



Scouts Australia  
Western Australian Branch

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## Advice to Members

The purpose of this advice is to inform members of Branch Council about two important matters - the new Rules of Association and the selection of the new Branch Chief Commissioner.

## Proposed Rules of Association

The Rules of Association adopted at the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) last July were submitted to the Department of Commerce to be confirmed, as required by the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 WA. At about the same time, two members of Branch Council lodged complaints with the department.

The department has concluded its review of the complaints and has raised a number of procedural issues, the most significant being the length of valid notice for the Special Resolution under our Constitution, which fell just short of the required 30 days. As a consequence, the department was not prepared to process the new Rules of Association.

At its December meeting, the Board decided that the process to replace the existing Constitution with the new Rules of Association will be re-run with a view to presenting the matter to the members of Branch Council at a Special General Meeting (SGM) to be held at a time yet to be determined.

The proposed "2009" Rules of Association have been placed on the Scouts WA website (see link on the home page) for members' consideration. It is the same document adopted at the 2009 AGM. The Board would welcome any comments that members wish to make about the document. The Board has asked its Audit and Governance Committee (AGC) to consider two possible amendments to the document, as follows:

1. Provision for the appointment of the President and Vice-Presidents mid-term. At present such vacancies can only be filled at an AGM, which is inflexible and does not accommodate an office bearer's possible cessation of membership mid-term.
2. An alternative to designating the Branch Chief Commissioner as the Chief Executive Officer of the Branch, as proposed in the new Rules of Association. Such a designation brings a raft of responsibilities that might be deemed to be too onerous for a volunteer and may be discouraging individuals from applying for the role of Branch Chief Commissioner.

In order to facilitate processing responses, members are asked to email their comments to Les Farrant, Chairman, AGC at [lfarrant@scoutswa.com.au](mailto:lfarrant@scoutswa.com.au) by no later than 31 January 2010.



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Depending on the extent and nature of the feedback from members, it might be possible for the revisions to be presented to the 23 February 2010 Chief Commissioner's Council meeting and be signed-off by the Board at its 9 March meeting. If this is achieved, then a SGM will be called (ensuring that the required two months' notice is given) - an end May/early June date would be set. On the other hand, if it takes longer, it is likely that the matter would be held-over and presented to a SGM immediately prior to the 2010 AGM, which is to be held on 31 July 2010.

The "2010" proposed Rules of Association will be posted on the Scouts WA website, together with a detailed supporting explanatory document, as soon as the document is available. Any changes to the "2009" version will be specifically drawn to the attention of members.

### **Selection of new Branch Chief Commissioner**

Unfortunately the selection process did not deliver an adequate field or a suitable candidate. The Board has considered a report from the Selection Committee and has decided that the position should be re-advertised at the end of January 2010, after people return from the summer break. In the meantime, the Selection Committee is using networks both within and external to Scouting in an endeavour to identify suitable candidates and to encourage them to apply.

Any assistance that members might be able to provide in identifying suitable candidates would be appreciated greatly by the Selection Committee. A role statement, the selection criteria and some related information are available by contacting the Executive Officer, Martin Thomas at [mthomas@scoutswa.com.au](mailto:mthomas@scoutswa.com.au) or on 9480 4201.

For a confidential discussion about possible candidates that you have in mind or for further information, please contact the Chairman of the Selection Committee, David Young on 9384 0853, or if no answer, on 9840 9034.

The re-running of the process is expected to take three to four months from the end of January. Accordingly, the appointment of a Deputy Chief Commissioner to manage the uniformed operations of the Branch for up to three months from the end of February will be announced in the latter part of January 2010.

Yours in Scouting

Larry Lucas  
Chairman

Peter Walton  
Chief Commissioner

22 December 2009



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