

Major Differences in DVE Constitution from 2013 vs 2026

DVE Aquatic's constitution dates back to 2013. When it was accepted, there were fewer procedural requirements and it was less formal. Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) now require all associations to abide by a set of rules, which state how a club operates, its purpose and the rights and responsibilities of its members and office bearers. Essentially, DVE Aquatic's constitution is out of date and does not abide by CAV requirements. DVE Aquatic's purpose remains the same, to promote diving, swimming and water polo aquatic sports. Updating the constitution will ensure:

- Legal compliance
- Modern governance
- Better dispute-resolution processes
- Ability to use technology (e.g. Zoom)
- Proxy voting

Members will find attached DVE Aquatic's 2013 constitution and its proposed replacement. You are encouraged to read both documents, provide feedback via your relevant VP or other committee member and then vote on them at a special meeting to be convened on **27th April 2026**. Once approved, the new rules will be lodged with CAV and will become effective when CAV accept the document. If you have any further questions, I encourage you to speak to your VP or other committee members. The main differences between both documents are detailed below.

- Division 2 of the proposed constitution sets out clear processes when instigating disciplinary action with a member. Grounds for undertaking disciplinary action, the formation of a disciplinary committee and rights of appeal by a member who has been suspended or expelled.
- Division 3 of the proposed constitution deals with the grievance procedure. It details that parties must attempt to resolve the dispute, appointment of a mediator, the mediation process and time frames to adhere to. The current constitution is not detailed enough and relies on a single grievance officer. The proposed changes provide for more transparency.
- In Division 4, the proposed constitution includes conflict of interest considerations. If a member has an interest in what is being considered at the meeting, the member must not be present or vote on the matter being considered.
- In Part 4, it details that members may take part in a meeting by the use of technology. The current constitution does not detail this.
- In Part 6, the proposed constitution removes cheques as a payment option and includes electronic funds transfer. The requirement to have two committee members authorise transactions still remains.