Executive Summary of Changes to Rules of Association

This document provides a high-level summary of the changes between the existing and proposed Rules of Association. It includes both substantive governance changes and minor wording updates.

Change Index

Section / Rule Area	Nature of Changes
Part 3 – Membership	Clarified membership categories; new CPD renewal wording for Professional Members
Part 4 – The Council	Added Immediate Past President one-year term limit; clarified President/Vice-President roles
Division 3 – Elections	New detail on online ballots, nomination periods, and election process
Part 6 – General Matters	Updated notice requirements; clarified suspension of Branch rules

Detailed Section-by-Section Summary

Part 3 – Membership

• Clarified wording around eligibility for Professional Membership (must demonstrate CPD renewal every three years).

• Clarified that Life Members have continuous membership unless terminated under disciplinary rules.

• Associate Membership wording adjusted to emphasise 'active interest in forensic science'.

Part 4 – The Council

• Added explicit clause: Immediate Past President serves a term of one year after the President Elect becomes President.

• Clarified order of precedence when President and Vice-Presidents are absent.

• New detail on Web Officer responsibilities (liaison, content updates, diversity/inclusion monitoring).

Division 3 – Elections

• Nomination periods fixed to 21 days; voting period at least 28 days.

• Online ballot procedures detailed, including biography, photo, and statement requirements.

• Returning officer role clarified (normally Vice-President NZ unless nominated).

Part 3 – Meetings

• Special resolutions must be voted on using an online system with 28-day voting period.

• Use of technology formally recognised (virtual, in-person, or hybrid).

• Proxies clarified, including timing and submission rules.

Part 6 – General Matters

• Clarified suspension rules for Branches without elected Executives within 6 months.

• Updated notice requirements to allow electronic communications.

• Clarified winding up provisions and surplus asset distribution.