

CONSTITUTION OF THE
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
IRELAND

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1. Name

The name of the Association is the Australian Football League Ireland hereinafter referred to as “AFL Ireland”.

2. Objectives

The objects of AFL Ireland are:

- 2.1 To promote and encourage the playing of Australian Football in Ireland and
- 2.2 To act as the recognised representative body, for affiliated Clubs and their interests.
- 2.3 To govern the running of Australian Football Competitions in Ireland and to advise and aid the members in the hosting of these competitions.
- 2.4 To govern the running of all teams representing Ireland at Australian Football in International Competition.
- 2.5 To promote the unity of the association and contact between members through assisting affiliated clubs.
- 2.6 To act altruistically. The main objective of AFL Ireland is not the pursuit of financial gain. All funds contributed by member clubs and earned by AFL Ireland including through national teams, shall only be used for statutory purposes.

3. Attaining objectives

AFL Ireland shall be empowered to do all things necessary which are incidental to and necessary for the attainment of the objects of AFL Ireland.

4. Property of the Association

- 4.1 AFL Ireland must apply all property and income of AFL Ireland towards the promotion of the objectives or purposes of AFL Ireland and no part of that property or income to be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of AFL Ireland, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.
- 4.2 All expenses shall be properly recorded and generally accepted accounting records kept for a minimum term of 5 years or any other term required under the legislation of the jurisdiction in which AFL Ireland has its legal seat, as the case may be.
- 4.3 Intellectual Property and Trademarks - AFL Ireland shall be the owner of all its events and competitions and entitled to hold the exclusive rights to all media broadcasting and

advertising rights related to such events and competitions. The name and logo of AFL Ireland, Irish Warriors & Irish Banshees shall be registered as intellectual property belonging to AFL Ireland. Only full affiliated member Clubs shall be entitled to use the name and logo of AFL Ireland in their official communications, stationary and on team jumpers. Any other use of AFL Ireland intellectual property shall require the prior written consent of the AFL Ireland Executive Committee.

5. Powers of the Association

- 5.1 To acquire, hold, deal with, and dispose of any real or personal property;
- 5.2 To open and operate bank accounts;
- 5.3 To invest its money – (i) in any security in which trust moneys may be invested; or (ii) in any other manner authorised by the rules of AFL Ireland;
- 5.4 To borrow money upon such terms and conditions as AFL Ireland thinks fit;
- 5.5 To give such security for the discharge of liabilities incurred by the association as AFL Ireland thinks fit;
- 5.6 To appoint agents and employees to transact any business of AFL Ireland on its behalf for reward or otherwise;
- 5.7 To build construct erect maintain alter and repair any premises building or other structure of any kind and to furnish equip and improve the same for use by AFL Ireland;
- 5.8 Accept donations and gifts in accordance with the objects of AFL Ireland;
- 5.9 Print and publish any information by any media including websites, newsletters, newspapers, articles or leaflets for promotion of AFL Ireland;
- 5.10 Provide gifts and prizes in accordance with the objects of AFL Ireland;
- 5.11 Organise social events for Members and the promotion of AFL Ireland; and
- 5.12 To enter into any other contract AFL Ireland considers necessary or desirable.
- 5.13 Ratify all Club applications for affiliate membership, as the case may be.

6. Membership

- 6.1 Membership shall be open to any person who wishes to further the interests of AFL Ireland and
- 6.2 All Australian Football Clubs in Ireland and their members on payment of the annual affiliation fee.

- 6.3 All Irish Nationals playing Australian Football in an organised League outside of Ireland on registration with AFL Ireland
- 6.4 Each person admitted to membership shall be;
- 6.4.1 Bound by the Constitution, Policies and By-laws of AFL Ireland.
 - 6.4.2 Come liable for such fees and subscriptions as may be fixed by AFL Ireland.
 - 6.4.3 Entitled to all advantages and privileges of membership.
- 6.5 Membership Categories:
- 6.5.1 **ORDINARY MEMBER**
Any person who is a financial member of an affiliated club is entitled to hold any office and enjoy the privileges of the Association.
 - 6.5.2 **SOCIAL MEMBER**
Persons other than ordinary members who are interested in promoting AFL Ireland, but who do not wish to participate in the playing activities of AFL Ireland, may become a Social Member.
 - 6.5.3 **JUNIOR MEMBER**
Any person under the age of 18 years may become a Junior Member. Junior Members shall have no voting rights nor be entitled to hold any office.
 - 6.5.4 **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**The Executive Committee as a Life Member may elect any member who has given outstanding service to AFL Ireland. Any member may nominate a person to the Executive Committee for consideration for Life Membership.
 - 6.5.5 **PATRON**
 - 6.5.6 The club may, at its discretion, elect a patron/s or vice patron/s of AFL Ireland for such period as may be deemed necessary. Such patron/s or vice patron/s shall not be eligible to vote unless they are current members of AFL Ireland under another category of membership.
- 6.6 The Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Executive Committee to maintain an up to date register of members of AFL Ireland.
- 6.7 A member may at any reasonable time inspect the records and documents of AFL Ireland.

7. Subscriptions

- 7.1 to be paid by different classes as and when they are due

- 7.1.1 **Affiliated Club Membership Fee.**
All Clubs, (no matter what size or type - including Mens, Womens and Universities), must pay a nominal annual fee to be an affiliated member Club of AFL Ireland.
In return for the affiliated membership fee paid, the Club;
- can play in AFL Ireland competitions.
 - can use the AFL Ireland logo/brand.
- 7.2 Prospective Clubs to submit an application to AFL Ireland to be considered for AFL Ireland affiliated membership.
- 7.3 AFL Ireland to respond within 45 days to either accept or reject an application for membership.
- 7.3.1 Any rejected application must be accompanied by a list of reasons where the application failed to meet minimum requirements or other reasons.
- 7.3.2 Club requests for membership capped at maximum 3 applications within a 12 month period, and additional applications will not be considered by AFL Ireland and will be void.
- 7.3.3 Failure of AFL Ireland to respond within the 45 days will result in automatic acceptance.
- 7.4 Club affiliated membership benefits will be effective immediately upon AFL Ireland acceptance and receipt of membership fee paid in full.
- 7.4.1 Any deferment of membership fee will result in deferment of membership and all benefits that membership carries.
- 7.4.2 All Club members must register with AFL Ireland, selecting Club name as the club they are a member of.
- 7.5 All clubs that have had their membership revoked may reapply at the end of the current year. Membership to be reinstated providing Executive approval set out in article 7.2.

8. Termination of Membership

- 8.1 Any person's membership may be terminated by the following events;
- 8.1.1 Resignation
- 8.1.2 Expulsion
- 8.2 The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel any member of AFL Ireland for:
- 8.2.1 any of the events in Item 8.1
- 8.2.2 False or inaccurate statements made in the member's application for membership of AFL Ireland,

- 8.2.3 breach of any rule, regulation or by-law of AFL Ireland and
 - 8.2.4 by any act detrimental to AFL Ireland. After having undertaken due inquiry.
- 8.3 Any member who is expelled, suspended or has their membership terminated, shall have the right to appeal against their suspension or expulsion by presenting their case to a General Meeting called for such purpose, and the decision of the General Meeting shall be final.

9. Executive Committee

- 9.1 Management of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting and consisting of;
- 9.1.1 President
 - 9.1.2 Vice President
 - 9.1.3 Secretary
 - 9.1.4 Treasurer
 - 9.1.5 Public Relations Officer (PRO)
 - 9.1.6 Representative of Men's club competitions
 - 9.1.7 Representative of Women's club competitions
 - 9.1.8 Representative of University competitions
 - 9.1.9 Representative of International footy teams
 - 9.1.10 Representative of Underage Football & Development
 - 9.1.11 Data Register
- 9.2 No person shall hold more than one position on the Executive Committee at any one time. A person shall cease to be a member of the Executive Committee at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, which follows his/her election and will be eligible for re-election.
- 9.3 A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be half of its members plus one.
- 9.4 If the President or Vice President is unable to attend, then a chairperson nominated by the meeting shall chair that meeting.
- 9.5 A member of the Executive committee may lose his or her seat on the committee for either of the following;
- Absence from three or more meetings without leave of absence.
 - Found not to be a financial member.

10. Powers of the Executive Committee

- 10.1 The Executive Committee shall carry out the day-to-day running of AFL Ireland and shall have the power to:
 - 10.1.1 Administer the finances, appoint bankers, and direct the opening of banking accounts for specific purposes and to transfer funds from one account to another, and to close any such account;
 - 10.1.2 Fix the manner in which such banking accounts shall be operated upon, providing the Executive Committee passes all payments;
 - 10.1.3 Fix fees and subscriptions payable by members and decide such levies, fines and charges as is deemed necessary and advisable, and to enforce payment thereof;
 - 10.1.4 Adjudicate on all matters brought before it which in any way affect AFL Ireland.
 - 10.1.5 Cause minutes to be made of all proceedings at meetings of the Committee and General Meetings of members;
 - 10.1.6 Make, amend and rescind rulings and By-laws;
 - 10.1.7 Have the power to form and appoint any subcommittee/s as required for specific purposes;
 - 10.1.8 May at their discretion employ a person or persons to carry out certain duties required by the club, at salaries or remunerations for such period of time, as may be deemed necessary.
 - 10.1.9 Should a vacancy occur on the Executive Committee during the season, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting. The vacancy must be communicated to all AFL Ireland clubs and a minimum of 7 days notice must be given by the Executive Committee before appointing a successor to allow interested parties to come forward. The executive committee will attempt to balance gender equality at their discretion as required.
 - 10.1.10 Appoint an officer/s or agent of the Executive Committee to have custody of the association's records, documents and securities.
 - 10.1.11 Enforce the terms of the AFL Ireland Social Media Policy.
Members of AFL Ireland who are found in breach of the AFL Ireland Social Media Policy are subject to disciplinary action as per the policy itself
 - 10.1.12 Ensure all policies of AFL Ireland subject to their ratification by vote of the members of AFL Ireland at a general meeting are published on the AFL Ireland website / application
 - 10.1.13 Ensure that the AFL Ireland constitution is reviewed at a minimum once every three years or according to changes in codes of governance for Irish Sport and National / European legislation.

10.1.14 On completion of the independent accountants report, the accounts shall be presented for signature to the designated Executive Officers and subsequently to the company Secretary/Directors.

11. Preparation of Accounts

- 11.1 The Annual General Meeting shall elect or appoint an Accountant or Accountants.
- 11.2 The Accountant/s shall examine all the books and accounts of the Association annually, and have the power to call for all books, papers, accounts, receipts etc., of AFL Ireland and report thereon to the Annual General Meeting.

12. General Meetings

12.1 Annual General Meeting

- 12.1.1 The Annual General Meeting of the association must be held within four months of the end of the club's financial year.
- 12.1.2 The Secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the date of the Annual General Meeting, to members.
- 12.1.3 All financial members may attend the Annual General Meeting.
- 12.1.4 The quorum at the Annual General Meeting, shall be a minimum of 70% of Club Representatives and four members of the Executive Committee. If, at the end of 30 minutes after the time appointed in the notice for the opening of the Meeting, there be no quorum the meeting shall stand and adjourn for one week. If at such meeting there is no quorum those members present shall be competent to discharge the business of the meeting.
- 12.1.5 The agenda for an Annual General Meeting shall be;
- Opening of Meeting
 - Apologies
 - Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
 - Presentation of Annual Report
 - Presentation of National teams report
 - Adoption of Annual Report
 - Presentation of Treasurer's statement
 - Election of New Executive and appointment of Accountant
 - Vote of thanks to outgoing Executive
 - Determination of Annual Membership Fee

- Notice/s of Motion
- Urgent general business
- Closure

12.2 General Meetings

- 12.2.1 General Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or at the request of the President and Secretary or on the written request of at least 25% of the individual financial members of the association.
- 12.2.2 The Secretary shall give at least seven (7) days' notice, in writing, of the date of the General Meeting to the members. Notice of General Meetings shall set out clearly the business for which the meeting has been called. No other business shall be dealt with at that General Meeting.
- 12.2.3 The quorum at the General Meeting shall be a minimum of 70% of Club Representatives and four members of the Executive Committee members. (as per 12.1.4)
- 12.2.4 Any member wishing to propose an item for inclusion on the agenda of a general meeting shall submit the proposal to the Secretary at least 2 weeks prior to the General Meeting. Proposals shall be accompanied by a concise explanation of the reasons for their submission.
- 12.2.5 Any motion submitted to a General Meeting must be brought forward by an affiliated member Club and not an individual.
- 12.2.6 All nominations for incoming executive committee roles must be submitted 1 month prior to the AGM. This allows the clubs to review.
- 12.2.7 If we do not have the opportunity of a minimum 40% representation of all gender on the executive committee nominations (E.g. All genders nominated in a minimum of 40% positions) then the deadline in 12.1.6 will be extended 1 week and clubs will be asked to re-nominate to meet this requirement. This will repeat with 10% less representation requirement until we meet the requirement. (e.g. 40% / 30% / etc.)

13. Voting

13.1 Voting powers at the Annual General Meeting and General Meetings:

- 13.1.1 The President shall be entitled to a deliberate vote and, in the event of a tied vote, the President shall exercise a casting vote.
- 13.1.2 Each individual financial member present shall have one (1) vote.
- 13.1.3 An individual financial member is not entitled to assign a proxy to vote on his or her behalf and may not cast a vote if they are not present at the meeting / online platform.

13.2 Voting powers at Management Committee Meetings;

- 13.2.1 The President shall be entitled to a deliberate vote, and, in the event of a tied vote, the President shall exercise a casting vote.
- 13.2.2 Each individual committee member present shall have one (1) vote.
- 13.2.3 An individual committee member is not entitled to assign a proxy to vote on his or her behalf and may not cast a vote if they are not present at the meeting / online platform.
- 13.2.4 Each individual AFL Ireland Director present shall have one (1) vote. An individual AFL Ireland Director is not entitled to assign a proxy to vote on his or her behalf and may not cast a vote if they are not present at the meeting / online platform. It is noted that a Director may also simultaneously hold an Executive position. However they can only hold one vote. (i.e. they cannot vote twice).

14. Finance

- 14.1 All funds of AFL Ireland shall be deposited into the association's accounts at such bank or recognised financial institution as the Executive Committee may determine.
- 14.2 All accounts due by AFL Ireland shall be paid by cheque after having being passed for payment at the Executive Committee Meeting and when immediate payment is necessary, account/s shall be paid and the action endorsed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- 14.3 The Secretary shall not spend more than a set amount Petty Cash without the consent of the Executive Committee, and shall keep a record of such expenditure in a Petty Cash Book.
- 14.4 A statement showing the financial position of AFL Ireland shall be tabled at each Executive Committee Meeting by the Treasurer.
- 14.5 A statement of Income and Expenditure, Assets and Liabilities shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting. The auditor's report shall be attached to such financial report.
- 14.6 The financial year of AFL Ireland shall commence on January 1st each year. The accounts, books and all financial records of AFL Ireland shall be audited each year.
- 14.7 The signatories to the association's account/s will be the President or any one from the following;
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- 14.8 All property and income of AFL Ireland will apply solely to the promotion of the objects of the association and no part of that property or income shall be paid or otherwise distributed, directly, or indirectly, to members, except in good faith in the promotion of these objects.

14.9 AFL Ireland Treasurer (and by extension the AFL Ireland Committee) should, at all times, have financial oversight of all financial accounts under AFL Ireland.

15. Disciplinary Tribunal

15.1 The tribunal is modelled on the AFL system; operational procedures are summarised below.

15.2 The Tribunal Panel shall consist of AFL Ireland President and Two Nominated Ex-Players

15.3 A report lodged with the tribunal. Reports may be lodged by an umpire, club president (non-playing) or AFL Ireland president (non-playing). In the case that the umpire is a member of a contesting team, the report needs to be seconded/approved by either a coach or captain of both competing teams.

15.4 AFL Ireland tribunal will then review report and decide either to dismiss or apply a penalty with reference to the Level and Categorisation of Offence (refer to the section below).

15.5 The offending player may accept or dispute the penalty.

15.6 In the event of dispute, the matter is heard by the Tribunal with the offending player submitting evidence. The tribunal decision is to be made by a jury of at least 2 ex-players with the standard of proof being that of civil law, i.e. a “preponderance of evidence”, or in layman’s terms “crossing the 51 percent line”.

15.7 Level and Categorisation of Offences

Table 1 below details the level of an offence. The result is then applied to Table 2 which is used to determine demerit points, which in turn map to the prescribed penalty in Table 3.

Table 1 Offences level

Conduct Type	Impact Severity	Contact Point	Offence level
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin	5
Intentional	Severe	Body	5
Intentional	High	High/Groin	5
Intentional	High	Body	4
Intentional	Medium	High/Groin	4
Intentional	Medium	Body	3
Intentional	Low	High/Groin	3
Intentional	Low	Body	2
Reckless	Severe	High/Groin	5
Reckless	Severe	Body	4
Reckless	High	High/Groin	4
Reckless	High	Body	3
Reckless	Medium	High/Groin	3
Reckless	Medium	Body	2

Reckless	Low	High/Groin	2
Reckless	Low	Body	1
Negligent	Severe	High/Groin	4
Negligent	Severe	Body	3
Negligent	High	High/Groin	3
Negligent	High	Body	2
Negligent	Medium	High/Groin	2
Negligent	Medium	Body	1
Negligent	Low	High/Groin	1
Negligent	Low	Body	1

Table 2 Offence categorisation and de merit points

Reportable Offence	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Striking	80	125	225	325	425
Kicking	125	250	400	550	750
Charging	125	225	325	425	550
Rough Conduct	125	225	325	425	550
Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that player has his head down over the ball	125	250	400	550	750
Tripping	80	125	225	325	425
Attempt to strike/kick/trip	N/A	80	N/A	N/A	N/A
Misconduct (kneeing)	125	225	325	425	550
Misconduct (headbutt or contact using head)	80	125	250	400	550
Misconduct (eye gouging/unreasonable and unnecessary contact to the eye region)	125	250	400	550	750

(contd.)

Table 2 Contd

Reportable Offence	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Misconduct (unreasonable and unnecessary contact to the face)	125	225	325	425	550
Misconduct (stomping)	80	125	225	325	425
Misconduct (scratching)	125	225	325	425	550
Misconduct (unreasonable or unnecessary contact with injured player)	80	125	225	325	425
Any other act of serious misconduct	Tribunal				
Misconduct (spitting on another person)	Tribunal				
Intentional contact with umpire	Tribunal				
Striking or attempting to strike or spitting at or on an umpire	Tribunal				
Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire	Tribunal				

Table 3 – Penalty

Number of Points	Suspension (matches)
<100	Reprimand
100-199	1
200-299	2
300-399	3
400-499	4

16. Dispute Resolution

- 16.1 Any and all disputes which cannot be resolved in within the codes of governance of the association will be referred to Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI) formerly Just Sport Ireland who shall provide independent mediation and arbitration.
- 16.2 All AFL Ireland members are precluded from seeking recourse to the courts or litigation for the purpose of dispute resolution.
- 16.3 Arbitral awards handed down by SDSI are final, binding and enforceable in favour of and/or against the parties.

17. Alterations to the Constitution and By-Laws

- 17.1 No alteration, repeal or addition shall be made to the Constitution except at the Annual General Meeting, or General Meeting, called for that purpose and notice of all motions to alter, repeal or add to the Constitution shall be given to members fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting, or seven (7) days prior to a General Meeting called for such purpose.
- 17.2 The Secretary shall forward such notices of motion to each Executive Committee member at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting or seven (7) days prior to a General Meeting.
- 17.3 Alterations to the Policies and By-laws can be made only at Executive Committee Meetings provided notice of the proposed alteration/s has been duly notified to Committee Members.
- 17.4 Such motions, or any part thereof, shall be of no effect unless passed by a seventy five percent (75%) majority (Special Resolution) of those present and entitled to a vote at the Annual General Meeting, General Meeting or Executive Committee Meeting, as the case may be.

18. Dissolution

If, on the winding up of the association, any property of AFL Ireland remains after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the association and the costs, charges and expenses of that winding up, that property shall be distributed

(a) another incorporated association having objects similar to those of AFL Ireland; or

(b) for charitable or benevolent purposes, which incorporated club or purposes, as the case requires, shall be determined by resolution of the members.

Appendix

- ADOPTED: June 30TH 2011
- Articles 15.1 to 15.7: Adopted February 11th 2012
- Article 9.1 and 9.2: Amended February 1st 2014
- Articles 16.1 to 16.3: Adopted February 1st 2014
- Association name changed: Amended and Adopted 2nd December 2017
- Article 9: Amended and adopted 2nd December 2017
- Following the EGM (24th & 27th May 2021)
 - the following articles were added; 2.6, 4.2, 4.3, 5.13, 7.1.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 9.1.5, 12.2.4, 12.2.5, 14.9, 10.1.11, 10.1.12, 10.1.13, 10.1.14, 13.1.1, 13.2.3.
 - the following articles were edited; 12.1.5, 6.4.1, 9.2, 14.2, 14.4, 17, 17.3