**Member Recognition Policy**



***Reviewed and approved by SNSW Board***

***3rd April 2016***

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**1 Purpose**

1.1 This Policy sets out the criteria for conferring Softball NSW (SNSW) awards and honours including Life Membership, Annual Awards, induction into the SNSW Hall of Fame and Australian and NSW Sporting Honours. This Policy also recognises and links with the Softball Australia Limited (SAL) Member Recognition Policy and Procedures which covers SAL Hall of Fame, Annual Awards and Service Awards.

**2 SNSW Life Membership**

2.1 Life Membership is the highest honour that can be bestowed by NSW on an individual member for longstanding and valued service to Softball in NSW. Life Membership is awarded to any individual who has rendered at least ten years distinguished and meritorious service to Softball in a state capacity, and where such service is deemed to have an extremely positive impact and/or significantly assisted the advancement of Softball in NSW.

2.2 The SNSW General Manger will call for nominations for Life Membership from Affiliated Associations and SNSW Directors prior to a SNSW Annual General Meeting.

2.3 Nominations will:

2.3.1 Be lodged with the SNSW GM at least 8 weeks (56 days) prior to the SNSW AGM.

2.3.2 Be in writing.

2.3.3 Contain a comprehensive resume outlining the nominee's history of distinguished service to Softball in NSW, together with comments on their suitability for this honour.

2.3.4 Be considered by a Committee of three (3) members which are appointed by the SNSW Board. The committee will consist of a SNSW Representative, a SNSW Life Member and the proposing Affiliate/SNSW Board Member. One of whom shall be appointed to the Chair by the SNSW Board.

The Committee will discuss the nomination(s) received and make recommendations to the AGM.

2.4 Distinguished and meritorious service to SNSW is one which:

2.4.1 Occurs over a significant period of time (at least ten years).

2.4.2 Results in the organisation and sport being substantially, demonstrably and positively impacted by that contribution.

2.4.3 Requires substantial and commendable personal input.

2.4.4 Contributes positively to the reputation and standing of the organisation and the sport.

2.5 In accordance with the *SNSW Constitution Rule 5.2*, any individual who satisfies the criteria for Life Membership as outlined in this Policy and subject to Rule 5.2(d) on the recommendation of the committee appointed, may be elected as a Life Member by a Resolution passed by three quarters of members present and entitled to vote on the motion at the AGM.

2.6 Upon Life Membership being conferred on a person, the person's details shall be entered in the Register. A person shall become a Life Member from the time their life membership is formally announced.

2.7 In keeping with the significance of the honour, Life Members will be presented with the SNSW Life Membership insignia and will receive the privileges and benefits set out in the SNSW Constitution. In addition to those privileges and benefits, a Life Member will receive free entry to all SNSW events for life.

**3 SNSW Hall of Fame**

3.1 SNSW may confer an award, to be known as the Softball NSW Hall of Fame Award, upon a player or an official who has made an outstanding contribution to Softball in NSW through their participation in the NSW Open Representative Team or National Championships.  Such player/official shall have displayed exemplary behaviour as a member of Softball NSW both within and outside the team environment.

3.2 All nominations for a Softball NSW Hall of Fame Award shall be submitted in writing and reviewed by the Hall of Fame Panel. This Panel will provide a recommendation to the SNSW Board for approval to the Hall of Fame.

3.3 The SNSW Hall of Fame Panel is appointed by the SNSW Board and will consist of current SNSW Life Members and the SNSW General Manager.

3.4 Nominations will be received and reviewed at any time.

3.5 Each nomination shall be signed by the Nominor, countersigned by a Seconder and accompanied by a full and accurate resume of the player/official’s contribution.

3.6 Nominations for the Hall of Fame may be made by

* an Affiliate
* the SNSW Board
* the Hall of Fame Panel

3.7 The announcement of the successful nominees and the presentation of their award shall be made at the discretion of the SNSW Board.

3.8 Criteria

To qualify for consideration for the Hall of Fame Award a player/official must have:

Player

1. retired from participation at Open National Championships for a minimum of four years
2. represented NSW for a minimum of eight (8) National Open Championships
3. made an outstanding contribution to the team’s performance by playing a key role for much of that time and performed at a level higher than average.

Official

1. retired from participation at National Championships for a minimum of

four years

1. represented NSW as an official for a minimum of eight (8) National Championships.

Other contributing factors may be

1. Australian representation
2. Award/s received at National Championships.

*Note: To assess a player/official’s contribution, reference to statistics from National Championships should be made.*

3.9 Special Circumstances

Consideration may be given to nominations that may not fulfil – in strictest terms - the criteria previously detailed.

Such special circumstances may include, but is not limited to, consideration of athletes who:

i) Have not retired but who continually make an outstanding contribution to the team’s performance representing NSW at the open level for a minimum of ten years; or

ii) have retired from national representation but continue to represent NSW; or

iii) retired from national representation before retiring from NSW representation. (This is to provide the opportunity for eligible athletes, in most cases, to become a member of the SNSW Hall of Fame before the SAL Hall of Fame).

The Hall of Fame Panel may submit those nominations (with full details) which in its opinion fall into this category. Endorsement will be at the discretion of the SNSW Board always maintaining the criteria of “outstanding contribution”.

**4 SNSW ANNUAL AWARDS**

The SNSW Annual Awards will be presented at the Annual Dinner in September and the State Team Dinner in December of each year.

4.1 SNSW Annual Awards recognise players, officials, administrators, associations and clubs who have made contributions to Softball in NSW during the previous 12 month period.

4.2 Associations and Clubs are invited to nominate Clubs for the SNSW Club of the Year Award. This is to be done in writing on the **SNSW Club of the Year Nomination Form** at least one (1) month prior to the AGM and submitted to the SNSW Office.

4.3 All other award winners are nominated and determined by SNSW.

**5 NSW SPORT AWARDS**

SNSW General Manager and the Board will determine if SNSW nominees will be provided for NSW Sport Awards such as those with the NSW Sports Federation, the NSW Sporting Hall of Fame and any other recognition awards as determined by the SNSW GM and Board.

**6 SAL MEMBER RECOGNITION**

In accordance with the SAL Member Recognition Policy and Procedures, SNSW General Manager and the Board will determine if SNSW nominees will be provided for consideration for the SAL Life Membership, Hall of Fame, Annual Awards and Service Awards.

**7 AUSTRALIAN HONOURS**

7.1 Australia has a system of honours and awards so its citizens can be recognised for excellence, achievement and meritorious service. One award, the Australian Sports Medal, acknowledges those Australians who, in different ways, contribute to the nation's sporting success.

7.2 Anyone can nominate an Australian citizen for Australian honours. The SNSW Board will:

7.2.1 Encourage and support (where appropriate) the nomination of individual members for Australian Honours.

7.2.2 From time to time, nominate individual members for Australian Honours.

7.3 Each recipient of an Australian Honour will be recognised by SNSW in ways deemed appropriate in keeping with the significance of the honour.

**8 SNSW REPRESENTATIVE RECOGNITION**

All NSW Open Representatives will be allocated a playing cap number which they will retain forever. This will be presented, with a certificate, at the annual State Team Dinner in December.