

Gazelles Netball Club

Marguerite Elbourne Life Membership Policy

Life membership is the highest honour awarded to members of Gazelles Netball Club (the Club) to acknowledge significant and long-term service provided in accordance with the Gazelles Values.

In nominating and electing life members it is important to remember that this award sits above all others and is to only be given to those who can be considered exceptional in the clubs history.

1. Eligibility Criteria

1.1 Life membership is awarded for significant and long-term service to the club. A life member must;

- Be over 18 years of age
- Be financial with the club
- Have always behaved in line with the "Gazelles Values"
- Have contributed in an exceptional manner to the Club.

1.2 There is no prescriptive definition of an exceptional contribution. Life Membership can be based on a combination of a wide variety of actions that constitute an exceptional contribution. Examples of contributions that may combine to constitute an exceptional contribution include, but are not exclusive to;

- Playing 500 games or more
- Holding an executive position with the club for 5 years or more
- Being a committee member with the club for 10 years or more
- Coaching for the club for 10 years or more
- Umpiring for the club for 10 years or more
- Making a significant financial contribution to the club, or multiple smaller contributions over an extended period
- Providing significant professional services to the club; i.e. website design or database management

2. Nomination Process

2.1 A potential life member must be nominated by a current member of Gazelles Netball Club. The nomination must be seconded by a member of the committee. Self-nomination, or nomination by an immediate family member, is not permitted.

2.2 Nominations are to be completed on the Life Membership Nomination Form at Attachment A. This form will be made available on the Gazelles netball club website and in hard copy on request from the Secretary.

2.3 A completed nomination form should be given to the Secretary of the club who will arrange for distribution to committee members.

2.4 Nominations must be circulated by the Secretary a minimum of one week before the committee meeting.

3. Voting and Induction

3.1 A maximum of one life member may be elected annually. In the event no eligible nominations are made no new life member will be inducted that year.

3.2 Nominations will be presented annually to the full committee for an anonymous vote. If the nominee is a committee member they may not vote.

3.3 Executive committee members can vote via proxy or in writing in advance of the meeting. Committee members must vote in person.

3.4 One nomination

A secret ballot will be conducted with committee members voting for or against the nominees' induction as a life member. To be successful the nomination must receive a 75% vote to the affirmative.

3.5 Multiple nominations

In the event that more than one life member is nominated, all nominations will be presented to the committee. Voting will take place in rounds.

3.5.1 Round 1

Each nomination will be considered individually for eligibility and the committee will vote to accept the nomination. Each committee member can vote individually for each nomination and may vote none, one or all nominations eligible. A nomination will be accepted if 75% of the committee vote to the affirmative. If a nomination fails to achieve 75% of the vote it is rejected by the committee. All nominations that receive more than 75% of the vote continue to round 2. If only one nomination receives 75% then this nomination is considered approved by the committee and nominee will receive the annual life membership.

3.5.2 Round 2

Each accepted nomination will be presented individually to the committee. Where possible the nominator, or their representative, will present their reasons to the committee. Committee members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the nominator.

Once each committee member is satisfied they have sufficient information to make a decision a secret ballot will take place. Committee members will rank the top 3 nominations in descending order. Votes will be weighted 3, 2, 1 (as per best and fairest voting). The nomination that receives the most points will be inducted as the annual life member for that year.

In the event that two nominations receive the same points, both nominations proceed to round 3.

3.5.3 Round 3

Each nomination will be considered by the executive committee. The executive committee will discuss the merits of each application. Each executive committee member will receive one vote. The nomination receiving the most votes will be inducted as the annual life member for that year.

4. Rejected Nominations

If a nomination is rejected the same nomination cannot be resubmitted. The nominee may be nominated the following year in accordance with the usual nomination process with a new nomination form. There is no appeals process for life membership decisions.

5. Life Member Privileges

5.1 Life members elected under this policy will receive;

- A presentation at the Summer netball presentation
- Their name on the Gazelles Honour Role, published on the Gazelles website
- Automatic Committee membership with full voting rights
- The opportunity to have a perpetual trophy named after them
- An item of personalised gazelles merchandise

5.2 Dependent on the clubs financial position, life members may also receive;

- A discount of up to 75% on the club portion of seasonal playing fees for current players; or
- A discount of up to 50% on the club portion of seasonal playing fees conferred onto a direct relative; or
- A discount of up to 50% on the club portion of seasonal playing fees conferred on any player who exhibits the "Gazelles values" in the form of a 'Future Life Member' scholarship.

5.3 The level of these financial discounts is to be determined annually, prior to the closing of registrations for the Winter Season. The level of the discount is to be determined by the executive committee and must receive 75% agreement.

5.4 These discounts are optional and the decision to accept or confer the discount can be made annually by each life member. Life members must notify the Treasurer if they wish to accept or confer the discount within two working days of the discount level being announced.

5.5 Recipients of all conferred life membership discounts must be nominated by the life member and approved by the Executive Committee.

5.6 All life members elected under this policy will receive the same discount level.

5.7 Life Members elected under any previous policy will continue to receive the benefits awarded to them under the previous policy.

6. Honorary Life Memberships

6.1 Honorary Life Membership can be awarded in the event that a club member passes away.

6.2 A potential Honorary Life Member can be nominated orally by an executive committee member. The other members of the executive committee must unanimously agree to the nomination.

6.3 There is no limit to the number of honorary life members that can be presented annually.

6.4 Honorary Life members will receive;

- Recognition at the Summer netball presentation
- Their name on the Gazelles Honour Role, published on the Gazelles website
- A perpetual trophy named after them

7. Revoking Life Membership

7.1 In the event that a life member behaves in a manner that will bring the club into disrepute, life membership can be revoked.

7.2 To revoke a life membership the executive committee must unanimously agree.

7.3 Revocation of life membership should be publicised as deemed appropriate by the executive committee for the situation.

8. Inaugural Life Members

8.1 In the first year after this policy comes into effect an exemption will be granted to clause 3.1. This exemption is in recognition of the accumulation of eligible life members over the history of the club yet to be recognised.

8.2 At the committee's discretion, multiple life memberships will be awarded in the inaugural year of the policy's implementation.

8.3 These life memberships will be assessed eligible based on clause 1 of this policy.

8.4 The nomination process will follow clause 2 of this policy.

8.5 Voting and induction will occur at a special general meeting and follow the processes outlined in clause 3 of this policy, with all accepted nominations per clause 3.5.1 inducted as life members.

8.6 Inaugural life members will receive the privileges outlined in clause 5 of this policy.

Gazelles Netball Club Life Membership Nomination			
Nominee			
Name:			
Current Club Position:			
Years of membership:			
Number of games played:			
Previous Club Positions:			
Previous Club Awards:			
Please describe how the nominee has exhibited the 'Gazelles Values':			
Please describe the nominee's contribution to the club:			
Please explain why you think the nominee deserves to be a life member:			
Nominator		Seconded	
Name:		Name:	
Club Position:		Club Position:	
Phone:		Phone:	
Email:		Email:	
Signature:		Signature:	

Attachment A: Gazelles Netball Club Life Membership Nomination

Date:		Date:	
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To be completed by club Secretary

Nominee is Financial:	
Nomination form details verified:	
Nomination accepted:	
Decision:	
Secretary signature:	
Date:	