



Proposed 2026 Constitution - Helping members understand what's changing and why

1. Why does the Club need a new Constitution?

The 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 with the current Act and Regulations. The new Constitution also aligns with DOGS NSW requirements and modern governance standards.

2. Does the new Constitution change the Club's aims or objects?

No. The aims and objects remain exactly the same, including promoting Schnauzers, supporting exhibitions, educating members, and maintaining affiliation with DOGS NSW.

3. Will my membership rights change?

Your core rights remain the same:

- You can attend General Meetings.
- You can vote (unless you are a Junior Member).
- You can nominate for Committee positions.

The new Constitution simply clarifies processes and modernises how membership is administered.

4. What are the changes to membership categories?

The categories are simplified:

- Single
- Dual
- Junior (12–18)
- Life
- Financial / Lapsed

The old categories “Family”, “Honorary”, and “Honorary Life” are removed because they are not part of the NSW Model Constitution and are rarely used.

5. Why is Junior membership now 12–18 instead of 7–18?

The NSW Model Constitution and most modern clubs define Junior membership from 12 years. This aligns the Club with contemporary standards and ensures Juniors can meaningfully participate.

6. How will membership applications be handled?

Applications still require:

- A signed form
- Two referees
- A 75% approval vote by members

The new Constitution allows electronic submission, making the process easier and faster.

7. What happens if I forget to renew my membership?

Under the new Constitution:

- If you miss the 30 June deadline, you become a Lapsed Member.
- Lapsed Members must reapply and pay a rejoining fee.

This ensures the membership register remains accurate and compliant with DOGS NSW requirements.

8. What changes are made to the Committee structure?

The Committee will consist of 12 members:

- President
- Two Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Seven Committee Members

Office Bearers must be DOGS NSW members, ensuring alignment with canine governance standards.

9. Are there changes to how elections are run?

Yes. The new Constitution allows:

- Electronic voting
- Postal voting
- Combined systems

This makes voting more accessible for members who cannot attend in person.

10. Can meetings be held online?

Yes. General Meetings and Committee Meetings may be held:

- In person
- Online
- Hybrid

Members attending electronically count toward quorum.

11. How does the disciplinary process change?

The new Constitution:

- Uses the Club's Code of Conduct and Complaints Policy
- Allows the Committee to dismiss trivial or vexatious complaints
- Requires a secret ballot for appeals
- Ensures clear timelines and fairness for all parties

This modernises the process and protects both members and the Club.

12. Are there changes to financial reporting?

No. The Treasurer still must lodge:

- Audited financial statements
- DOGS NSW Annual Report
- NSW Fair Trading Tier 2 Annual Summary

This ensures full compliance with NSW law and DOGS NSW affiliation requirements.

13. Does the new Constitution change how the Club can be dissolved?

No. It still requires an 80% vote of members. The only update is that NSW Fair Trading must approve the distribution of surplus assets, which is required under the 2009 Act.

14. Will these changes affect how shows or events are run?

No. Show rules, judges, and event processes remain unchanged. The Constitution simply modernises governance and administration.

15. What are members being asked to vote on?

Members are being asked to adopt the Proposed 2026 Constitution, which:

- Updates the Club to current NSW law
- Modernises governance
- Improves transparency
- Supports electronic communication and voting
- Strengthens compliance with DOGS NSW

A 75% majority is required for adoption.

