Modernizing RCYC Voting Procedures

Final as approved by the Board on June 8, 2026, and revised September 14, 2026

Executive Summary

Our current "hybrid" voting system—requiring both an online ballot and live attendance (in-person or via Zoom) for validation—has become a significant barrier to member participation. This proposal outlines a transition to a secure, fully online voting model to increase engagement and streamline club administration.

Current Challenges

Since the pandemic, our voting process has relied on a two-step process in which members first cast a ballot online (for secrecy) and then a "roll-call" is held at a meeting to validate attendance. This process has many disadvantages:

Low Engagement: The process is described by members as "tedious and painful," discouraging many from participating at all.

The Participation Gap: In the April vote, while 42% of eligible memberships cast a ballot, one-third of those votes were disqualified because the members could not attend the live meeting.

Administrative Burden: Conducting a manual roll-call of attendance by memberships that cast a ballot is time-consuming and prone to error.

Options

Option	Description	Pros	Cons
Return to in-person paper ballots	Revert to pre-pandemic physical meetings only.	Simple and traditional.	Effectively disenfranchises members who cannot attend physically.
Status quo	Maintain online ballots validated by live attendance.	No Bylaw revisions required.	Continued low participation and administrative frustration.
Secure online voting	Authenticated voting via the RCYC website.	Highest participation; eliminates rollcall; professionalizes administration.	Requires revision of the Bylaws.

Recommended Option: Secure Online Voting

To ensure the integrity of the vote, the new system will utilize our existing website infrastructure.

Authentication: Access is restricted to members via their secure WordPress login.

Validation: Automatic tracking of User IDs and Unit IDs ensures only Active Memberships vote and enforces the "one vote per membership" rule.

Inclusivity: The Voting Committee will provide assisted-voting alternatives for members with technical difficulties.

Time for adequate discussion: The Club would continue the practice of first touch/second touch; providing two opportunities at General Meetings to fully discuss and potentially modify any proposal prior to membership voting.

Required Bylaw Revision

To implement online voting, a proposal to revise the Bylaws would need to be put to the membership. Because this would be a revision of the Bylaws, the proposal would have to be approved by two-thirds of the eligible memberships voting.

On June 8, 2026, the Board voted to recommend to the membership the following revision to the Bylaws.

> Revise the Bylaws as follows: In Article III, Section 2, strike the words “present at the meeting” and in Article III, Section 3, strike the words “present at a meeting”

Later that summer a third section of the Bylaws specifying “hybrid” voting was discovered. It is the article on board and officer elections. It provides for a vote by acclimation at the October general meeting unless a nomination is put forward. In that case, an election is to be held in November and a hybrid voting model or paper ballots is specified.

On September 14, 2026, the Board voted to add the following to the revision recommended to the membership.

> In Article XII, Section 3, revise the third sentence to read “In the event that any nomination is made at the October General Meeting, ballots shall be distributed and an election will be held prior to the November General Meeting” and strike the second and third paragraphs.

Timeline for Adoption

The required Bylaw revision will be referred to the membership for approval by a hybrid voting process prior to and during the General Meeting on October 21, 2026. The Board directs the Voting Committee to try to minimize the time to confirm the attendance of memberships who had cast a ballot by possibly using a sign-in onsite and something similar for online attendees.