



New South Wales Group

Standing Order 01/2019

Composite/Combined Squadrons in New South Wales Group

Date of Effect 1st May 2019

Circulation

**All Group Staff
All Officers Commanding Wing
All Officers Commanding Squadrons
All Members**

Cc:

**Chief Commissioner
Federal Staff**

Combined Squadrons in New South Wales Group

1. Preamble.

- 1.1. This Standing Order defines the NSWG approach to Combined Squadrons and nothing in this Order supersedes the Australian Air League Inc. Manual at Section 1 Paragraph 7
- 1.2. FRO/06/2019, dated 8th April 2019, formally announced the creation of the New South Wales Group (NSWG) - (formerly NSWBG & to include Squadrons from the NSWGG which will cease activity on 30th June 2019) as a Composite Group (refer AAL Inc. Manual Section 1 Para 7.1.2).
- 1.3. With NSWG now being composite, the opportunity for squadrons to become combined (Male & Female) now presents itself to all those squadrons that feel that this is in their interests to do so (refer Manual Section 1. Para 7.1.3).
- 1.4. No Squadron in the NSWG will be forced into being a combined unit, existing units have the choice to remain as single gender or to convert to a combined Squadron.
- 1.5. Conversion needs to be carefully considered and, going forward, can be reviewed on a 12-monthly basis.

2. Purpose.

- 2.1. The purpose of this Standing Order is to outline the process, regulations and rules for any squadron deciding to convert from a single gender unit to a combined unit, or vice versa.
- 2.2. This document provides guidance and information which details the conversion process and the obligations of the squadron officers who convert to a combined Squadron:
 - 2.2.1. On an ongoing basis; and
 - 2.2.2. During the first calendar year of operation (2019).

3. Intention.

- 3.1. Squadrons wishing to convert to a combined unit will do so only with the permission of the NSWG Council.
 - 3.1.1. Any squadron found to be engaging in combined activity without Council approval will face disciplinary action and possible suspension/closure.
- 3.2. Squadrons are duty bound to adhere to the rules and regulations set down in this Standing Order and the AAL Manual
- 3.3. Squadrons are locked into a one-year period once converted.
 - 3.3.1. The year will be measured on a full calendar year and the status will remain in place on an ongoing basis until a new application is received.
 - 3.3.2. The exception to this will be that any Squadron which successfully applies for a change of status in 2019 will commence operations under the new status from the date of the newly issued provisional charter and the "locked in" period will apply as if the commencement date was 1st January 2020.
- 3.4. Generally, Squadrons that wish to convert to, or from, combined status must apply on or before 1st November of the calendar year prior to conversion so this can be discussed and ratified at the November Group Council Meeting.
 - 3.4.1. The exception to this is during the transition period in 2019, when any Squadron which applies to change its status in the months of May through October 2019 may, on approval by the Group Council, effect the status change at the date specified in the newly issued provisional charter.
- 3.5. As defined in the Manual Section 1 Para 7.3.5, composite squadrons will need to comprise at least one (1) officer of one gender plus at least one (1) or more officers and/or associate members of the opposite gender, all with the appropriate WWCC clearance.
- 3.6. Squadrons **MUST** have in place a signed commitment from the appropriate personnel **BEFORE** conversion can be approved. Squadrons must supply evidence of this for example, Form 16.
- 3.7. Units wishing to convert that do not have point 3.6 in place **CANNOT** accept membership of the opposite gender nor encourage participation in squadron activities in any way.

4. Rules of Engagement.

- 4.1. A new request form is established for the purpose of conversion to/from a combined unit (Squadron).
 - 4.1.1. Once the change of status is agreed to, the NSW Group will arrange to have a Provisional Charter issued in the name of the Squadron and the existing Charter in the name of a NSWG or NSWB Squadron will be withdrawn.
- 4.2. The requesting Unit (Squadron) will outline the request and provide the requested details.
- 4.3. It is reiterated that Combined Squadrons must consist of at least one (1) Officer, one (1) other adult member of each gender represented in the Squadron membership and six (6) cadets/NCOs of either or both genders all of whom must be financial members. Those over 18 years of age **MUST** have a valid WWCC in NSW and WWVP in the ACT.
- 4.4. Where the provisions of Para 4.3 cannot be met on a particular parade night or at any other function for either gender, as regards the Officer and Adult Member, then the Unit affected cannot meet and all members are to return home.
- 4.5. Where a Squadron is operating or falls below the basic compliment, the Group Council shall attempt to rebuild the Squadron to at least the minimum standard within a twelve-month period. Where the minimum compliment cannot be achieved within twelve months the Squadron will amalgamate or be closed.
- 4.6. NSWG Council will take action as necessary to convert the Region and Wing, above for:
 - 4.6.1. any Squadron successfully applying for conversion to combined status; or
 - 4.6.2. any existing NSWGG unit on deployment into an existing NSWG Wing so as to also have a combined status.

On behalf of the NSWG Council

Lt Comr. Jeff Remington, DSA., MSA
Group Executive Commissioner

29th April 2019



Application to change Squadron Status to/from Composite/Single Gender Squadron

Unit Name: _____

Date: _____ Switch to Single Gender / Composite (*delete unwanted option*)

Current Squadron Gender Status: _____

Reason: _____

Attached is a Form 12 for approval and issue of a replacement Charter

Staffing:

Officer Commanding: _____ Gender: (M/F)

For Composite Squadrons Only;

Opposite Gender Officer: _____ Gender (M/F)

Opposite Gender Associate Member: _____ Gender (M/F)

Number of Existing Gender: Male: _____ Female: _____

Number of Opposite Gender available: Male: _____ Female: _____

Application for Composite/Single Gender Squadron Approval / Rejection

The Application for _____
to be classified as a Single Gender/Combined/Composite Squadron (cross out not applicable)
is – APPROVED / REJECTED and will take effect from the date of the issue of a new Charter

Reason for Rejection: _____

On behalf of the NSWG Council

Lt Comr. Jeff Remington, DSA, MSA
Group Executive Commissioner