MINUTES
AIF SWIMMING ASSOCIATION – GENERAL MEETING
Monday, 12 October 2026, 7.30pm via Zoom

PRESENT: Peter Bain (Wentworthville), Helen Little (Southport), Russ Crane, AO (Patron), Sean Henly (Wentworthville), Anita Hawtin (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley), Bob Kelsall (Manly Diggers), Michael McMahon (Coogee Randwick), Joanne Falla (Coogee Randwick), Andrew Madden (Grafton), Lauren Weatherman (Bronte), John Stanford (Southport)

APOLOGIES: Gavin Batcheler (Bondi Diggers & Bondi Junction Waverley)

The meeting opened at 7.37pm with Helen Little welcoming everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

The minutes of the general meeting held on 20 July 2026 were accepted as correct.

CORRESPONDENCE

Out:

- 9/9/26: The AIF affiliation form for 2026-27 was sent out to Clubs.

In:

- 10/8/26: John Stanford (Southport), input on amendment to Rule 3 – Definition of Service Swimmers.
- 27/8/26: Greg Davidson, Ballina – suggestion regarding volunteers for timekeepers at the carnivals such as year 12 students or a service club e.g. Lions, Rotary.

TREASURER'S REPORT - BOB KELSALL

- It was noted that as of 12 October 2026, the bank balance is $22,013.
- To date, 19 clubs are affiliated
- The annual finance summary has been submitted to the Department of Fair Trading.
- An application for sponsorship has been submitted to Bendigo Bank.

Helen advised that there will be additional costs this year for trophies, towels etc as the last bulk purchase was three years ago.

SERVICE SWIMMER DEFINITION
A draft motion will be prepared and circulated via email for voting and a Special General Meeting will be convened to consider and finalise amendments to Carnival Rule 3 and the AIF Swimming Association Constitution Clause 52.1.2.1 relating to the definition of service swimmer/s. Helen Little suggested the following definition:

> A Service Swimmer is a person who has served in the Australian Defence Force, including the Permanent Forces or Reserve Forces, or in the armed forces of another country.
>
> The swimmer's parent club shall be responsible for obtaining and verifying satisfactory evidence of qualifying military service and shall certify the swimmer's eligibility before submitting the certification and supporting evidence to the AIF Swimming Association.

Members agreed that the proposed definition is clear and appropriately places responsibility on clubs to verify supporting evidence and confirm eligibility.

It was noted that individuals who do not have immediate proof of service may be able to obtain verification through the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant, if required.

Helen Little thanked everyone for their contributions to the development of the definition.

Mick McMahon moved that a motion be prepared and circulated to Clubs to change the service swimmer/s definition in the Carnival Rules and Constitution, seconded by Bob Kelsall.

ACTION: Anita to circulate a motion regarding the service swimmer/s definition via email and request clubs to vote and/or attend a Special General Meeting.

MAJOR TROPHY PROJECT

- It was noted that the majority of clubs have submitted details of the major trophies they hold for inclusion on the AIF Swimming Association website. Information is still outstanding from the Cyclones and Southport clubs.
- It was agreed that discussion regarding a permanent trophy display will be deferred until all trophies have been returned to the *Meet & Greet* in Grafton.

Action:
The Sunshine Coast Cyclones and Southport are requested to send the information about major trophies as soon as possible.

2027 CARNIVAL UPDATE

Andrew Madden provided an update on progress with the 2027 carnival:

- Grafton has agreed to receive dinner payments directly. Their bank account details will be provided including the final cost for meals. Once received, the carnival entry form and due date will be finalised.
- Grafton will conduct a raffle at the pool and the AIF Swimming Association will run the raffle at the presentation function.
- Marshalling arrangements will include two heats behind the blocks, with remaining heats to be held in the tent adjacent to the pool.
- A bugler has been arranged for the carnival.
- Clubs were advised that grandstand seating is available for approximately 400 attendees. Limited grassed space is available for additional club marquees, with priority given to official carnival marquees. Any club marquees may be erected from 1pm on the Friday prior to the carnival. Clubs must consult venue staff before securing marquees with stakes.

Discussion was held regarding correspondence received about the potential use of Year 12 students or a service club to undertake timekeeping duties. It was noted that similar arrangements had been trialled unsuccessfully in previous years. Given the level of experience required for accurate race timekeeping, clubs will be briefed on their timekeeping responsibilities on the day.

Action:
Stephen Donnelly is liaising with Council regarding the provision of a sound system for the pool and will provide an update at the next meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The digitisation of the AIF Swimming Association programs was discussed. It was agreed that these programs form an important part of the Association's history and should be preserved. Peter advised that the NSW State Library may be able to assist with the digitisation and preservation process.

Action: Mick McMahon will investigate how we can digitise the programs.

Helen Little thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

Next Special General Meeting: Monday, 9 November 2026, 7.30pm, followed by a General Meeting (via Zoom).