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PURPOSE

ATHRA's Rules of Association¹ provide for life membership of the Association to be awarded to Individual members who have "provided long standing meritorious services to the Association and who meet the criteria as set by the Association".

The purpose of this Policy document is to define the criteria to be met by an individual nominated for consideration and election as a Life Member.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all current members of the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association.

POLICY STATEMENT

As stated in ATHRA's Rules of Association, the opportunity exists for suitably qualified individuals to be elected as Life Members of the Association. The Association recognises the need for consistency and quality in terms of the criteria applied to the nomination and election of these individuals.

CRITERIA

1. A nominee for life membership must have been a member of ATHRA for a minimum of ten (10) years, in aggregate and not necessarily continuous. The nominated member may be a past member of the Association (ie not a member for the current year).
2. During this ten year period, the nominee must have served meritoriously at a regional, state or national level in an elected or Executive Board appointed position for a minimum of ten (10) years, in aggregate and not necessarily continuous.
3. Meritorious service includes but is not limited to: conduct and service which has merit, is deserving of reward, praise or gratitude, deserving commendation for thoroughness; honourable, praiseworthy, commendable, creditable, admirable, excellent, exemplary, outstanding.

Exemplary service at a Club level may be taken into account in the context of meritorious service on the proviso it has significantly influenced actions/initiatives at a national level.

The Board shall retain the discretionary power to accept a nominee for Life Membership where aspects of the criteria are not met, depending on the circumstances of each individual nominee.

¹ IMS-GU-008 Rules of Association

NOMINATION

Nominations for Life Membership must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and must include a testimonial of the achievements of the nominee based on the stated criteria.

The nomination must be made by either:

- the President, Secretary or Treasurer of an affiliated club acting on behalf of that club, or
- a current Executive Board member.

The nomination must be seconded by either:

- the President, Secretary or Treasurer acting on behalf of another affiliated club, or
- a current ATHRA Regional Manager, or
- a current Executive board member.

ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION

All nominations must first be accepted by a majority vote by the Executive Board before they can be put to a vote by the members of the Association.

In the event that more than two (2) nominations are received in any one year, the Executive Board is empowered to decide which of those shall be accepted, based on merit, and put to the ATHRA membership for election.

Where a nomination fails only because, if accepted, it would have exceeded the maximum of two Life Memberships being awarded in any one year, then that nomination shall carry over for consideration by the Executive Board in the following year.

ELECTION

The election of Life Members shall take place at the Association's Annual General Meeting. Life membership shall be deemed to have commenced on 1 January of the election year.

POLICY REVIEW AND CHANGE

This Policy shall be reviewed annually by the ATHRA Board of Directors and the review date and outcome recorded for future reference.