

## **Forster Triathlon Club – Life Membership Procedure**

### **General principles to consider in granting Life Membership**

The granting of Life Membership is a great honour and should not be treated lightly. On average, one or less Life Memberships are likely to be able to be awarded each year.

The club recognises that exceptional circumstances may arise, when two worthy recipients are eligible. It will be then at the discretion of the Executive Committee how many awards are given.

It should also be recognised that Life Membership does not have to be awarded each year.

Life Membership should not be considered as a competitive matter and nominees must be considered individually and on their personal attributes and achievements and not in comparison with others. While it is inevitable that comparisons will be made for example against the types of achievements of past recipients, direct comparisons should not be made.

Granting Life Membership is a balancing exercise. Criteria are provided for guidance, but it is the overall contribution of the nominee that must be evaluated. There is necessarily some subjectivity in the granting of Life Membership. Nominees' strengths against the various criteria will vary. Some nominees will be extremely strong in some criteria but weaker against others, others will be more rounded.

Life Membership is reserved for those whose contribution goes beyond the ordinary for an extended period of time, not just a few years.

The Life Member Selection Sub-Committee must decide whether or not to recommend the nominee Life Membership and provide its decision to the Executive Committee via the President within three months of receipt of the nomination by the Chairperson. The Sub-Committee must provide a statement of reasons for the decision. The decision may address any other relevant aspects of the proposed Life Membership (eg method and timing of its granting and announcement).

The Executive Committee will consider the recommendation at its next meeting. Should the Executive Committee adopt the recommendation of the Sub-Committee it will make the necessary arrangements to allow the recommendation to be voted upon at the next Annual General meeting of the Club.

If the nominee is a member of the parties considering the nomination (ie on either the Sub-Committee or the Executive Committee), the nominee is to stand aside from deliberations and decision-making. If the nominee is on the Sub-committee, the remaining Sub-Committee members must co-opt another suitable member.

## **Criteria**

To have contributed to the Club to the degree necessary for Life Membership, a nominee will almost necessarily have been a Member and involved for a significant time. While there is no 'minimum' period of membership, a period of 10 years' active membership is an indicator of a long term commitment.

Be a good role model: A member that sets a good example in fair play, decorum, presentation and communication, plus displays compassion & understanding of other member's needs.

A member that is currently or has been a servant of the Club in at least 2 of the following areas for a combined period of at least 7 years:

1. Member of the Executive Committee / Club Administration
2. Competition – Ongoing excellence at local, state, national and/or international level or on-going performances as a role model that encourage and inspire others to participate.
3. Support – Other activities that contribute to the advancement of the club and positively promote the sport of Triathlon to the broader community.

Outstanding ambassador for the Club as an athlete or as a representative: Includes racing in or wearing FTC colours when competing or representing the Club in the Triathlon community intra & interstate.

## **Important Note**

These points apply in whatever role the nominee has participated in during their service in the Triathlon Club (on or off the field). Achieving the minimum service levels will not in any way automatically guarantee the award of Life Membership.

## **Life Member Selection Sub-Committee (LMSSC)**

The Executive Committee will establish the Life Member Selection Sub-Committee (LMSSC) at least 3 months before the AGM. The LMSSC is to comprise the Vice-President, 1 current active life member and 1 active club member.

The LMSSC must consider the nomination against the Life Membership criteria in light of the general principles. Each nomination must be considered on its merits. In considering the nomination, members of the LMSSC are not to be influenced by any personal relationship with the nominee and are not to make direct comparisons with other Life Members, nominees or persons not nominated. The LMSSC may request additional information from the nominator if that would assist its deliberations.

The terms of reference of this LMSSC shall be:

- The Vice-President will be the Chairperson of the LMSSC
- Call for, accept and secure nominations from the membership of FTC
- Maintain confidentiality of nominees

- Evaluate and reduce the listed nominees to those considered worthy of recommendation to the Executive Committee for Life Membership
- Make a written confidential recommendation for endorsement by the Executive Committee via the President with rationale for the recommendation

### **Process for nomination**

The LMSSC will call for Life Member nominations via the Club Website, Facebook site and via email from the club membership

Any financial member wishing to make a nomination is to contact the Chairperson of the LMSSC via email, outlining the reasons for their nomination ensuring they use the following format:

- Supply a testimonial that outlines a brief biography of their nominee
- Indicate the level of personal sacrifice the nominee has made to FTC
- The level of involvement they believe the nominee contributed to the various nomination benchmarks shown above
- Any specific examples of extemporary contribution/s that make the nominee stand out.
- The number of membership years (if known)

The LMSSC must provide a statement of reasons for the decision. The decision may address any other relevant aspects of the proposed Life Membership (eg method and timing of its granting and announcement). There will be no requirement of the LMSSC to justify any of their decisions to the nominator/s and the nominators will also be required to maintain nominee confidentiality.

At all times members are asked to respect the decisions of their peers who will, at all times strive to have the best interests of the Club and all members at heart.