

A Member's Guide to the 2026 Constitution and Regulations

Bronte Surf Life Saving Club *Prepared to accompany the draft Constitution and Regulations – 2026*

Why you are receiving this

The Club is putting a refreshed **Constitution** and a refreshed set of **Regulations** to members for adoption at the 2026 Annual General Meeting. These are the documents that set out how Bronte SLSC is governed – who can be a member, who can vote, how the Board is elected, and how the Club runs day to day.

This guide is a short, plain-language companion. It explains why the review happened, the principles that guided it, and the handful of points members most often ask about. You do not need to read the full legal documents end to end. This guide will point you to the specific sections worth a look if a particular topic interests you.

The short version: these are sensible, modernising changes. They bring our Club into line with the current Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) standard, tidy up rules that had drifted out of date, and make a few practical improvements. They are low risk, and they strengthen the Club.

Why we reviewed the documents

Our previous Constitution dated from 2014 and the Regulations from 2019. In that time the SLSNSW model documents have been updated, the way the Club operates has evolved, and some provisions had simply fallen out of step with practice. A review was overdue.

The Board established a Constitution Review Committee, chaired by Matt Kuppe, which worked through every issue, took advice from legal counsel, and brought each decision back to the Board. The Board considered all of the constitutional items across two meetings and **endorsed every one of them unanimously**.

The principles that guided the review

Four principles shaped every decision:

1. **Align to the SLSNSW standard.** We started from the current SLSNSW Club Constitution Template and used it as the default. This keeps us consistent with the wider movement and means our rules rest on a well-tested foundation.
2. **Customise only where Bronte needs it.** We departed from the standard template only where there was a clear, deliberate reason specific to our Club. Everything else follows the proven model.

3. **An open, community-oriented surf club with a clear lifesaving mission.** The Club exists to keep people safe in the water and to serve the Bronte community. The documents are written to support that mission and to welcome people in, not to put up barriers.
 4. **Volunteering is the cornerstone of membership.** The rights and recognition that come with membership flow from contribution and service to the Club. That principle is reflected throughout, particularly in who is entitled to vote.
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The points members ask about most

You do not need to worry about the detail of these changes – they have all been carefully considered. The notes below are simply here so you can understand the thinking, and look at the relevant section yourself if you wish.

Membership categories are clearer and more inclusive

The new structure follows the SLSNSW model of five general categories with sub-categories under each. It keeps the familiar categories and adds a small number that recognise the different ways people contribute. A notable addition is the **Award Member** category, which creates a path for valued volunteers who hold a qualifying SLISA award but do not hold a Bronze Medallion. Award Members patrol and record hours in the same way as other patrolling Members – the distinguishing feature is the award held, not whether they patrol.

If you want the detail: Constitution rule 8, and Regulations Part 1.

Voting rights reward genuine contribution

Voting at General Meetings is reserved for the membership categories that reflect active service to the Club – our patrolling members, those who have given long service, and those recognised for their contribution. This is consistent with the volunteering principle above. The changes make the voting categories clearer than before.

If you want the detail: Constitution rules 8.3 and 16, and Regulations 1.9.

A clear, fixed Board structure

The Board is made up of eight named Director roles, elected each year. At least four Directors must hold (or have held) a Bronze Medallion, which keeps lifesaving experience at the centre of how the Club is governed.

If you want the detail: Constitution rule 18, and Regulations Part 2.

Sensible limits on how long a Director can serve

To bring fresh ideas and perspectives through the Board, a Director can serve up to nine years before a break is required. Importantly, this only counts service from when the new Constitution starts – nobody's past service is held against them – and there is a practical safety valve if no one nominates for a role.

If you want the detail: Constitution rule 18.7.

Disputes follow the established SLSA process

The Club now relies on the well-established Surf Life Saving Australia grievance and discipline processes. These are professionally run, consistent across the movement, and protect members' rights.

If you want the detail: Constitution rule 12, and Regulations Part 8.

Modernised financial governance

The documents update the Club's financial governance to match current practice, with the protections you would expect: an annual independent audit, financial reporting to members at the AGM, and the legal duties that apply to all charity directors. These safeguards remain firmly in place.

If you want the detail: Constitution rules 26 to 29.

What is not changing

- The Club's purpose and lifesaving mission are unchanged.
 - Your membership continues automatically – you do not need to re-apply because of these changes.
 - Existing Life Members remain Life Members.
 - The day-to-day experience of being a member of Bronte SLSC is unaffected.
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How to read the documents

You have been sent two documents:

- **The Constitution** – the Club's primary governing document.
- **The Regulations** – the operational detail that sits beneath the Constitution.

You are welcome to read both in full, but you do not have to. Most members will find it enough to read this guide and then look only at the specific sections that interest them, using the pointers above.

Voting at the AGM

These documents will be put to members at the 2026 Annual General Meeting. Adopting the new Constitution requires a **special resolution** – that is, support from 75% of the votes cast. We encourage every eligible member to attend and vote.

If you have a question about any part of the review, please contact me directly.

Matt Kuppe, Chair, Constitution Review Committee – 2026. Prepared on behalf of the Bronte SLSC Board of Management.