

Governance

Building a Constitution for the next generation

The Emerald Lakers Basketball Club has operated under its current Constitution since 1989. In that time, the Club has grown from a small community basketball club into a large volunteer-run organisation supporting hundreds of players, families, coaches and volunteers each season.

The existing Constitution has served the Club well, but many of its provisions no longer reflect how modern community sporting clubs operate or the expectations of current legislation.

The proposed Constitution uses the Consumer Affairs Victoria Model Rules as its foundation. Rather than writing an entirely new Constitution from scratch, the Committee has adapted the current Victorian model to reflect the way Emerald Lakers already operates today.

Many of the proposed changes simply modernise outdated terminology, remove references to obsolete practices such as common seals and cheque signatories, and introduce governance practices that are now standard across incorporated associations.

Key governance changes

Rule 2 – Purpose of the Club

The proposed Constitution formally includes the Club's Mission, Vision and Values.

Rather than focusing only on administration, the Constitution now explains why Emerald Lakers exists, what it aims to achieve and the values that guide decision-making. This gives future Committees a clear framework for making decisions on behalf of the Club.

Rule 3 – Financial year

The financial year now ends on 30 September, aligning it with the Club's basketball calendar. This better supports budgeting, financial reporting and planning around Summer registrations.

Rule 5 – Powers of the Club

The Constitution has been updated to recognise activities the Club already undertakes, including:

- fundraising and sponsorship
- accepting donations
- community and social events
- publishing information electronically

- recognising members through awards.

These are not new powers. They simply acknowledge how Emerald Lakers already operates as a modern community sporting club.

Rule 17 – Rights of members

The proposed Constitution provides a clearer summary of the rights available to members, making it easier to understand participation, access to information and voting entitlements.