

Circular

Title: SLSSA Board Nominations 2024
Document ID: C24027
To: Club Presidents and Club Secretaries
Audience: Members
From: Damien Marangon, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 25 March 2024

As per the Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) Constitution nominations are invited from suitably qualified and experienced individuals to join the SLSSA Board.

Background

Vision

Zero preventable deaths in South Australian waters.

Mission

We save lives and build connected, inclusive communities.

Environment

Surf Life Saving SA is the peak organisation for water safety and lifesaving services in South Australia and is affiliated with Surf Life Saving Australia.

Surf Life Saving SA is responsible for the governance, development, promotion, and administration of surf lifesaving throughout South Australia and has the responsibility for servicing more than 9,000 members and 22 clubs.

Surf Life Saving SA has five (5) focus areas to its current strategic plan – (Saving Lives, Caring for Our People, Leading Organisational Governance, Building Connected Communities, Being Iconic).

Constitutional Requirements

The following extracts are from the SLSSA Constitution updated November 2023;

9.2 Composition of Board

(a) The Board will consist of at least seven (7) members, and no more than nine (9) members comprising:
Elected positions;

- (i) the State President;
- (ii) other members of SLSSA or any Club, two (2) of whom may be co-opted from outside SLSSA, appointed by resolution passed at a general meeting of State Council to be held no later than 31 May of each year. After 31 May 2025 any member elected who is a Club President, must immediately resign from their position as Club President, for their election to be ratified.

Appointed positions;

- (iii) Up to two (2) other appointed members, who may be co-opted from outside SLSSA, who may be appointed by the State President and/or Board with specific skill sets;
 - (iv) Appointed Directors may include current Club Presidents who are members of State Council appointed by the State President and/or Board with specific skill sets.
- (b) The Board will strive to be inclusive and ensure it is representative of the membership. Subject to provisions in this constitution the Board shall comprise of no more than sixty (60) per cent and no less than forty (40) per cent of Elected and Appointed Directors who identify as a particular gender.
- (c) The members of the Board will be the officers of SLSSA.

9.5 Nomination of Board Members

- (a) Nominations for Board Members will be called for by the Chief Executive Officer not less than fifty-six (56) days prior to the date set for the election of officers.
- (b) Nominations must be received by the Chief Executive Officer at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date set for the election of officers:
 - (i) in writing; and
 - (ii) signed by the nominee expressing their willingness to accept the position for which they are nominated,
- (c) Nominations will be reviewed and vetted by the Nominations Committee established under **clause 9.3(i)**.
- (d) All nominations will be sent to the Members of the State Council with the agenda for that meeting.
- (e) Recommendations from the Nominations Committee will be delivered to State Council either face to face or prior to the meeting as appropriate.

9.6 Term of Office of Board Members

- (a) Board Members will be elected for a term of two (2) years which will commence from the conclusion of the general meeting of the State Council at which the election occurred until the conclusion of the second general meeting when elections for Directors are held.
- (b) The maximum number of terms for a Director is five (5), or ten (10) years in total.
- (c) Three (3) Board Members and the President will be elected in each year of even number and three (3) Board Members will be elected in each year of odd number.
- (d) At each election of three (3) Board Members at least one (1) must identify as a different gender.
- (e) In the case of three (3) Board Members all identifying as one particular gender being elected in one year, the lowest ranked candidate under the SLSSA By-Laws will be replaced by the highest ranked candidate identifying as another gender.
- (f) When a Director is elected President, their number of terms re-starts.
- (g) Board Members will be eligible to stand for nomination and re-election at the conclusion of each term, as long as they have not reached the maximum number of terms.
- (h) Board Members reaching their maximum term of ten (10) years must have a 'cooling off' period of at least three years before re-nominating for the Board.
- (i) Any former senior staff, including the CEO and Managers, cannot nominate to be a member of the Board for at least three years from the date of the cessation of their employment.
- (j) The State President shall be a Board Member so long as they hold the position of State President.

Transitional Provisions

Sarah Cutbush was elected for a one-year term in May 2023, due to the passing of our President at the time, Kevin Watkins. The one-year term was to ensure we fall back in line with the requirements of the Constitution to elect a President every even year for a two-year term.

Current Status

State President Sarah Cutbush was elected in May 2023 for a one-year term as per the "Transitional Provisions" above. Seeking re-election.

Board Heather Thompson – elected in May 2023 for a term expiring May 2024. Seeking re-election.
 Craig Burton – elected in May 2022 for a term expiring in May 2024.
 Glen Scott – elected in May 2022 for a term expiring in May 2024. Seeking re-election.

Georgia Cornish – elected in May 2023 for a two-year term.
 Glen Gallagher – elected in May 2023 for a two-year term.
 Kevin Whelan – elected in May 2023 for a two-year term.

Sarah Brooks is an appointed Director.
Joel Perricone is an appointed Director.

Appointed Directors will hold office until the conclusion of the next meeting (State Council Meeting 29 May 2024) at which Board Members are to be elected following their appointment where they will be eligible to stand for nomination and election.

Nominations are being called to fill the State President (two-year term) and three (3) elected Board positions (two-year terms).

Organisational Context

Through the Office for Recreation and Sport & Racing (ORSR) and the Women in Sport Taskforce all sporting associations in South Australia that receive funding through Office for Recreation and Sport have and will come under the composition of 40% male, 40% female and 20% discretionary.

The ORSR is a primary funder of SLSSA and part of our funding obligations is to maintain a 40-40-20 board composition. There is strong evidence which highlights that gender balance in key decision-making roles increases the performance of boards. Accordingly, it is well understood improved governance and decision-making is associated with gender balance in key decision-making roles more broadly.

Most importantly our organisational membership is balanced and therefore so should be our key decision-making Boards and Committees at State and Club level.

Nominations Committee

The Board have established a Nominations Committee to review nominations for election to the Board and make recommendations to State Council as to the suitability of nominated Directors.

Application

Applications must be in writing by submitting a one-page cover letter and a copy of your resume (no more than four pages) in one PDF document. Your application must include areas where you can address key criteria of our strategic plan and outline your skills and expertise and how these would contribute to the effective operations of the Board.

These applications will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee and they may seek an interview or further information.

These applications will also be sent to the Members of the State Council with the Agenda for that meeting

All applications are to be emailed marked confidential, to the CEO of Surf Life Saving SA
damien@surflifesavingsa.com.au on or before **midday Monday 29 April 2024.**

Elections

Elections will occur at the State Council Meeting scheduled for 6pm 29 May 2024.