

# Rowing South Australia Inc

Summary of proposed changes  
to Constitution

Club Forum

16 June 2016

*(Paraphrased / Current Thinking  
July 2021)*



# Why Change?

- Current Constitution is not aligned with contemporary Governance processes – including *democratic principles*.
- The RSA Board is striving for a Constitution that:
  - Is fair to all stakeholders
  - Fosters collaboration between Clubs and Schools

# Substantive Changes

*The 2016 “sticking points”*

- Members of the Association
- Categories of Members
- Voting rights
- Composition of the Board
- Ability to change the Constitution

# Members / Categories

- An Association of Clubs / Schools
  - *Not individual rowers*
  - *33 club / school members rather than 598*
- Member categories consolidated into:
  - Honorary Life Members – non-voting (17)
  - Foundation Life Members – voting (215)
  - Ordinary Members - voting (18 Clubs & 15 Schools)

# Members (Cont.)

- **Creates a structure:**

- *NSO* RA
- *SSO* RSA [RNSW/RV/RQ/RWA/RTAS/RACT]
  - RSA Members
    - Clubs & Schools  
(Rowers/Coaches/Umpires/Volunteers)
    - Honorary Life Members
    - Foundation Life Members
  - *‘Does this distance RSA from Rowers’?*
    - RSA key objective: “Promote Rowing in SA”
    - Rowers remain our reason for existence
    - Strategic plan focuses RSA on Rowers’ interests

# Voting Rights

- Australian Sports Commission:  
*'Reform in Sports Governance'*
- Options
  - One member one vote
  - Proportional voting
    - Club based weighted for size
  - Double Majority
    - Majority of clubs representing majority of members

# Voting Rights (Cont.)

- **Clubs as Members / Voting**
  - Clubs as members is consistent with many SSO's.
  - In most cases *"One C One V"* and in some cases a weighting of votes for size rather than double majority.

SSO	M=C	IM?	IM=R?	Basis of Vote
Cycling SA	Y	Y	N	OCOV
Swimming SA	Y	Y	N	OCOV
Golf SA	Y	Y	N	MOCOV (size weighted)
Athletics SA	Y	N	-	OCOV
Surf Life Saving SA	Y	N	-	OCOV
Gymnastics SA	Y	Y	N	OCOV
Rowing – other States	Y			Varied!

M=C	Members are Clubs
IM?	Do they have Individual Members?
IM=R?	Do Individual Members have any Rights?
OCOV	One Club One Vote
MOCOV	Modified One Club One Vote

# Composition of the Board

<b>Position</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Elected Secretary	1	0
Elected Directors – up to	6	6
Appointed Directors – up to	2	3
[Total]	[9]	[9]



# Changing Constitution






- 2016 proposed that a change needed to have been presented and discussed with the Board before being formally put
  - *Seen to be autocratic !*
- Not a deal breaker – revert to existing

***Let's move forward - 2021 !***



# *Matters to be address 2021*

## *“2016 Hurdles”*

- Process for changing the Constitution 
- Composition of the Board  +
  - Time frame for appointed directors
- Definition of a quorum  +
- President Role  +
- **Voting** 
  - Clubs / Schools
  - Life / Foundation members

(  = May need work but not deal breakers)

# Voting

## Australian Sports Commission alternatives

- One club one vote ?
  - *probably not appropriate*
- Double majority ?
  - *Most democratic*
  - *Hardest to understand and administer*
- Proportional voting ?
  - *A surrogate for Double majority*
  - *Most common in Australian SSO's*

*Could this be a beginning to the  
Voting Solution?*

*Model to be presented @ AGM*

# *Next Steps*

- *The new Board will determine a direction following 2021 AGM*
- *Potentially, the Board will consult, run forum, issue an information memorandum, consult further – (do what needs to be done)*
- *Potentially, the Board will call a Special General Meeting in the second half of calendar 2021 to address recommended changes to Constitution.*

***You will be consulted***

***Don't hold back***

