

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES – GUIDE

This guide seeks to identify the main changes proposed.

The constitution has not been amended but rewritten given the passage of time and the availability of more sophisticated models on which to base a new constitution. There are therefore many small changes, often simply reflecting modernisation, variations in expression or slightly differing processes.

While this guide has been developed in good faith, it does not claim to deal exhaustively with the issues. Accordingly, you should rely primarily on a reading of the draft constitution in forming your views.

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| <p>The constitution has a single concept of membership – essentially a person admitted and who pay fees.</p> <p>Administratively, a number of categories have been created, all implicitly with the same rights e.g. associate; life; competitive; student.</p> | <p>Create membership classes with differentiated rights.</p> <p>Voting rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary member. • Full life member. <p>No voting rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior members • Associate members • Honorary life members • Other categories as created by the Committee from time to time (including honorary life members). | <p>The draft Constitution provides for existing life members to be recognised as Full Life Members. Future life members would be categorised as honorary or full.</p> <p>There are many examples where temporary membership would be appropriate but are not provided for in the constitution and are made more difficult to manage administratively because of the current exclusive role of the AGM in setting fees for members. The current arrangements for LTR pose a risk for the organisation because Rowing Australia’s insurance policy cover only provides coverage from 1 month from contact with the Club. The course extends beyond that but some may be outside of the period-of-grace coverage from the beginning. This is dealt with under Associate membership</p> |

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| <p>The constitution provides for the election of a President, Treasurer and Secretary and 4 Committee members (i.e. 7).</p> | <p>President, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain, Vice-Captain and 4 other Committee members (9).</p> | <p>There is a high level of Club interest in directly electing the Captain and Vice-Captain, given their pivotal roles. This is the norm in rowing Clubs.</p> <p>A larger elected Committee is proposed but one which would be smaller than the current Committee of 15, comprising elected and appointed members. Greater differentiation could usefully be made between members and officials and greater recourse to sub-Committees.</p> <p>CRC has 6 office bearers (includes vice-president) and 3 ordinary members (i.e. 9 as proposed).</p> |

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| Quorum for AGMs and SGMs is 15% or 10, whichever is the lesser | Quorum of 15% or 15, whichever is the lesser. However, the quorum must be in person i.e. proxy voting does not count for quorums. | We are likely to have a club with around 100 voting members. In such circumstances 10 is a very low threshold and is significantly less than attendance at such meetings in recent years. Setting the number too low runs the risk of such meetings not reflecting the “will of the membership”. |
| Election of all Committee members even where there is a single candidate for a position | Where there is only one duly nominated candidate, the position would be filled without voting. | Equivalent constitutions (ACTRA and CRC) do not require such an election process. |
| No proxy voting at AGMs, Special General Meetings. | Allow proxy voting for AGMs and Special General Meetings. | Prohibiting proxy voting in the current constitution presumably was to encourage participation. However, it can be undemocratic as members are not always available for meetings but can reasonably expect to have a say. |
| The Committee can make unlimited appointments to the Committee. | The Committee’s powers be restricted to filling any vacant positions. | It is unusual for a committee to be able to extensively recast itself after the election has taken place. Most constitutions recognise the need to make replacements and to fill vacant positions but don’t allow for appointments where they are not first subject to election processes. |
| Committee Quorum currently 4 | Quorum of 5 | Small adjustment reflecting the proposed increased size of the Committee. CRC has a quorum of 5. The odd number is to avoid stalemates. |

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| Committee to meet at least quarterly. | Committee to meet at least 10 times a year. | Experience shows that effective governance requires monthly meetings. However, it would be too restrictive to reflect that in the Constitution. CRC requires at least 10 meetings a year and ACTRA 6. |
| Silent on Chair arrangements in the absence of the President | Allow president to appoint a chair. Where no chair has been appointed, to be elected at the time by the Committee. | Simple governance arrangement. For CRC, Deputy President assumes the Chair. If neither is present, the chair is elected. In practice one or the other would be available. |
| Silent on sub-committee powers and operation. | Define sub-committee powers and operations | Would cover voting; prevention of delegation of delegation; authority to act within the delegated authority; and other refinements. |
| Committee meetings require physical presence | Provide for decisions on paper or email but with the protection that it must be by consensus i.e. everyone must respond in the positive. | Constitutions in general do not deal with modern communications. While all decision-making must be within the bounds of good governance, less contentious issues should be able to be dealt with routinely by emails or on the paper to prevent the overload of monthly agendas. |

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| <p>Member fees set at the AGM. Other fees set by the Committee.</p> | <p>Set single fee at General Meetings for Ordinary members with competitive charges paid separately.</p> <p>The Committee to decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concessions including for students and pensioners; • Fees for temporary members • All other fees and charges <p>The annual membership is proposed to be set at \$350. However, see notes re additional fees and charges.</p> | <p>CRC has the Committee setting all fees and this would be an option. The question is whether making that leap may jeopardise a reform package. This is a middle course which provides significant flexibility to the Committee.</p> <p>The setting of membership at \$350 seeks to maintain the principles underlying the existing fee structure. At the time the fees of \$350 (students and associate members) and \$400 (competing members) were struck the additional cost of a competing member was probably around \$50. The base fee would include the Rowing Affiliation Fee of \$16.50.</p> <p>The intention of the Committee would be to pass on the existing ACTRA Rower Registration fee (for competitors) of \$65 for an adult so that the equivalent fee would be \$415.</p> <p>Any future changes in ACTRA fees would similarly be passed on. The Committee does not propose passing on the \$30 fee for students (the status quo) or the \$25 fee for coxswains and coaches (status quo).</p> |
| <p>The Constitution details duties of the Committee, President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer.</p> | <p>Potential for a better articulation.</p> | <p>Refinement only.</p> |