

SFNL Life Membership, Outstanding Achievement and Distinguished Service Policy

SFNL Life Membership Policy:

This policy sets out the conditions applicable to the award of SFNL Life Membership.

SFNL Life Membership exists to recognise the outstanding service and contribution of individuals to the League, Australian Football and the greater SFNL community. Such service must embody recognisable achievement and the quantifiable advancement of the League during the nominee's period of involvement in the League.

SFNL Life Membership remains the ultimate reward bestowed by the League to a person for their service in the advancement of the goals, standing and the conduct of Australian Football in the League, as an affiliate of the AFL/AFL Victoria.

SFNL Life Members will have displayed integrity, sportsmanship and bipartisanship in their dealings and have demonstrated an overriding sense of League welfare and community spirit during their period of League involvement.

To be eligible for SFNL Life Membership, nominees must be assessed by the Board as being of good character.

No Member Club shall have more than one (1) nomination for SFNL Life Membership accepted for consideration by the Board in any one year.

The League Administration and/or SFNL Umpire Associations shall not submit more than one (1) nomination for SFNL Life Membership for consideration by the Board in any one year

No more than three (3) SFNL Life Memberships will be available for award by the Board in any one year.

The minimum eligibility criteria for a person to be awarded SFNL Life Membership, along with those of the subsidiary **SFNL Outstanding Achievement** and **SFNL Distinguished Service** recognition awards are outlined under their respective Qualification Criteria contained in this document.

SFNL Life Membership Policy Goals:

The goals of the SFNL Life Membership policy and qualification criteria include making SFNL Life Membership sufficiently difficult to obtain, such that its award is:

- Universally accepted and respected by all Members;
- Highly valued by recipients; and moreover
- Readily identifies recipients as outstanding, long-serving contributors to the growth, well-being and good standing of the League and of the game of Australian Football.

While remaining realistically achievable, SFNL Life Membership should only be awarded to those persons who have recognisably advanced the standing, operating environment and/or sustainable scope of the League.

In so doing, a SFNL Life Member will have advanced, or brought positive recognition to the game of Australian Football in communities associated with the League and where possible, beyond those geographic and/or cultural boundaries.

SFNL Life Membership General Consideration(s):

In considering the award of SFNL Life Membership nominee, the Board will need to evidence a demonstrated record of high quality service over a sustained period that has enhanced the standing and sustainability of the League.

The nominee's contribution to the League should be identifiable and/or quantifiably significant, such that their meeting of the Life Membership Qualification Criteria is beyond question.

Length of tenure as a non-official volunteer, honorary service person, or matches played and/or coached in the League, shall not, singularly or in isolation, necessarily qualify a person for Life Membership of the League.

Exclusions and Definitions:

Exclusions

- Salaried employees and contract personnel of the League;

Definitions

- The following roles, singularly or in combination, qualify as service or as significant contribution to the League:
 - Off-field Service - Board Member, Member Club Committee or Board Member (Club Administrator), Director of Umpiring, President of the SFNL Umpires Association, Chairperson or Member of the League Independent Tribunal;

- On-field Service – Multiple Senior Grade League Best & Fairest Winner, Multiple Senior Grade League Premiership Coach, Multiple Interleague Representative Player and/or Coach, or as a SFNL Umpire.
- Honorarium - An amount of less than \$10,000 per annum (*\$ amount to be reviewed three yearly in line with CPI increases*) in recognition of services provided to the League. Persons in receipt of an honorarium are not considered to be salaried employees or contract personnel of the League for the purpose of eligibility for the award of SFNL Life Membership.
- Gated Matches – League Home and Away Fixture matches, or other League matches, e.g. Representative Football Matches conducted at a venue that is ‘Gated’ for the purpose of charging an Admittance Fee for entry to the venue by spectators, and/or other persons who are non-participants in the official match-day itinerary.

SFNL Life Membership Qualification Criteria:

The following criteria shall apply to assessment by the Board of nominations for SFNL Life Membership:

- Minimum 10 years of outstanding service and contribution (as distinct from service only) to the League as a Board Member, continuous or broken, provided the period of broken service is for an acceptable reason and has not been of an undue/prolonged period;
- Outstanding representation of the League and furtherance of the League’s standing to the AFL/AFL Victoria, Local, State and/or Federal Governments, the media and other key community stakeholders of the SFNL in the capacity as a League Board Member and/or Member Club Committee Member over a minimum period of 10 years;
- Outstanding representation of the League and furtherance of the League’s standing in the broader, non-football community, including schools, registered charities and other local/regional community organisations dedicated to community health and welfare, including, but not limited to the elderly, disadvantaged, disabled and marginalised, in the capacity as a League Board Member or Member Club Committee Member over a minimum period of 10 years; and
- Outstanding service to the League and/or the game of Australian Football over a minimum period of 10 years, whereby the services rendered have resulted in significantly quantifiable increases in participation of the League, improvements to the League’s standing, its environs and the sustainability of the League and its Member Clubs to the benefit of its participants and volunteers.

Benefits of Life Membership:

- Eligibility to vote at League Annual General Meeting, provided the Life Member is a current member of a Member Club;
- Free admittance to any Gated League matches;
- Free admittance to League Finals Series; and
- No charge invitation to League annual Hall of Fame event.

Procedure for Awarding Life Membership, Outstanding Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award:

Refer to Rule 14 Associate Members of the Southern Football Netball League Statement of Rules and Southern Football Netball League By-Laws 29, 30 and 31.

Southern Football Netball League Achievement and Service Awards:

In revising and raising the threshold criteria for SFNL Life Membership, this Policy also details appropriate levels of League recognition for persons who have participated in the League with distinction and/or voluntarily contributed appreciable service(s) to the League and/or a member Club(s) over an extended period.

Recipients of the **Outstanding Achievement Award**, or the **Distinguished Service Award**, may separately be considered for SFNL Life Membership under that criteria, but award of either of an **Outstanding Achievement Award**, or a **Distinguished Service Award**, will not in itself, render a person qualified for SFNL Life Membership.

The eligibility criteria for each of the above awards are outlined below.

SFNL Outstanding Achievement Award

Eligibility Criteria:

- Two Senior Grade Best & Fairest Awards – SFNL Division 1;
- Two Senior Grade Premierships as Captain, Coach or Captain-Coach – SFNL Division 1;
- 200 Senior Grade matches, SFNL Division 1;
- Three Senior Grade Best & Fairest Awards – SFNL Divisions 2 or 3;
- Three Senior Grade Premierships as Captain, Coach or Captain-Coach – SFNL Divisions 2 or 3;
- 10 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 15 year period, as President of a Member Club;

- 15 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 20 year period, as an Executive Member (President, Secretary, Treasurer or a combination thereof) of a Member Club;
- 20 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 30 year period, as a Committee Member of a Member Club;
- 20 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 30 year period, as a Volunteer, e.g. Team Manager, Canteen Service, Trainer, etc., at a Member Club(s).

SFNL Distinguished Service Award

Eligibility Criteria:

- Combination of three Senior and Reserve Grade Premierships as Captain, Coach or Captain-Coach – SFNL Division 1;
- 250 Senior Grade matches, SFNL Divisions 2 or 3;
- Two Senior Grade Leading Goal Scorer Awards – SFNL Divisions 1;
- Three Senior Grade Leading Goal Scorer Awards – SFNL Divisions 2 or 3;
- 300 Reserve Grade matches or a combination of Senior Grade and Reserve Grade SFNL matches – SFNL Divisions 1, 2 or 3;
- Three Reserve Grade Best & Fairest Awards – SFNL Divisions 1, 2 or 3;
- Three Reserve Grade Leading Goal Scorer Awards – SFNL Divisions 1, 2 or 3;
- Three Reserve Grade Premierships as Captain, Coach or Captain-Coach – SFNL Divisions 1, 2 or 3;
- Combination of three Senior and Reserve Grade Premierships as Captain, Coach or Captain-Coach – SFNL Divisions 2 or 3;
- 7 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 15 year period, as President of a Member Club;
- 10 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 15 year period, as an Executive Member (President, Secretary, Treasurer or a combination thereof) of a Member Club;
- 15 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 30 year period, as a Committee Member (administrator) of a Member Club;
- 15 years or more of continuous service, or broken service over a 30 year period, as a Volunteer, e.g. Team Manager, Canteen Service, Trainer, etc., at a Member Club;