership is not normally awarded every year.
- (c) Unlike the other Service Awards, recipients of this award are determined by the Association at the Annual General Meeting

3.3 Criteria

- (a) Nominees may be awarded Life Membership if they are a senior member of the Association
- (b) Such nominees shall, as a member, have rendered lengthy, distinguished and highly meritorious service with a positive contribution to the betterment of the Association
- (c) Such service shall have positively contributed to the betterment of the Association and the development of netball within the boundaries of the Association
- (d) The involvement of the nominee shall have left a legacy to the Association on which future development of the Association can be based
- (e) Being a service award, the existence of the Life Membership Award does not mean that it must be awarded each year
- (f) Such service to the Association does not have to be over consecutive years
- (g) Any nomination submitted to the Board shall have maintained the standard of involvement in the Association set by previous Life Members

3.4 Nomination

- (a) To be presented to the Annual General Meeting for consideration for awarding Life Membership, a senior member must be submitted to the Board for consideration
- (b) Any submission of a nomination for Life Membership must be accompanied by supporting documentation detailing the nominee's involvement and history in netball, together with supportive reasons as to why the nominee should be considered for Life Membership
- (c) Where the Board has accepted that the submission for Life Membership has met the criteria, the nomination and supporting documents shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, without comment from the Board
- (d) Submissions received after the closing date for submissions and the date set down for the next Annual General Meeting would be considered as validly lodged submissions for the following year
- (e) Where the Board has determined that the submission for the member meets the criteria specified, and is a worthy nominee, they will make available all relevant information associated with the nomination to all eligible voting members, at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting
- (f) Where the Board is of the opinion that the nominee does not meet the criteria specified for being eligible for Life Membership, they will record, and retain, the reasons for rejecting the nomination

- (g) Where a submission does not meet the criteria specified for Life Membership, the Board may consider the nominee as a recipient of the Val Curran Merit Award.

3.5 Voting

- (a) The awarding of Life Membership shall be by a Special Resolution
- (b) A nomination for Life Membership will be successful if not less than three quarters of the votes cast by eligible voting members at the Annual General Meeting are in favour of awarding Life Membership
- (c) A secret ballot will be conducted to determine whether or not Life Membership is to be awarded to the nominee
- (d) Ballot papers shall be prepared listing the name of the nominee/s and on which each voting member shall record a valid vote by indicating either support for or not supporting the nomination with a tick, cross, signifying mark, or other similar indication.
- (e) An announcement of the results will be made at the Annual General Meeting and privileges of the Award will become effective from the close of the meeting

3.6 Award And Presentation

- (a) A nominee who is awarded Life Membership shall receive a Life Members Badge from the Association to identify the awarding of their Life Membership
- (b) The presentation will be at the Annual General Meeting, or in the absence of the recipient, at a time and place deemed suitable by the Board and the recipient

3.7 Entitlements

- (a) Life Members are entitled to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present, debate and vote at General Meetings
- (b) Life Members will receive invitations to attend other Association events as guests of the Association
- (c) Life Membership entitlements are not transferrable

3.8 Posthumous Awarding Of Life Membership

- (a) Where a nomination has been submitted to the Board for consideration for Life Membership, and the nominee has died prior to the Annual General Meeting, the following shall be applied:
 - (i) If the Board has determined that the nomination meets the criteria specified, and is a worthy nominee, the nomination shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for the vote to proceed
 - (ii) If the Board has determined that the nomination does not meet the criteria specified, the nomination shall be rejected
- (b) If the decision of the Annual General Meeting is to award Life Membership, then it shall be awarded posthumously and presented to their partner, or next of kin

APPENDIX A – LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORMAT

1 **SELL THE NOMINEE**

Before the 2025 Annual General Meeting, the requirements for the awarding Life Membership were slightly different. The requirements were that the Management Committee had to recommend to the AGM that a nominee should receive Life Membership.

This meant that the current requirements for awarding Life Membership allowed the then Management Committee to veto a nomination for personal reasons rather than only not achieving the standards set for awarding Life Membership. It meant that it could be a popularity contest rather than an objective assessment of the contribution that the nominee had made to Netball Illawarra over a number of years.

The recent changes to the Constitution for 2025 have removed this as a possibility and now only require the Board to take a critical look at what is presented and based on the content of the submission, determine if the nominee has achieved the level of involvement required for the nomination to be submitted to an AGM or Special General Meeting.

The submission, if demonstrating that the nominee has achieved the required standards, is then to be presented to the AGM, without comment from the Board, just with the submission for members to consider when making their decision.

The purpose of the submission is to “sell” the nomination through the provision of the members history of involvement with their Club, and the Association. To provide the nominee’s history of involvement in a chronological order, without embellishment and without distortion.

The submission should tell the story of the nominee to the voting members and to show that those nominating believe that the nominee, based on the attached information, is worthy of receiving the award of Life Membership of the Association.

2 **SUMMARY OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT**

If the submission is done properly then it could be up to 4 pages long. This is not going to make people happy, so, the first part of the submission should be a summary of their involvement and achievements that are provided in the “In-Depth” part of the submission.

The summary should highlight the more important parts of what is to follow, and at the same time, give the members a reason to read the “In-depth” part of the submission.

It should give those reading the summary a feeling of “I didn’t know they did all of that”, because no voting member will really know what the level of involvement of the nominee really was, until it is put down in writing.

2a **Summary Guidelines**

An example of how the summary could be provided is as follows:

The following is a summary of **XXXXXXX's** involvement with the **YYYYYY Netball Club** and the Illawarra District Netball Association and is presented in support of their nomination for Life Membership of the Illawarra District Netball Association.

XXXXXXX has been a member of the **YYYYYY Netball Club** in different capacities since **19XX** when she was first registered as a player. She has continued to play until **20XX**.

In **19XX**, she started to show her talents as a coach, and when the club needed a coach for a team, she would put her hand up and has, over the years coached up to 4 teams in a season for the club, In addition to this she also took on the task of being a young coach for the Illawarra District Netball Association's Junior State Championships Teams.

In **20XX** she unleashed another string to her bow by joining the **YYYYYY Netball Club** Management Committee and has served on the Committee in a number of roles. In **20XX** she expanded her involvement in the Netball Management area by becoming a member of the Illawarra District Netball Association Management.

Both **YYYYYY Netball Club** and Illawarra Netball were fortunate to have **XXXXXX** involvement in the Management when Covid struck. Her knowledge gained from her work proved invaluable to the survival of both organisations.

3 IN-DEPTH PRESENTATION OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT

The purpose of this part of the submission is to highlight the work that the nominee has done over the years, in chronological order, if possible, for both their club and the Association. What might not seem important as an individual item, could be important in the grand scheme of things.

This is where a nominee's special talents should also be highlighted. For example, having an Accountant or a bookkeeper as treasurer is a bonus.

What is listed in this part of the resume should also be covered in the summary.

3a In-Depth Guidelines

Mary first registered with the **XXXX Club** in **19XX**.

Mary started her coaching career in **19XX** when as a young coach of a 10E team for **YYYYYY** and has coached numerous teams of different ages and abilities since then. Some teams won, others lost, but all the players she coached enjoyed their time with **Mary** and became better netballers through their association with her.

In **19XX** **Mary** was awarded the Club Person of The Year of the **YYYYYY Club**.

In **20XX** **Mary** became a member of the **YYYYYY Netball Club** Management Committee and undertook various positions on the committee, including Coaching Coordinator, Registrar and Treasurer.

In **20XX** **Mary**, decided to try her hand as Representative Team Coach. She started this pathway by becoming a coach with the 11-years Development Program. The

following year she coached the ----- **Association's** 12years Representative Team and went with them through to 15-years Reps. At the same time, she was also coaching **YYYYYY** Club Teams.

From **20XX to 20XX** she came back to coach -----'s 12-years Representative teams.

In **20XX Mary** coached the **YYYYYY** Netball Club's Top Division team.

In **20XX Mary** again, took on representative coaching duties with ----- Under 13 Representative Team.

In 20XX – 20XX Mary continued with her Representative Coaching career, coaching the Under 14's, Under 15's and then back to the Under 13's in those 3 years.

In 20XX Mary was elected as President of the **YYYYY** Netball Club and immediately introduced a number of new initiatives.

In **20XX** the club also saw the introduction of new categories of service to the club, these being the Long Service Awards as well as the Merit Award, which is one step below Life Membership of the club.

2020 will be most remembered for the impact that Covid on sport. As a result of her experiences, through her work, with the new protocols being rolled out by the NSW Government, the **YYYYYY** Club was able to implement programs that kept everyone safe and able to train. Being able to obtain grants for the PPE requirements.

In **20XX Mary** was again President of the **YYYYYY** Netball Club. Mary also took on the added role of being a General Committee member of the ----- Netball Association.

In **20XX Mary** was elected to an Executive position on the ----- Netball Association.

All in all, I believe that **Mary** has done remarkable things for not only the **YYYYYY** Netball Club but also the ----- Netball Association and her many years of service should make her a worthy recipient of Life Membership of the ----- Netball Association.