

- (a) those persons who are eligible to apply to be so admitted; and
- (b) for all necessary rules of and incident to such persons.

16. Social Members of Sub-Branches

17.1 State Branch may make provision for the admission of social members of Sub-branches within its jurisdiction upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary.

17. General Provisions as to Membership

18.1 All Service and Life Members shall be of equal status in the League.

18.2 Company Members and all other members shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by the provisions of this Constitution and its By-laws.

18.3 For the purposes of this Constitution, the National Executive shall have jurisdiction over all Company Members and members but in addition state Branch shall have jurisdiction over a person who is also a member of that Branch or of a Sub-branch which is subject to the jurisdiction of that Branch.

18.4 Reserved

18.5 A Service or Life Member who is also a member of a Sub-branch shall not be eligible to be a member of another Sub-branch but may apply to be admitted as an Associate thereof. Such an application shall be lodged with the Secretary of that other Sub-branch and upon his being admitted, he shall be known as an Associate of that other Sub-branch. The annual subscription payable by an Associate to that other Sub-branch shall be the annual subscription payable by an Service Member to a Sub-branch less that proportion of each annual subscription referred to in Rule 27.

18.6 Subject to Rule 18.7 an Service or Life Member who is also an Associate within the meaning of Rule 18.4 shall be entitled to hold office, vote and speak at a meeting of not more that one Sub-branch.

18.7 An Service Member to whom Rule 18.5 applies shall:

- (a) Elect in writing the Sub-branch in which he wishes to be eligible to hold office, speak and vote;
- (b) Deliver such election to all the Sub-branches of which he is a member and Associate. and
- (c) Until he has complied with this Rule he shall only be entitled to hold office, vote and speak at the Sub-branch of which he is a member, and such election shall not be able to be revoked during the membership year in which it is made.

18.8 If the State Executive is satisfied special circumstances exist it may admit as an Service Member a person who has not served for a period of six months specified by Rule 12, provided such person is otherwise qualified to be admitted as an Service Member.

18.9 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Constitution, no person shall be admitted as member who is considered to be, in the interests of the League, not a fit and proper person to be a member.

18.10 *No person who is an Australian Citizen shall be admitted as an Service Member unless he has signed a declaration that he is prepared to swear or affirm (as the case may be) allegiance to Australia and its people, and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of*

Australia and the Constitution of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

If an applicant for Service Membership is not an Australian citizen, then unless he proves to the satisfaction of the League that by making a declaration required by Rule 18.10 he would or would be likely to lose his citizenship, he shall make such declaration, failing which, he shall not be admitted as an Service Member.

18.11 The By-laws may make provision for terms and conditions of membership (including applications for and resignations from) not otherwise provided for in this constitution.

18.12 State Branch is to maintain an Unattached List of Members and a Miscellaneous List of Members in accordance with the procedures set out in the By-laws. In addition, the League may also maintain either or both lists at National Headquarters.

Dispute and their Resolution

18.13 In Rules 19-23, procedures are laid down for the formal investigation of disciplinary matters and for the hearing of appeals arising from both administrative and disciplinary decisions. In many cases these actions arise from disputes between members and between officers and executives of the RSL and its members.

18.14 Sub-branches are encouraged to develop conciliation procedures to resolve disputes before they escalate to the point where formal action needs to be taken.

19. Disciplinary Powers of a Sub-Branch and Appeals Arising There-from

19.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 21 and 22, if the Committee of a Sub-Branch has reason to believe that a member may be guilty of conduct unbecoming a member it shall give not less than 14 days notice in writing to that member of the date, time and place of its meeting at which it will consider whether or not he has been guilty of such conduct.

19.2 The notice referred to in Rule 19.1 shall be accompanied by a statement in which there shall be set out full and precise particulars of the conduct of the member which will be considered by the Committee.

19.3 Either prior to or at the meeting of the Committee the member concerned may request it to elaborate upon any of the particulars set forth in the said statement. Such a request shall be complied with by the Committee. The said member may put to the Committee at the meeting such facts as he may consider relevant and shall be given every opportunity to address it.

19.4 The Committee shall decide at the meeting whether the member has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member. If it is satisfied he has been guilty of such conduct, it may resolve that he be placed on a warning to improve his conduct, or be reprimanded or be suspended from membership of the Sub-Branch for a period not exceeding 3 months, or it may resolve that the matter should be referred to the State Branch for its consideration pursuant to Rule 2 1.

19.5 The substance and decision of the meeting referred in Rule 19.4 shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Written notices, submissions and other correspondence relevant to the meeting shall be certified within 7 days after the meeting, by its Chairman, after conferring with the other members of the Committee.

19.6 The Secretary of the Sub-Branch shall notify the member in writing of the Committee's decision and his right of appeal within 14 days after the certification period referred to in Rule 19.5.