

# **REGULATION**

## **Service Awards Available For Netball Illawarra Members**

# **2026**



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

# NETBALL ILLAWARRA REGULATION

## SERVICE AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR NETBALL ILLAWARRA MEMBERS

### 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 AWARDS AND ELIGIBILITY

- (a) The Association may recognise service to Netball Illawarra by bestowing on any individual, from within the Association, a Service Award in recognition of that service. The awards together with the criteria, nomination processes and procedures for the determination of award recipients are detailed in this Regulation, as indicated below.
  - (i) Long Service Awards – Clause 3
  - (ii) Merit Award – Clause 4
- (b) The above awards shall only be awarded to a person who has performed their role or function as a volunteer.
- (c) A member may be nominated for more than one award in any year. The higher award will be considered first. If they are not awarded the higher award, then they shall then be considered for the subsequent award(s).
- (d) A person once awarded a higher award becomes ineligible for receipt of any lesser award. This does not, however, exclude a member from being awarded a Long Service Award.
- (e) The Board has the right to rescind or suspend any award under Rule 11 (Discipline) of the Constitution.

### 3 LONG SERVICE AWARD

#### 3.1. Overview Of The Award

The Long Service Award is presented in recognition of continued service to a club and/or Netball Illawarra over an extended period at any level of involvement in the sport.

The award is made to those members of the Association who are, as they say, the backbone of the Association. They do their work not for fame or glory, but for the love of the sport and to ensure the continued survival and development of their club and the Association.

There will be three categories of Long Service Award:

1. The Val Oliver Long Service Award for Umpiring
2. The Clare Lear Long Service Award for Administration
3. The Kay Buckley Long Service Award for Coaching

Although this is a Netball Illawarra award, it aims to recognise involvement at a grass roots level, namely clubs, because without that involvement there will be no Netball Illawarra. Some of those grass roots heroes go on to be involved at a higher level.

### 3.2. How The Award Works

Each club will be able to nominate up to 2 of their members in each of the 3 categories to the Board.

From that list of nominees, the Board will select up to 6 recipients for each of the 3 categories to be awarded Long Service Awards.

Although there are three categories of awards, a member of the Association shall only receive one Long Service Award, and that category will be determined by the club through the nomination.

Each nomination will be accompanied by a supporting document of the nominee's involvement with the club in the area for which they have been nominated. Where they have also been involved at an Association level, that should also be identified and included in the resume.

### 3.3. Award Criteria

- (a) A nominee for a Long Service Award shall have provided at least fifteen (15) years of service to their club and/or Netball Illawarra as a coach, as an umpire or as an administrator, or any combination of these roles, but such that one role is more dominant than the others.
- (b) Where a club member has become a member of the IDNA Board but has not undertaken any work for the club, that year shall be included as service when determining the fifteen (15) years of service to the club, provided they have registered as a member of the club.
- (c) Where a member has provided multiple forms of service in any year it shall only count as one (1) year. For example, if a member has been a coach and an umpire in the one year it shall only be deemed to be one (1) year of service, not two (2) years of service.
- (d) For coaching to be considered as a service the nominee shall have attained at least their Foundation accreditation for coaching
- (e) For umpiring to be considered as a service the nominee shall have attained at least their National "C" badge and that the badge has remained current for that period.
- (f) For any period where a nominee has only been a player for the club, or not actively involved in the club, that period shall not be included as service when determining the fifteen (15) years of service to the club.

### 3.4. Nomination

- (a) Nominees must be senior members of the Association.
- (b) Their period of recognition may include involvement as a junior member of the Association in the area for which they have been nominated.

- (c) All nominations shall be accompanied by the service history of the nominee in the club.
- (d) To be a valid nomination, the nomination must:
  - (i) be in writing and signed by two (2) members of the nominating club's Executive, or
  - (ii) be nominated by two (2) members of the Netball Illawarra Board.
- (e) Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than August 31 or a later date nominated by the Board.

### 3.5. Endorsement

- (a) It is the sole responsibility of the Board to determine the recipients of Long Service Awards based on available information regarding the nominee's involvement in the club and the Association.
- (b) The recipients shall be determined by the Board at the next Board meeting after the close nominations.

### 3.6. Award And Presentation

- (a) The presentation of this Award will be made at the Annual Presentation appropriate for the recipient, or in the absence of the recipient, at another time and place deemed suitable by the Board Management Committee and the recipient.
- (b) Recipients shall receive a Long Service Medallion in recognition of their service.

## 4 THE VAL CURRAN MERIT AWARD

### 4.1. Overview Of The Award

The Val Curran Merit Award is best described as the award between a Long Service Award and Life Membership.

It is for those members who have provided a Long Period of Service to the Association but have not reached the levels of involvement necessary to be considered for Life Membership.

This award is for service by a club member to Netball Illawarra. It does not take into consideration involvement in the club however, club involvement should be included as part of the background of the nominee.

### 4.2. How The Award Works

In the first year of operation of this award, each club will be able to nominate up to 2 of their membership to the Board. After that year, clubs will be limited to submitting one (1) nomination. In addition to these nominees, the Board may also nominate members.

Having the ability to nominate for this award does not necessarily mean that a club has some of the necessary standard to nominate.

Each nomination will be accompanied by a resume of the nominee's involvement with Netball Illawarra.

From that list of nominees, in the initial year of the award, the Board may select up to 9 recipients for the Val Curran Merit Awards. Following from that, the Board may select up to 5 recipients.

#### 4.3. General

- (a) The Val Curran Merit Award may be given to any senior member of the Association who, as a member, has rendered distinguished and lengthy service with a positive contribution to the betterment of the Association
- (b) Compliance criteria for this award are not as high as for Life Membership, but the criteria for nomination and acceptance must be such that they thought of as being among a select group within the Association
- (c) Being a service award, the existence of the Merit Award does not mean that it must be presented each year

#### 4.4. Nomination

- (a) Nominees must be senior members of the Association
- (b) The nomination shall set out the service history of the nominee to the Association, together with the supportive reasons for a Merit Award being bestowed
- (c) To be a valid nomination, the nomination:
  - (i) shall be in writing and signed by two (2) members of the nominating club's Executive, or
  - (ii) be nominated by two (2) members of the Board
- (d) Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than August 31 or a later date specified by the Board

#### 4.5. Criteria For Consideration Of Nominees

- (a) Recipients may only receive the Award once
- (b) Merit Award nominations should generally include, but not necessarily be limited to the following minimum criteria:
  - (i) a minimum of twelve (12) years distinguished service to the Association
  - (ii) a minimum of eight (8) years active service as an official (coach or umpire) or an administrator within the Association. It is highly desirable that the nominee be involved in the education, training and/or mentoring of other coaches and/or umpires, and/or have provided service of an exemplary nature; or
  - (iii) an equivalent length and range of support to the Association through its committees and other activities

#### 4.6. Determination Of A Recipient

- (a) The recipient shall be determined by a majority vote of those present at the next Board meeting after the close of nominations and eligible to vote
- (b) By virtue of their status in the Association, Life Members are excluded from being considered for this Award
- (c) Where the level of service is considered to be significantly lower than that provided by previous recipients, the nomination shall be rejected
- (d) Where the level of service has not been considered to be of a level to meet the definition for distinguished service the nomination shall be rejected

- (e) Where one or more members of the Board have been nominated for the Award, such members shall leave the meeting for the period where discussions of all nominees, and voting on the nomination(s), take place nor shall they receive any documentation relating to the nomination or the vote until after the presentation of the awards

#### **4.7. Endorsement**

It is the sole responsibility of the Board to determine suitability of nominations and make the decision on the granting, or otherwise, of the Award. There shall be no right of appeal.

#### **4.8. Award And Presentation**

- (a) Recipients of a Merit Award shall receive a framed certificate and medallion identifying the nature of the award, the recipient and when it was awarded
- (b) The presentation will be made at the annual presentation appropriate for the recipient, or in the absence of the recipient, at another time and place deemed suitable by the Board and the recipient