

Gaelic Football and Hurling
Association Of South Australia, Inc.

Constitution

Adopted Sunday the 1st of November 1998

**GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA, INC.
CONSTITUTION**

1. PREAMBLE

The name of the Association shall be ‘The Gaelic Football And Hurling Association of South Australia (hereafter referred to as ‘The Association’).

The Association is a democratic organisation structured on the following basis:

- (a) Members.
- (b) Clubs.
- (c) State Association.

2. BASIC AIM

The basic aim of the Association is to control, foster and promote the games of Hurling, Gaelic Football and such other games as may be sanctioned and approved by the GAA of Australasia.

3. ADDITIONAL AIMS

The Association shall actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song, and any other aspects of Irish culture and assist in promoting a community spirit through it’s Clubs.

4. DEDICATION

The Association and it’s resources shall be used for and dedicated solely to the above aims.

5. JURISDICTION

All members and units of the Association taking part in it’s activities shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Association in all matters that may arise.

6. NON-PARTY POLITICAL

The Association shall be non-party political. Party political questions shall not be discussed at it’s meetings. A penalty of up to six months suspension may be imposed for infringement.

7. NON-SECTARIAN

The Association shall be non-sectarian.

8. AMATEUR STATUS

The Association is an amateur Association. No player shall accept payment in cash or in kind or other material reward in connection with their membership of the Association, unless employed to perform specific duties.

9. DRUGS

All players shall if directed submit to a drug test by a registered medical practitioner organised by the committee or council in charge of the game.

10. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association shall be granted by a Club or the Association and shall be governed by the following regulations :

- (a) Full Membership shall be open to all persons of age 18 years of age and over who subscribe to, and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Gaelic Athletic Association of Australasia.
- (b) Youth membership shall be open to persons under 18 years of age.
- (c) Each member shall pay a membership fee to be decided by the Club / Association. Any such member who has not paid his/her membership fee before the time appointed by the Club / Association or in any calendar year shall automatically cease to be a member on that date.
- (d) Each member on payment of his/her membership fee shall be given a current membership card with his/her name and address thereon. The card shall be signed by the secretary or treasurer of the Club / Association.
- (e) The Association shall keep a register of all members.
- (f) Life membership shall be granted by a Club or the Association. Nomination for life membership of the Association shall be submitted only by a Club, and seconded by another Club.

11. ALLEGIANCE

Clubs and the State Association shall insist that the first allegiance of their members is to the Association and it's games and may impose disciplinary measures for breaches of this rule.

12. THE CLUB

The Club is the basic unit of the Association and it's objectives shall be the promotion at local level of the Association's aims. The official Club constitution as approved by Congress shall be adopted by the Club. All Club bye-laws and additions and alterations to rules made under the Club constitution shall receive the approval of the State Committee.

13. AFFILIATION

- (a) A Club shall affiliate annually with the State Committee on a standard affiliation form, which shall include the names of the Club executive, the Club colours and alternate colours. A Club shall be obliged to obtain a current copy of the Official Guide and the Official Rulebook (SA) and it's members shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the rules and regulations in them and shall be bound by them.
- (b) A Club shall be held responsible for the conduct of it's members and known partisans.

14 A Football and/or Hurling Club must have at least seven playing members before it can be affiliated to the Association. Applications for affiliation must be made to the State Committee. On approval of the application, those listed and accepted by the state committee shall be members of the new Club.

15 Annual affiliation fees for Clubs and match / paying fees for players shall be determined by the State Committee

16. CLUB NAME AND COLOURS

A Club's name and colour's must be approved by the State Committee and such name must be used in all correspondence and official documents.

17. CLUB CONSTITUTION

The regulations concerning the business and affairs of the Club shall be set out in Club rules 17-41 of the Official Club Constitution.

18. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

State Committees will be responsible for deciding on the method to be used for registration of players. The penalty for playing an unregistered player shall be the loss of the match.

19. LOSS OF RIGHTS

A Club which does not take part in a competition shall lose representation on State and other Committees and shall not be entitled to make nominations, table motions or participate at the Annual Convention.

20. SANCTIONS

- (a) A member or any unit of the association shall not participate in games of Gaelic Football or Hurling promoted by a body not affiliated to the Association without prior sanction of the Association.
- (b) A Club or other unit shall only participate as such in games controlled by the Association and against a Club or other unit of the Association unless the prior sanction of the association has been given.

21. STATE CONVENTION

- (a) An Annual State Convention (Annual General Meeting) shall be held before 31st August. It shall consist of the officers and members of the outgoing committee (voting rights as on committee) and a maximum of six delegates from each Club which competed in a junior or higher grade championship of the preceding year.
- (b) The date of the annual convention shall be notified to all Clubs at least fourteen (14) clear days before such convention.
- (c) Any change of meeting date for the annual convention must be notified in writing to all Clubs and shall be given a clear twenty-one (21) days of such re-scheduled convention date.

22. ELECTIONS

Subject to the exception hereunder and as otherwise provided in State bye-laws, the Annual State Convention shall elect the following officials of the State Committee for the ensuing year:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary (if desired), Treasurer, Registrar, Social -Convenor, Public Relations Officer, and six (6) committee people. They shall hold office until the election of officers at the next Annual Convention.

The State convention may also elect such other representatives of Clubs, District or other committees as it may from time to time decide.

Should a vacancy arise in the officerships of the State committee or on a States representation on Central Council it shall be filled on the basis of nominations by Clubs and voted on by the current State Committee.

Exception:

The State Committee may appoint a permanent full-time Secretary who shall not be subject to annual election.

23. NOMINATIONS

- (a) Nominations for positions outlined in Rule 22 shall be submitted by a Club on a nomination form.
- (b) It is preferred that nominations for positions on the committee shall be at the hands of the Association secretary seven (7) clear days prior to the date of the Annual Convention but late nominations will be accepted at the Annual Convention if no written nomination for the said position already received.

24. MOTIONS

- (a) Motions for consideration by the State Convention shall be submitted only by Clubs. Such motions shall be submitted on the motion form which shall be sent to the Club at least four (4) weeks prior to the State Convention, and which shall be completed and returned to the State Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the Convention.
- (b) The state Secretary shall send an agenda along with any notices of motion to each Club Secretary at least 1 week before the Convention.

25. VOTING PROCEDURE

Elections shall be by secret ballot, and successful candidates must have a majority of the votes of those qualified to vote and voting at the Convention. In the event of an equality of votes in the election of an officer, the following procedure shall apply: if an outgoing officer is involved in the tie they shall be deemed to be re-elected and, if not the tie shall be decided by the casting vote of the Chairperson.

26. CHANGES TO RULES

Changes to rules shall only occur when passed at a special meeting or Annual Convention by a two- third (2/3) majority of those present who are eligible to vote.

27. STATE COMMITTEE

A State committee shall consist of the officers and other representatives of Clubs as set out in State bye-laws and in accordance with rule 22.

28. Any member of the State Committee who shall have absented themselves from three (3) consecutive meetings without reasonable explanation shall be deemed to have resigned from the State Committee.

29. The public officer shall be the Secretary of the Association.

30. That each affiliated Club has the right to send a delegate to committee meetings of the Association.

31. The Treasurer shall be responsible for accurate keeping of accounts and all monetary transactions and shall present a duly audited financial statement at each Annual Convention of the preceding year's transactions.

32. Any expense entered into by any member shall not be reimbursed unless prior approval has been given by the State Committee for the expenditure. All payments made to members of any person or firm for any costs shall be authorised by the State Committee.

33. Where there is a need for any emergency decision on any payments the treasurer may consult the President and the Secretary to obtain approval. Full details of such an emergency approval will then be given at the next ordinary State Committee meeting following such decisions.

34. The State Committee shall be responsible for each year's programmes and the effective operation of the Association.

35. The State Committee shall have the power to adopt bye-laws for the ordered control of the Association, but must notify Clubs in writing of such changes.

36. The State Committee shall have the right to frame it's own rules on procedure in casting and proxy votes, quorum for meetings, rescinding of such motions and other similar items.

37. The State committee shall have within it's jurisdiction the following powers:

- (a) To control Club affiliations.
- (b) To manage State Hurling and Football competitions.
- (c) To determine all matters relating to the management and selection of it's State teams.
- (d) To provide for the security and development of the Association property within it's jurisdiction.
- (e) To nominate to Central Council its representative as Vice-President on Central Council.
- (f) To control all other affairs of the Association within the state.

38. OTHER COMMITTEES

- (a) The State Committee shall have the power to form senior, junior, minor and divisional committees whose functions and powers will be defined by the State Committee.
- (b) The State Committee shall have the sole right to appoint sub-committees as required.

It shall have the power to nominate the Chairperson of such sub-committees.

It shall define the duties of such sub-committees and retain control in all matters and activities which it considers of importance to the general welfare of the Association, including the disposal of any funds in the hands of such sub-committees.

Any bank accounts in the hands of such sub-committees shall have the same signatories as the Association's bank accounts.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

39. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) A Special General Meeting may be called on fourteen (14) days written notice to each Club.
- (b) The special general meeting shall only deal with the business as listed in the notification.
- (c) Changes to rules shall only occur when passed at special general meeting or annual convention by a two- third (2/3) majority of those present who are eligible to vote.

40. WINDING UP.

- (a) A resolution to wind up the Association shall be passed only at a general meeting specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths (3/4) of those present and entitled to vote. If upon such winding up liabilities and property whatever the same there remains after

the satisfaction of all its debts shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Clubs.

- (b) Subject to the above, the surplus assets are to be transferred to the Irish Australian Association of South Australia to be disbursed by them to other Irish cultural groups within South Australia as it deems fit.