



ONSWLOW JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED: ADOPTION OF NEW CONSTITUTION: Q&A

What's happening?

Onslow Junior Football Club Incorporated (the '**Club**') is proposing to adopt a new constitution at its upcoming AGM on 27 November 2025.

Why is the Club doing this?

In 2022, Parliament passed a new Incorporated Societies Act. The Act requires all existing incorporated societies to reregister under the Act if they want to retain their status as an incorporated society. To reregister, an incorporated society must adopt a new constitution which complies with the requirements of section 26 of the Act, which the Club's current constitution does not.

The Club's existing management committee has used the opportunity of having to adopt a new constitution to consider its existing structure, with the intention of streamlining governance while maintaining the operational flexibility the Club needs to deliver its junior football programme.

When does the Club need to do it by?

The Club needs to adopt a new constitution and reregister as an incorporated society before 5 April 2026. If the Club doesn't do so, the Club will cease to exist as an incorporated society on that date.

How does it affect me?

For most existing members, players, and volunteers of the Club, you shouldn't notice much difference in terms of how the Club is run on a day-to-day basis. However, it should now be clearer to all those involved in the Club who its members are, and what their rights are.

Key change: membership categories

We have refined the categories of membership of the Club.

The existing constitution of the Club is unclear and inconsistent about how membership is granted. To address this, the new constitution contemplates the following categories of member:

- Ordinary members, who are the parents or guardians who enrol a junior to play for the Club
- Executive committee members, operational committee members, and volunteer members (the Club's coaches and managers) who aren't otherwise ordinary members – because they weren't responsible for enrolling a junior to play for the Club
- Life members, who have been approved by the executive committee
- Junior members: the players themselves, who are the main reason for the Club's existence.

Being a member (other than a junior member) will entitle you to vote on key decisions affecting the Club's future (such as future amendments to the Club's constitution), and to vote on the appointment of the six elected members of the executive committee (see below).

Since the Act requires that a person must consent to becoming a member of an incorporated society, you may notice some changes to the Club's enrolment process and coach and manager onboarding process to facilitate the Club obtaining that consent.

Key change: governance structure

The new constitution proposes a change to the governance structure of the Club.

Rather than having most of the Club's operational roles sitting on the Club's committee (as they are now), we are proposing a smaller, more focused executive committee, which will be responsible for the overall governance and strategy of the Club. The executive committee will consist of six elected members, and up to two members who may be co-opted on to the executive committee to fill skill or capacity gaps where required.

The six elected members are:

- The President
- The Club Captain
- The Vice Club Captain
- The Treasurer
- The Compliance Officer
- The Membership Officer

Other key roles (such as the grade coordinators and all other coordinator roles that help make the Club a success) will continue to be vitally important. These key roles will form part of an operational committee, whose focus will be the delivery of the Club's junior football programme. The operational roles will be appointed by the executive committee, which reflects more closely what often happens in practice under the current constitution (where grade coordinators and others are frequently coopted in to fill vacancies, rather than being voted in annually).

How has the Club gone about this?

The existing management committee has undertaken a thorough internal review of its current structure, to assess what roles and responsibilities need to be filled on the executive committee. The management committee has also assessed the shortcomings of the current constitution when it comes to determining who the Club's members are and what their rights are, and has thought carefully about how to ensure that players, volunteers, and the wider community can best have their interests represented within the Club.

The Club has been provided with material and guidance from Capital Football, NZ Football and Sports NZ, which has informed the committee's approach.

What's next?

If you are an existing member of the Club, you have the right to vote on the adoption of the new constitution at the upcoming AGM.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the new constitution, or what it might mean for you, please get in touch with the Club's President, Dan Cocker, at president@onslow.org.nz.