
Notice of Motion

The following are motions to change the MWDBA Constitution, via Special Resolution, at the 2023 AGM.

A succession of MWDBA Boards (the "RSA") have voiced concerns that our current Constitution contains some uncertainties and flaws which require updating.

To address this, the current Board is recommending the attached proposed amendments to the Constitution for members to vote on at the AGM. In essence, these changes would ensure an equal voice and vote to each Club in the Association, via a Club Delegate, as well as an equal representation on the Board to each Club and Competition Committee. This is in line with the Constitutional set-ups recommended by the Australian Sports Commission.

If the motion for these amendments are carried by the current voting members at this AGM, the next step would be to amend the Constitution accordingly (ie draft the required wording for such an amended Constitution) and to enact that new Constitution at a Special General Meeting later in 2023.



MWDBA

MOTION 1: AMENDING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

CURRENT

- “Members” may attend, debate & vote at General Meetings.
- The definition of who is a “Member” is obscure and confusing, but at present we operate on the basis that any “financial” player, or their guardian, or a Life Member is a “Member”.
- Anecdotally, 95% of Members lack engagement and understanding of issues being discussed at Board level and General Meetings, making quorums and informed decisions a challenge.
- There is no guarantee that we get a balanced representation of our actual membership base in attendance at General Meetings, as opposed to special interest groups.

PROPOSED

- The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) constitution recommendation is that “Individual Members” (ie. players, guardians, Life Members and Affiliated Members) may attend & debate but have no voting rights at General Meetings.
- Instead, the MWDBA member Clubs (Forest, Pittwater, Seaside, Warringah & Manly Eagles) are the only voting members, via their chosen Delegate, each carrying a single vote.
- This means that each Club has an equal, active and informed voice in the direction of the Association. The ASC advocates this “one club, one vote” model, stating that “large member bodies should never be able to dominate the direction of an organisation”
- “Individual Members” who still wish to engage in and influence the direction of the Association would do so via their Club, by either petitioning or joining their Club Committee.

MOTION 2: AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE MWDBA BOARD

CURRENT

- The MWDBA Board consists of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 other Directors.
- “No more than 2 Directors shall have the Special Qualification with respect to each Competition Committee”: this wording is open to interpretation but implies that an equal Board representation was intended to be given to the sub-Committees formed to run State League, Minor League, Juniors and any other Competition Committee that the Board forms.
- The more recent formation of the Junior Reps Committee means that there can no longer be an even Board representation amongst the 6 Directors.
- Being elected via “popular vote” from “Members” means that the Board make-up suffers from the same potential flaws as all other current General Meeting decisions: there is no guarantee that the Members who are voting are informed and balanced.

PROPOSED

- The MWDBA Board would consist of one appointed Director from each existing Club (Forest, Pittwater, Seaside, Warringah and Manly Eagles) plus one appointed Director from each existing Competition Committee (Minor League, Juniors and Junior Reps)
- In addition, there would be one Board appointed Specialist Director in the role of Treasurer.
- Each Club and Competition Committee nominates their own appointed Director; they are not elected by Members at the General Meeting. Each nominee must be a current active representative on that Club’s or Competition’s committee.
- This means that each Club & Competition has an equal, active and informed voice on the Board, with a say in the direction of the Association.
- It also means that the Board is made up of experienced people, who have earned the right to represent their members.