



South Australian  
Women's Football League Inc.  
(SAWFL)

# CONSTITUTION

# **South Australian Women's Football League (SAWFL)**

## **Statement of Purposes**

To promote, manage and encourage the development and fostering of the game of Australian Rules Football as a sport for women and girls.

To provide an organised fixture of games for affiliated clubs to compete in.

To conduct from time to time promotional games, demonstrations and clinics for the advancement of the South Australian Women's Football League.

To provide for uniformity in the matter of registration and clearances for players.

To settle all disputes arising out of the interpretation of the Rules, By-Laws and Directives of the South Australian Women's Football League.

To maintain a harmonious relationship between the affiliated clubs in the interest of football.

To conduct such fundraising events as approved by the SAWFL Board to raise funds to cover administration and running costs and for the promotion of Women's Football in South Australia.

To purchase and retain for the use of The League members equipment such as uniforms, footballs, instruction manuals, reference books and photograph albums.

To do such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects and purposes and to the exercise of the powers of the South Australian Women's Football League.

## **CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

### **1. NAME**

The name shall be "South Australian Women's Football League".

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of The League shall be:

- a. To promote and encourage participation in the sport of women's football and associated activities in South Australia (hereafter referred to as "the state").
- b. To ensure uniformity of rules for the control and regulation of women's football in the state.
- c. To administer and control a programme of competition in women's football in the state.
- d. To adjudicate on all matters of dispute referred by affiliated clubs or registered members.
- e. To control the participation in interstate competition by affiliated clubs or registered players.
- f. To act alone or in conjunction with any affiliated clubs in any matter relating to women's football in the state.
- g. To affiliate with:
  - i. National Women's Association.
  - ii. A State Men's Association/League or any other body which may in the future assume the function of those bodies.
- h. To ensure that the good name and well being of The League is not denigrated or damaged in any way by unbecoming conduct of organisations and/or individuals associated with football.

### **3. INTERPRETATION**

Unless the contrary intention appears from the context in the Constitution or Rules, the words set out below shall have the following meaning:

- a. **Affiliated Club** – A Club which is affiliated with The League.
- b. **The League** – South Australian Women's Football League.

- c. **The SAWFL Board (or The Board)** – As elected at the Annual General Meeting and as defined in the By-Laws.
- d. **Director** – One of the persons comprising the SAWFL Board.
- e. **Board Structure** – The SAWFL Board shall consist of a Chairman and Director positions (up to 5 positions). Within the SAWFL Board shall be portfolios that are to be determined by the board.
- f. **Registered Member** – A member of an Affiliated Club which is registered with The League.
- g. **The State** – South Australia.

#### 4. **NON PROFIT ASSOCIATION**

The League is a non-profit making organisation and any monies received by The League shall be used solely for the day to day running of The League.

#### 5. **MEMBERSHIP**

The League shall consist of any club which has currently complied with The League's requirements for affiliation.

#### 6. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Life Members of The League, duly appointed in accordance with the By-Laws. A Life Member cannot be required to pay fees or subscriptions (other than fees that are required to be paid by a Participant in her capacity as a player). Life Members have all the rights of an ordinary member, including the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

#### 7. **AFFILIATION**

To be affiliated with The League, a Club shall:

- a. Play women's football in the State.
- b. Operate under a Constitution accepted by The League.
- c. Agree to be bound by the provisions of this Constitution and any regulations passed under it.
- d. Pay such affiliation and registration fees as will be determined by the SAWFL Board.
- e. Be insured to a level to be set by the SAWFL Board.
  - i. Each Club shall take out insurance before being accepted as a club in The League for the current year.

## 8. **REGISTRATION**

- a. An affiliated Club shall register with The League any player/official who represents that Club in any competition conducted by or under the auspices of The League and such other members of the Club who wish to be registered.
- b. It shall be the Club's obligation to ensure that all players are registered with The League.
- c. A player must have played at least three matches for premiership points during the season to be eligible to take part in that season's Finals series.
- d. An unregistered player shall be suspended at the discretion of the Board. The offending club shall be fined, forfeit the match and record no score. The opposition team shall record a win and record their score.

## 9. **CLEARANCES**

- a. The only reason a clearance may be refused is if the player is not financial with her Club.
- b. It shall be the Club's obligation to ensure that all players are cleared with The League to play at their club.
- c. Any player playing without a clearance shall be suspended at the discretion of the Board. The offending club shall be fined, forfeit the match and record no score. The opposition team shall record a win and record their score.

## 10. **LAWS OF THE GAME**

The League will adopt the Laws of Australian Football published annually by the Australian Football League. They are to be read in conjunction with this Constitution and the By-Laws of The League.

## 11. **DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

- a. Subject to this Constitution. In respect of any matter not expressly dealt with in the By-Laws, if the Board is of the opinion that a Member, Registered player or Official has:
  - i. refused or neglected to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws;
  - ii. or has been found guilty of conduct unbecoming a Member, registered Player or Official; and

- iii. or has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League.

The Board may refer the matter to Tribunal for resolution under paragraph 12 of this Constitution, or resolve to refer the matter to mediation in accordance with the Leagues By-Laws.

## 12. **TRIBUNALS**

- a. The Tribunal shall consist of independent people appointed by the Board to act as a Tribunal to conduct hearings and impose penalties on any player(s) reported for severe infringement of the Laws of the Game.
- b. The League Tribunal shall have the responsibility of exercising and shall exercise the powers of The League in relation to hearing and determining charges against players and other persons referred to it pursuant to these rules and the inflicting of penalties.
- c. The League Tribunal shall have all powers necessary or desirable to carry out its responsibilities as prescribed in sub-rule 12b. above, within the limits of the Rules of The League.
- d. Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-rule 12c. above, The League Tribunal shall have the following powers:
  - i. To enquire into, hear and determine any charge made against any person who is the subject of a report made pursuant to and for a breach of the Laws of the Game.
  - ii. The League Tribunal:
    - (a). May summon any person to appear and give evidence at the hearing of such charge.
    - (b). May at its absolute discretion admit or reject any evidence given or tendered at the hearing of such charge.
    - (c). May for convenience, adjourn the hearing of such charge.
    - (d). May adopt and pursue any procedure which it may think convenient and proper in the hearing, adjudication and determination of such charge.
    - (e). May, at its discretion punish summarily by censure, fine, suspension (from playing or the exercise of official functions) disqualification (from playing or exercise of official functions) or suspended penalty. Any witness being a player or an official of The League who is found to have knowingly and with intent to mislead or make any false statement at the hearing of any charge.

- (f). May, as it in its discretion shall deem fit, censure, fine, suspend, expel or suspend penalty on, any playing member or playing member of The League who is found guilty by them of such charge.
  - (g). May dismiss any such charge as being trivial or as not having been proved, or upon not finding the playing member of The League charged not guilty of the offence charged against them.
- iii. Charges shall be heard at a place or time determined by the Board.
  - iv. The accused player shall attend the hearing of such charge, and may give evidence, call witnesses and question all witnesses who give evidence on such hearing. Should the player fail to attend after having been duly notified, The League Tribunal may proceed to hear the charge in the player's absence.
  - v. The umpire or umpires who have reported a playing member shall give evidence and may call witnesses.
  - vi. One delegate of The League club to which the accused player belongs shall be allowed to attend with the player's advocate.
  - vii. Every decision of The League Tribunal shall be binding upon The League and all persons bound by and subject to this ruling.
  - viii. A player against whom a charge has been made of a breach of the Laws of the Game shall not be eligible to play until The League Tribunal has adjudicated upon such charge.
  - ix. Any person under the control of The League, who conducts themselves disrespectfully to the Tribunal during the hearing of a charge against a player, may be dealt with in a manner as The League Tribunal in its absolute discretion shall deem fit.
  - x. Notwithstanding the fact that anyone or more of the conditions required to be fulfilled under these Rules have not been complied with The League Tribunal, if, in its absolute discretion, deems fit in the interest of The League and of the game may proceed to hear a charge laid under these rules. So long as it is satisfied that the substance of the charge or other matter has been established and that no player or person charged would or might be prejudiced.
- e. Players who incur penalties for breaches of the Laws of the Game must serve their disqualification or suspension in the grade in which they last played immediately prior to such disqualification or suspension.
  - f. A disqualified or suspended player may seek permission from The League Commissioner to play in a competition or match authorised by The League

pursuant to these rules conducted between the end of the season in which such disqualification or suspension was imposed and the commencement of the next season for premiership points.

- g. The application to The League Commissioner pursuant to 11.f. shall be in writing and shall include full details of the ground upon which the application is made.
- h. Representation of Hearings – Any player or Official of The League charged with an offence other than a breach of the Laws of the Game shall be entitled to be represented at any hearing of any such charge before The League or any committee appointed by The League for the purpose of hearing any such charge. Such representation shall be limited to one person who must be a financial member of The League.

### 13. **UMPIRES**

- a. The appointment of umpire(s) is the responsibility of the SAWFL Board.
- b. The SAWFL Board may appoint an Umpire's Coordinator to arrange game day umpiring appointments.
- c. The SAWFL Board may appoint an Umpire's Coach/Mentor for development purposes.

### 14. **OFFICE BEARERS**

- a. The SAWFL Board shall consist of a Chairman and Director positions (up to 5 positions). Within the SAWFL Board shall be portfolios that are to be determined by the board. There are to be two (2) compulsory portfolios of Treasurer and Secretary.
- b. Affiliated Clubs are to nominate a Club Delegate that may be requested by the SAWFL Board to attend a Board meeting. The frequency of these meetings will be determined by the Board.
- c. The SAWFL Board shall be elected in accordance with this Constitution and shall hold office until the Annual General meeting when all positions shall be declared vacant.
- d. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in any of the aforesaid offices, the SAWFL Board shall advise all Affiliated Clubs and call for nominations to fill the vacancy and such office shall be filled forthwith by election by the SAWFL Board from such nominations for the balance of the term of the Office of the Office Bearer.
- d. All persons holding any office or position within The League shall be resident in the State.



15. **MANAGEMENT**

Subject to any resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting of The League, the affairs of The League shall be vested in the SAWFL Board.

16. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- a. The Annual General Meeting of The League shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the SAWFL Board.
- b. In the event of circumstances arising which do not permit the assembly of members for an Annual General Meeting, all Clubs shall be notified in writing as to whether such meeting shall be postponed to another place or date.
- c. Voting members at the Annual General Meeting shall be members of The League and Registered Members of Affiliated Clubs. Life Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at any Annual General Meeting and shall be entitled to receive notices.
- d. A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall consist of not less than 50 percent of member clubs (not including members of the SAWFL Board).
- e. The Annual General Meeting shall be open to all Affiliated Clubs, registered members and to the Public.
- f. The Chairman or a nominated Director shall preside at the Annual General Meeting.
- g. The Chairman or a nominated Director shall report to the Annual General Meeting on the activities of The League in the preceding year. Such report shall include:
  - i. A report of the activities of The Board.
  - ii. A statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet. This statement is to be presented by a Director who holds the portfolio of Treasurer or a nominated Director.
- h. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall proceed in the following order:
  - i. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting.
  - ii. Presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.
  - iii. Election of nominated persons to take up positions on the SAWFL Board.

- iv. Any other reports.
- v. Notices of Motion.
- vi. Alterations and/or additions to the Constitution and confirmation of alterations and/or additions to the Rules or By-Laws.
- vii. Correspondence.
- viii. General business.
  
- i. A notice announcing the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to Affiliated Clubs at least 30 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- j. Nominations and other business for the agenda paper for the Annual General Meeting shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- k. The Chairman shall have authority on every question of order.
- l. A motion affecting the Constitution shall not be discussed or voted upon under any circumstances unless due notice has been given in accordance with the Constitution.
- m. A resolution of the Annual General Meeting shall be a standing order and such resolution shall not be rescinded or altered except by a resolution passed by a majority of two thirds of those present eligible to vote at an Annual General Meeting.
- n. Voting shall be by a show of hands or, if requested by ballot.
- o. Voting on an election shall be by simple majority. Where only one person is to be elected and no candidate obtains a majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken after eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes. If necessary the procedure will be repeated until one candidate secures a majority of the votes cast. If in the final ballot the votes are equal, the Chairperson shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
- p. A full record of the Minutes of proceedings at an Annual General Meeting shall be kept and copies of such Minutes shall be forwarded to the Affiliated Clubs and each member of the SAWFL Board within thirty (30) days of the date of such Annual General Meeting. Such Minutes shall be presented and signed by the Director holding the portfolio of Secretary.
- q. Any Club not having more than ten (10) per cent representatives present at an Annual General Meeting may result in that club being fined an amount to be determined by the SAWFL Board.

17. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

- a. The SAWFL Board may out of its own motion, and shall upon the written request of not less than two affiliated Clubs or thirty affiliated members convene a Special General Meeting.
- b. Such motion or request shall state the business to be considered at the Special General Meeting.
- c. At least fourteen (14) clear days of notice of such Special General Meeting and the agenda shall be given to such persons or bodies eligible to attend the Special General Meeting.
- d. No other business except that for which the meeting is called may be transacted at any Special General Meeting.
- e. The procedures applicable at a Special General Meeting shall be those applicable if the matter was being dealt with at the Annual General Meeting.

18. **THE SAWFL BOARD**

- a. The SAWFL Board shall consist of a Chairman and Director positions (up to 5 positions). Within the SAWFL Board shall be portfolios that are to be determined by the board. There are to be two (2) compulsory portfolios of Treasurer and Secretary.
- b. Affiliated Clubs are to nominate a Club Delegate that may be requested by the SAWFL Board to attend a Board meeting. The frequency of these meetings will be determined by the Board.
- c. If the Club Delegate is not available to attend a Board meeting called by the SAWFL Board another nominated delegate shall attend.
  - i. Club representatives not attending the SAWFL Board meetings may result in that Club being fined an amount to be determined by the Board.
- d. The Board Executive shall meet when deemed appropriate but there must be minimum three (3) Board meetings during the season proper and two (2) prior to the Annual General Meeting at the completion of the season.
- e. The SAWFL Board shall meet at a time and place as agreed by the Board.
- f. The Chairman or a nominated Director shall preside at meetings of the Board.
- g. The order of business at a meeting of the SAWFL Board meeting shall be:
  - i. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting.

- ii. Business arising from such Minutes.
- iii. Business held over from the previous meeting.
- iv. General Business.
- h. Minutes of the proceedings of each Meeting shall be kept and a copy of such Minutes shall be forwarded to each Board Member, seven (7) days prior to the next meeting. Such Minutes shall be presented to the next meeting of the Board and after confirmation, signed by the Chairman.
- i. Meetings of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with normal procedures.
- j. A quorum of the Board shall not be less than half of the elected Board.
- k. All members of the Board shall be entitled to one vote. The Chairman does not have a casting vote.
- l. To rescind or vary a resolution passed by the Board during the current year, it shall be necessary:
  - i. To give fourteen (14) days notice of the motion to the Secretary unless the Board decides otherwise.
  - ii. At least two thirds of the members present and voting be in favour of the motion.
- m. The Board may from time to time and for such periods and purposes as it thinks appropriate, delegate its authority to a person or persons.
  - i. Nominations for SAWFL Board positions from registered members shall be forwarded to The League and shall close on a time and date as nominated by the Board.
  - ii. Elections for Board positions shall be conducted at the Annual General Meeting of The League.
  - iii. Board members shall be elected for a one year term.

19. **SUB COMMITTEES**

Sub Committees may be appointed by a Board Meeting, an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting as the need arises and shall act within the terms of reference determined by the meeting.

20. **POWERS OF THE LEAGUE AND THE SAWFL BOARD**

- a. In the event of a Board Member missing three consecutive meetings of the Board without notification to the Chairman or to a nominated Director, such member shall be deemed to have resigned.
- b. Upon the passing of a motion of which fourteen (14) days prior notice in writing has been given to each member of the Board that a Member of the Board is not fulfilling the duties of his/her position, such person shall be deemed to have ceased to hold their position.
- c. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring because of the operation of subparagraph (a) or (b) hereof or for any other reason, the Board shall fill such casual vacancy as it sees fit until the position would otherwise be filled by election in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- d. The Board may purchase or lease, on behalf of The League, such real or personal property as may be considered essential and necessary to achieve the objects of The League.
- e. The Board or Tribunal, after due process, shall have the power to fine, reprimand, suspend, expel or otherwise deal with an affiliated club or registered member which or who in the opinion of The League:
  - i. Is or has been in breach of this Constitution.
  - ii. Is or has been guilty of misconduct of any kind including, but not limiting the generality thereof, unfair practice relating to the playing or administration of women's football.
- f. The Board may suspend or abandon any or all of its competitions, and may in their place substitute others.
- g. The Board may refund all necessary expenses incurred by any member thereof whilst engaged in the work of The League or grant any sum to any officer in recognition of services rendered.
- h. The Board may act as a Court of Appeal in respect to any dispute between an affiliated club and a registered member or between two affiliated clubs or a club and The League. The decision of the Board Executive in respect of such matter shall be binding subject to any right of appeal to any State or National body to which The League may belong.
- i. The Board may call upon any affiliated club or registered member to forward such books, documents or statements as may be reasonably required to conduct the affairs of The League or its members. Failure to comply with such requests shall render the offender liable to such penalty as The Board shall determine.

- j. The Board shall keep an account, on behalf of The League, with such bank as it shall decide. The account shall be operated upon the direction of the SAWFL Board.
- k. The accounts of The League shall be audited by an auditor appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- l. The Board may engage employees upon such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

21. **LAWS AND RULES**

- a. Where there is a conflict between the rules and/or regulations of The League and the affiliated State Men's Association/League, the rules and/or regulations of The League shall prevail.
- b. Where no provision is made in the Constitution or regulations of The League, The League may apply to the appropriate State or National body for a ruling.
- c. The technical rules of the State Men's Association/League to which The League is affiliated shall, subject to any local rule variation permitted by the national body, be binding on all competitions conducted in the State and any amendments or alterations thereto shall be notified immediately to all affiliated clubs.

22. **SOURCES OF FUNDS**

The funds of The League shall be derived from annual subscriptions, fund raising, sponsorship, entrance fees, donations, grants and such other sources as the SAWFL Board may determine.

23. **MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS**

The Director who holds the portfolio of Treasurer shall:

- a. Collect and receive all monies due to The League and make all payments authorised by the Board.
- b. Maintain correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of The League and full details of all receipts and expenditure.

The accounts and books referred to above shall be available for inspection by members with due notice to the applicable Director at a place nominated by the Board.

24. **SIGNING OF NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS**

All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by any two members of the SAWFL Board.

25. **CUSTODY OF BOOKS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution; the Board shall keep in its custody or under its control all books, documents and securities of The League. Such books, documents and securities shall be available for inspection by members by arrangement with the Board.

26. **SERVICE OF NOTICES**

- a. A notice may be served by or on behalf of The League upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member at his/her address shown in the Registration book.
- b. Where a document is properly addressed, prepaid and posted to a person as a letter, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been given to the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

27. **WINDING UP**

In the event of the winding up of The League, any assets remaining, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities and costs incurred in the winding up, shall be donated to a fund specified by the Board at the time of winding up. If necessary the Board shall appoint a liquidator.

28. **AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall not be repealed or altered unless:

- a. At least seven (7) days notice in writing has been given to Affiliated Clubs and to those entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, by a member of the SAWFL Board with items set out with proposed repeal, alteration or adoption.
- b. A resolution accepting such repeal, alteration is carried by a majority of two thirds of those present entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of The League.

29. **AMENDMENTS TO THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSES**

The Statement of Purposes can be altered, rescinded or added to at a SAWFL Board Meeting or an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened in accordance with the Constitution.

30. **END OF FINANCIAL YEAR**

The end of financial year date for the South Australian Women's Football League will be 30 September.