



POLICY ON LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life membership is the ultimate compliment Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa can bestow on a member.

Only members who have made an outstanding contribution to Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa can be considered for life membership. An out of the ordinary contribution is not in itself of great enough significance to warrant the honour.

The contribution must be significantly outstanding.

While Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa has paid officials, the game is basically administered/organised by voluntary workers from Executive Board level down, including at district and club level. It can be considered a voluntary organisation.

There are over 180 clubs, with an average of about 100 members per club, each with a committee of many members. There are also 11 districts. For this reason, there may be relatively regular calls for Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa life membership.

The number of life members of Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa should in no way affect any subsequent application for life membership. Each application should be considered solely on its merit and whether it meets the following criteria:

- exceptional contribution to Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa over a long period at International or national level and/or
- outstanding squash playing performances at international level.

The principal aim of Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa in preparing a format for life membership is:

1. to ensure no knee-jerk applications for life membership are made at an annual general meeting;
2. to ensure no embarrassment occurs to a nominee should an application not be accepted. To this end, confidentiality should be maintained throughout the process.

It will be accepted by Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa that when an application for life membership is received, the nominee is not aware he/she has been nominated.

The proposal:

- Must be in writing, directed to the Chief Executive, Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa
- Should contain, in chronological order, relevant details of the nominee's involvement with Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa in administration and competitive playing at national and international levels.

Selection Process:

Will be considered by a sub-committee of Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa established specifically for the purpose, consisting of a minimum of four people, including at least two of the chairperson, the Chief Executive or an appointee from the Board of Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa and up to two independents.

If the sub-committee deems the proposal to lack sufficient merit, it will be returned immediately to the nominee by the Chief Executive with an explanation.

If the proposal is deemed to have sufficient merit (meaning it is almost certain to be approved) it will be considered at the next Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa Board meeting, but not shown on the agenda i.e., 'General Business' is to be placed on the agenda for the meeting without any indication the life membership issue is to be considered.

At the Board meeting, the chairperson will advise at the appropriate time that a life membership proposal is to be considered 'in committee'. The proposal will then be considered by the meeting with media and public excluded.

If the decision of the Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa Board is not to accept the life member recommendation of the sub-committee, the application will be returned to the nominee by the Chief Executive with an explanation.

If Squash New Zealand Board Poipātū Aotearoa accepts the life member recommendation of the sub-committee, the matter should appear on the next annual general meeting agenda in the same manner as described above (i.e., without the name of the nominee appearing) and arrangements made for either the proposer or an appropriate person to speak to the proposal during the 'in committee' session.

If the nominee is present at the meeting, he/she could be asked to leave the meeting for whatever reason.

If the decision at the annual general meeting is not to accept the proposal, the person making the nomination will be advised accordingly and the matter kept 'in committee' - only those at the 'in committee' part of the meeting will be aware of the position, and they will be reminded that no part of the discussions can be made public.

If the nomination is approved, the meeting will return to 'open' meeting and the meeting will then decide that the matter discussed in the 'in committee' part of the meeting be made public. The person making the nomination should be formally advised of the decision by the Chief Executive.

If in the opinion of the Board the decision to make the nominee a life member is a foregone conclusion, the chairperson may consider it unnecessary to move the meeting into an 'in committee' session. In such circumstances the business should appear on the agenda under General Business.

The new life member will be advised immediately either verbally or in writing by either the Chair or Chief Executive. A presentation should be made to the new life member at the earliest convenient time.

Immediate steps should be taken to give the life membership decision as much publicity as possible.