

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS COMPARISONS OF OLD & NEW CONSTITUTIONS THE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF NSW INC.

Proposed Constitution (2026) – Member Explainer

What's changing, and why it matters

The Club is proposing to adopt a modernised Constitution based on the **NSW Model Constitution (Associations Incorporation Act 2009)**. This update ensures the Club remains compliant with current legislation, DOGS NSW requirements, and contemporary governance standards. Below is a simple overview of the key changes.

1. Why a new Constitution?

- The Club's current Constitution was written in 1997 under the old Associations Incorporation Act 1984.
- NSW law changed in 2009, and the Club must update its governing document to remain compliant.
- The new Constitution aligns with:
 - NSW Fair Trading requirements
 - DOGS NSW affiliation rules
 - Modern expectations for transparency, technology use, and member rights

2. What stays the same?

- The Club's aims and objects remain unchanged.
- Membership still requires approval by members (75% vote).
- The Club continues to operate as a not-for-profit organisation.
- Committee structure remains similar (President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members).

3. What's new or improved?

Modern legal compliance

- Updated to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.
- Clearer definitions, responsibilities, and reporting obligations.

Membership administration

- Membership categories simplified (Single, Dual, Junior, Life, Financial, Lapsed).
- Junior membership now 12–18 years (previously 7–18).
- Electronic applications and renewals permitted.
- Lapsed members must reapply and pay a rejoining fee.

Committee governance

- Committee expanded to 12 members.
- Office Bearers must be DOGS NSW members.
- Clear rules for conflicts of interest, vacancies, and conduct.
- Stronger accountability for handling Club records and documents.

Meetings & technology

- General Meetings and Committee Meetings may be held electronically or hybrid.
- Electronic attendance counts toward quorum.
- Technology permitted for secret ballots.

Elections

- Modernised voting options: postal, electronic, or combined.
- Clearer nomination timelines and ballot procedures.

Disciplinary & dispute processes

- Updated to use the Club's Code of Conduct and Complaints Policy.
- Committee may dismiss trivial or vexatious complaints.
- Appeals heard at a General Meeting via secret ballot.

Financial reporting

- Treasurer must lodge:
 - Audited financial statements
 - DOGS NSW Annual Report
 - NSW Fair Trading Tier 2 Annual Summary
- Clearer rules for managing funds and Club property.

Additional roles

- Updated duties for Publicity Officer, Show Secretary, and Judges.
- Alignment with Dogs Australia (ANKC) requirements.

4. What does this mean for members?

- A Constitution that reflects current law, modern Club operations, and DOGS NSW expectations.
- Clearer processes, fewer ambiguities, and stronger protections for members.
- More accessible meetings and voting options.
- A governance framework that supports the Club's long-term stability.

5. What members are being asked to do?

At the General Meeting on Wednesday 7 October 2026, Members will be asked to vote on adopting the Proposed Constitution (2026). A 75% majority is required.

