

MEMBER-FRIENDLY SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Why are we updating the Constitution?

Our current Constitution hasn't been updated since 2017 and no longer reflects:

- Modern surf lifesaving governance
- SLSA/SLNSW membership structures
- Online membership systems
- Contemporary governance and compliance expectations

The new Constitution brings the Club into full alignment with SLNSW, Hunter Branch, and NSW law.

KEY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 2026 CONSTITUTION

1. Alignment with SLNSW & Hunter Branch

The new Constitution embeds SLNSW and SLSA requirements, including governance, membership, and compliance obligations (2026 Constitution, Rule 6.1–6.3).

2. Updated Membership Categories

The old Constitution uses outdated categories such as *Cadet*, *Probationary*, *Past Active* (current Constitution, Rule 2.1).

The new Constitution adopts nationally recognised SLSA categories:

- Junior
- Active & Award
- Reserve Active
- Associate
- Life Member
- Long Service
- Community Member

(2026 Constitution, Rule 8.2)

3. Modern Membership Processes

The old Constitution requires paper forms and committee approval (current Constitution, Rule 2.3(d)–(g)).

The new Constitution mandates online applications via SurfGuard (2026 Constitution, Rule 8.3).

4. Streamlined Governance Structure

The current Constitution lists over 20 committee positions (current Constitution, Rule 3.3).

The new Constitution introduces a modern Director-based model:

- President
- Vice President
- Director of Administration
- Director of Finance
- Director of Lifesaving
- Director of Nippers
- Director of Education
- Public Officer

(2026 Constitution, Rule 18.2)

5. Updated Financial Year

Old Constitution: 1 July – 30 June (current Constitution, Rule 1.1 “Financial Year”).

New Constitution: Year ending 30 April (2026 Constitution, Definitions).

6. Clearer Meeting & Voting Rules

The new Constitution provides:

- 21-day notice for General Meetings
- Clear quorum rules
- Electronic attendance options (2026 Constitution, Rule 15.6)
- Updated voting eligibility requirements

7. Stronger Governance & Compliance

The new Constitution includes:

- Conflict-of-interest rules (2026 Constitution, Rule 21.6–21.8)
- Clear duties for Directors
- Modernised by-law provisions
- Protection of intellectual property (2026 Constitution, Rule 3(j) & Definitions)

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

- The Club's name, identity, and purpose
- Commitment to lifesaving, community service, and patrol excellence
- Life Members retain full voting rights

- Members continue to enjoy all current benefits

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MEMBERS?

- Clearer, more consistent day-to-day operations
- Easier membership processes
- Stronger governance and transparency
- Compliance with SLSNSW and NSW law
- Better eligibility for grants and partnerships

WHEN WILL THE VOTE OCCUR?

Saturday, 9 May 2026 at 5:00pm

Immediately prior to Presentation Night.

A 75% majority is required for adoption.

COMPARISON TABLE – CURRENT vs 2026 CONSTITUTION

Area	Current Constitution	2026 Constitution	Key Change
Membership Categories	11 categories including Cadet, Probationary, Past Active (Rule 2.1)	SLSA-aligned categories: Junior, Active & Award, Reserve Active, Associate, Life, Long Service, Community (Rule 8.2)	Modernised, nationally consistent
Membership Applications	Paper forms, nomination, committee approval (Rule 2.3)	Online via SurfGuard (Rule 8.3)	Fully digital
Committee Structure	20+ positions (Rule 3.3)	7-member Executive + Sub-Committees (Rule 18.2)	Streamlined governance
Financial Year	1 July – 30 June (Rule 1.1)	Year ending 30 April (Definitions)	Aligns with SLSNSW
Meeting Technology	Limited provisions (Rule 5.10)	Full electronic attendance & voting options (Rule 15.6)	Modern communication
Discipline & Grievances	Internal process (Rule 2.15–2.16)	Adopts SLSA Member Protection & Discipline Regulations (Rule 12)	Consistent with SLSA
By-laws	Committee-made (Rule 5.5)	Must align with SLSNSW/SLSA (Rule 25)	Stronger compliance
Voting Eligibility	Active, Reserve Active, Life (Rule 4.7)	Active & Award, Reserve Active, Life, Long Service with patrol/proficiency requirements (Rule 16.1)	Clearer, patrol-aligned