

Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld)

Proposed changes to the Constitution of Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld).

I propose that Rule 2.b. which Rule;

- b. Encourage Licensed Amateur Radio Operators and other persons to take an interest in emergency communications,

be amended to read;

- b. Encourage Licensed Amateur Radio Operators and other persons to take an interest in exploring, developing, expanding and enhancing amateur radio with a particular emphasis on emergency communications,

I propose to that Rule 4 (Illustration 1:) of the Constitution of Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld) be amended to read as follows;

Rule 4;

- a. The membership of the Association shall consist of the following classes of members:-
 - a.i. Ordinary Members.
 - a.ii. Associate Members.
 - a.iii. Life Members.
 - a.iv. Honorary Members.
- b. Any person, who is not a minor as defined in Section 17 of the [Law Reform Act 1995](#), and who holds an Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency as defined in the [Radiocommunications Act 1992](#) (the Act) or its successor/s and issued by the authorised regulatory authority within the Commonwealth of Australia; or an equivalent qualification recognised by the regulatory authority within the Commonwealth of Australia, may apply to the Association to become an Ordinary Member.
- c. The number of Ordinary Members is unlimited.
- d. An Ordinary Member is entitled to vote at any meeting of the Association.
- e. A person who is interested in radio communications may apply for Associate Membership of the Association who;

- e.i. Is a minor, as defined in Section 17 of the [Law Reform Act 1995](#), irrespective whether they do or do not hold an Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency as per Rule 4.b.
 - e.ii. Is not a minor as defined in Section 17 of the [Law Reform Act 1995](#) and who does not hold an Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency as per Rule 4.b.
- f. An Associate Member and Honorary Members may not vote on any motion at any meeting of the association.
- g. The number of Associate Members shall not exceed the number of Ordinary Members.
- h. The number of Life Members who may be appointed in any one financial year shall be limited to two, and to qualify for appointment, a person must have rendered outstanding service to the Association. Appointment to Life Membership shall be made pursuant to a recommendation of the Management Committee, subsequently ratified at a General Meeting by a majority of the members present. A Life Member, who holds an amateur operator's certificate of proficiency or equivalent, shall be entitled to vote at an Annual, or Extraordinary, or General Meeting of the Association.
- i. Honorary Members may be any person who volunteers to assist, or who is requested to do so by the Management Committee or by a member authorised by the Committee via an appropriate By-Rule. The Honorary Membership terminates when the person so appointed either ceases his or her duties with the Association or at the termination of the emergency or exercise.

The current Rule 4 of the Constitution;

CLASSES OF MEMBERS

4.
 - a. The membership of the Association shall consist of Ordinary members, and any of the following classes of members:-
 - a.i. Associate members.
 - a.ii. Life members.
 - a.iii. Honorary members.
 - b. The number of Ordinary members shall be unlimited and in the opinion of the Management Committee, shall
 - b.i. Have demonstrated competence in message handling,
And / Or
 - b.ii. Have a commitment to the objects of the Association.
 - c. The number of Associate members shall not exceed the number of Ordinary members, and may be any person who is interested in emergency communications.
 - d. Associate members are not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Association.
 - e. The number of Life members who may be appointed in any one financial year shall be limited to two, and to qualify for appointment, a member must have rendered outstanding service to the Association. Appointment to Life Membership shall be made pursuant to a recommendation of the Management Committee, subsequently ratified by a majority of members present and entitled to vote at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association.
 - f. Honorary members may be any person who volunteers to assist, or who is requested to do so, in any real or simulated emergency or exercise, and who, in the case of an operator, is in the opinion of the Net Controller, sufficiently trained in message handling. Honorary membership terminates when the person signs off with the Net Controller at the termination of the emergency or exercise.

Illustration 1: Current Rule 4 of the Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld)

I propose that Rule 11.a. which reads;

11.
 - a. The Management Committee of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer all of whom shall be members of the Association, and such number of other members as the members of the Association at any general meeting may from time to time elect or appoint.

be changed to read;

11.
 - a. The Management Committee of the Association shall consist of an Executive, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, of whom three shall be eligible to vote as per Rule 4, and such numbers of Non-Executive Members, of whom the majority shall be eligible to vote as per Rule 4, as the Members of the Association at any General Meeting may from time to time elect or appoint.

I propose that Rule 14.a. which reads;

14.
 - a. The Management Committee shall meet at least six times per annum to exercise its functions.

be changed to read;

14.
 - a. The Management Committee shall meet at least four times per annum to exercise its functions.

I propose that Rule 15.a which reads as follows;

15.
 - a. The Management Committee may delegate any of its powers to a sub-committee consisting of such members of the Association as the Management Committee thinks fit. Any subcommittee so formed shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Management Committee.

be changed to read;

15.
 - a. The Management Committee may delegate any of its powers to an individual member or members or to a sub-committee or sub-committees consisting of such members of the Association as the Management Committee thinks fit. Any individual/s or sub-committee/s so authorised shall exercise of the powers, so delegated, conforming to any conditions that may be imposed on it by the Management Committee either directly via instruction or via an appropriate By-Law, to make recommendations to the Management Committee. The Management Committee reserves the right to rescind such delegation/s at any time. The Management Committee may not be bound by the recommendations made by such individual/s or sub-committee/s.

Reasons for requesting the change;

1. In the current Constitution, Rule 2.b should be expanded to allow and encourage amateur operators not only to be interested in emergency communications but also to explore it to the full extent, including but not limited to developing and exploring new fields and techniques which may take emergency communications forward.
2. In the current Constitution, Rule 4.b only requires an applicant for full membership to be able to the skills in message passing and a commitment to the object of the Association. This Rule would allow the Association's membership to be made up of a majority of or entirely of non-amateurs. This would mean that the Association would not be legally able to make decisions relating to its network of repeaters, as such decisions would not be made by

individuals holding an amateur operator's certificate of proficiency issued by the authorised regulatory authority within the Commonwealth of Australia.

3. Rule 4.c allows non-amateurs to join with the view to encourage their interest and to encourage them toward obtaining their certificate of proficiency.
This rule should be designed to encourage non-amateurs to develop their skills. Under the current rule, the Association could see itself being made up of a core of non-amateurs members and a smaller group of amateurs with Associate Membership. If this were to occur then how would the radio network which, we own and operate, be managed. Those who could vote would not have the required skills as per the regulations and those with the skills would not have enough votes to deal with any issue associated with the network.
Our current membership is made up of 2 Life Members, 25 Ordinary Members and 8 Associate Members, if 8 Ordinary Member elect to take out Associate Membership, this will trigger a Constitutional crisis as our membership will breach Rule 4.c in that the number of Associate Members will be greater than the number of Ordinary Members.
4. The current Rule 4 does not give any guidance for processing membership applications from anyone who is a minor.
5. In Rule 4.k., there is a reference to a "Net Controller" which is a position that is not defined. As we can have a number of different roles, some can be defined, to those, the Management Committee may appoint a member or a group of members to do or undertake on behalf of the Committee, including that of "Network Controller", it would make such appointments and their powers easier to handle if they are defined in the By-Laws. Rule 4.k and 15.a can be reworded in a more flexible way. These changes allow the Management Committee to appoint members to various role including "Network Controller" without having such role defined in the Constitution.
6. The new Rule 11.a. is designed to ensure that the majority of the executive positions and the majority of the members of the Management Committee have the required technical qualifications as per the [*Radiocommunications Act 1992*](#) as stated in the new Rule 4.b.
7. The new Rule 14.a. sets the minimum number of meeting of the Management Committee at 4 instead of the current 6. The number of times the Management Committee must exceed 4 and may be unlimited as deemed necessary by the Management Committee for good governance of the Association.
8. The new Rule 15.a. allows the Management Committee to appoint individual/s and sub-committee/s to carry out various roles, functions and explorations on its behalf and still give the Committee the right to accept or reject the actions or recommendations provided to it by these individual/s or sub-committee/s.

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Until the above issues Rule been clarified by the members of the Association, I will not be accepting any membership renewals for 2017/18 financial year. I should point out that Rule 8.f states that a current members are financial up until 1st day of October 2017.

Your faithfully

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D. Longland
Treasurer Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld)
16/07/17