

**Remove “company membership” from Life Members & to retire the role of Honorary Vice Presidents**

As part of ongoing governance work, internal proposal to consult on the removal of “company membership” status from ‘Life Members’ and status of the ‘Honorary Vice Presidents’ role and a motion to enact.

Change intended to modernise and streamline the company’s governance framework, and if accepted would be proposed as a change to articles in a future General Meeting (e.g. 2027).

Also a need for life members to have clarity on their legal status and responsibilities – something that has previously been highlighted as a gap in understanding.

Intended to impact voting rights at general meetings only, for the principal reasons:

- Clarification of voting rights - ensure that voting rights at General Meetings are reserved for those with current, active roles in the governance and strategic direction of the company.
- Accountability and transparency - limiting company membership to those with defined responsibilities and accountability to strengthen its decision-making processes.
- Administrative simplification - removing legacy categories of membership to reduce complexity and supports a more efficient governance structure.
- Alignment with Strategic Priorities - change reflecting a shift towards a more inclusive and representative governance model, focused on active members and affiliated clubs.
- Life members can continue to attend AGM and receive relevant information, but they will no longer be eligible to vote on decisions.
- The ability to increase life members beyond current limit to reward dedication to service to the sport of Athletics in Wales.
- Remove the role of Vice President, a perceived of lack of role duty being highlighted and lack of clarity as to the purpose of the role.

**DECISION:**

Consult on the removal of “company membership” from two existing member categories:

- a) life members
- b) honorary vice presidents

**TIMELINE:**

To reference the change at this years AGM, removing the need to appoint vice presidents (there will be 2 vacancies).

We will consult with existing life members, regional councils, Board and General Council on the proposal and aim to complete any changes at the 2026 AGM.

**For reference:**

**Articles of Association** (as adopted 2023 AGM)

<https://www.welshathletics.org/en/page/corporate-documents>

3.5 Membership of the Company shall be open to the following:

- (1) A representative of every affiliated athletics Club
- (2) Members of the Board of Directors
- (3) A representative from each of the Regional Athletics Councils
- (4) The Honorary President
- (5) The Honorary Vice Presidents
- (6) Life Members of the Company
- (7) A representative of the Welsh Schools Athletic Association
- (8) Other individuals approved by the Board.

3.18 Life Member

- (1) The Annual General Meeting may recognise a person who has made a significant contribution to athletics in Wales by making that person a Life Member of the Company.
- (2) At any one time there shall be not more than fifteen Life Members.

21.4 The roles of the Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents shall be to represent the Company on appropriate occasions and on appropriate committees as determined by the Board from time to time.

1.16 “Honorary Vice President” means one of the two persons appointed as the Honorary Vice Presidents of the Company in accordance with Article 22.