

**GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALASIA**



RULE BOOK
(CONSTITUTION)

PART 1
RULES OF ADMINISTRATION

Applicable to Hurling, Camogie, Men's & Women's Football

**GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALASIA**

RULE BOOK

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March 2011

GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

RULE BOOK

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GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

RULE BOOK

GENERAL

1. NAME

The name of the Association is **The GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA** (formerly known as The Gaelic Athletic Association of Australasia).

2. BASIC AIM

The basic aim of the Association is to control, foster and promote the games of Hurling, Gaelic football, Camogie and such other games as may be sanctioned and approved by the Australasian Convention and the GAA in Ireland.

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 its clubs.

4. DEDICATION

The Association and its resources shall be used for and dedicated solely to the above aims except as provided in Rule 32.

5. UNITS & JURISDICTION

The Association is a democratic organisation comprising the following affiliated units.

- (a) Clubs
- (b) State Associations
- (c) Australasian Council
- (d) Australasian Convention

Members of the Association shall by virtue of their membership, be subject to the jurisdiction of the Association's Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations which shall govern the relationships between the various units, between members, and between members and units.

Members and units shall be bound to resolve any and all disputes that arise within the framework of the existing procedures and Appeals System as set out in these Rules.

Members shall not resort to court proceedings in disregard of these procedures and the Appeal System provisions.

6. NON-PARTY POLITICAL

The Association shall be non-party political. Party political questions shall not be discussed at its meetings and no Committee, Club, Council or representative shall take part as such in any party political movement. A **Penalty** of up to twenty four weeks suspension may be imposed for infringement.

7. ANTI-SECTARIAN/ANTI-RACIST

The Association is Anti-Sectarian and Anti-Racist. Any conduct by deed, word or gesture of a sectarian or racist nature against any player, official, spectator or anyone else, in the course of activities organised by the association, shall be deemed to have discredited the association

PENALTY: As prescribed in Rule 93 (e)

8. AMATEUR STATUS

The Association is an Amateur Association. A player, team, official or member shall not accept payment in cash or in kind in connection with the playing of Gaelic Games. Members of the Association may not participate in full-time training. This rule shall not prohibit the payment of salaries or wages to employees of the Association.

PENALTY: Twenty four weeks suspension or expulsion.

9. CHILD PROTECTION (Under 18)

- (a) The association shall safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of all those under 18 years of age who are involved in its games and related activities.
- (b) The association shall take all practical steps to protect them from all discernible forms of abuse and from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- (c) The Association will have in place a Member Protection Policy for the protection and safeguarding of children/young people under 18 years of age and shall be entitled to amend or revoke any provisions of the code/policy from time to time.
- (d) The Association will have in place Guidelines within its Member Protection Policy for dealing with allegations of abuse. Allegations and complaints of abuse shall be dealt with exclusively in accordance with the provisions of the Policy and not under any other provisions of these rules or under the Club Constitution and Rules.
- (e) This Rule shall give and constitute authority for the carrying out of all functions and actions in accordance with the Member Protection Policy and Guidelines

(f) CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

The Australasian Council shall adopt a Code of Behaviour/Member Protection Policy for Officers and members of the association defining appropriate behaviour and practices. The Policy shall specify the disciplinary procedures to be applied for breaches of the Policy and can be viewed on the Association's website www.gaelicfootball.com.au

10. ANTI-DOPING

The association forbids the use of prohibited substances or methods, a practice generally known as doping in sport. The Rules of the Association regarding doping are those of ASADA and are contained in the Associations Anti-Doping Policy. All members are subject to the rules and regulations set out in the Association's Drug (Anti-Doping) Policy. This Policy can be viewed on the Association's website www.gaelicfootball.com.au

11. SPONSORSHIP & PLAYING GEAR

- (a) The Australasian and State associations shall have the authority to negotiate sponsorship which shall include the naming rights for stadia, stands and terraces.
No new or renewable State sponsorship shall be in conflict with any existing or proposed Australasian sponsorship contract.

3.

- (b) Management Committee shall have the power to negotiate and administer sponsorship and naming rights on behalf of the Australasian Council
- (c) Any agreement entered into by the Australasian Council will be binding upon all Association Units
- (d) A Club shall not be entitled to enter into a sponsorship agreement with regard to the use of sponsor's brand name(s) distinctive marks or logo on playing gear unless it has obtained prior written approval of their State Committee
- (e) Organisers of State team(s) with regard to the use of sponsor's brand name(s) distinctive marks or logo on playing gear must obtain prior written approval of the State Committee

PENALTY: Any Unit which breaches the Rule shall be liable to disqualification and an individual to a suspension of not less than 24 weeks.

The following regulations shall apply to playing gear, specifically jerseys, replica gear, shorts, track-suits and kit bags, worn/used for games, training, interviews and photographs:

Sponsorship of playing and replica gear is permitted within the following guidelines.

- (i) A Club/State team shall not be entitled to enter into a sponsorship agreement with regard to the use of a sponsor's brand name(s) distinctive marks or logo on playing gear unless it has obtained the prior written approval of the State Committee. A sponsor's brand name(s) distinctive marks or logo shall not be displayed unless in accordance with an officially approved sponsorship agreement. The total area of the sponsor's brand name(s), distinctive marks or logos on jerseys shall not exceed an area of 350 square centimetres. That area shall be calculated by measuring the total area, including any background highlighting, covered from one extremity to another. The calculation of the size does not refer to the area covered by individual letters of a name or distinctive marks or logo but to the total area.
- (ii) A brand name(s), distinctive marks of logo or other advertising material shall not be displayed on boots, stockings, gloves, hurleys, kicking tees, sweatbands, undergarments, headbands or helmets or on any other item of playing equipment or accessories worn or displayed during official matches or in pre-match or post-match television or video interviews or photographs other than the manufacturer's or supplier's brand name(s) distinctive marks or logos.
- (iii) Sponsors name(s)/logo are permitted on jersey sleeves and shorts. One sponsor per sleeve and one sponsor on shorts are permitted to a maximum of 100 square centimetres per name/logo.
- (iv) Names and logo including State or Club logo are permitted within these guidelines on tracksuits/ kit bags.
- (v) Name and logo permitted on the front of the jersey only.
- (vi) Sponsor(s) name(s) or logos are allowed on the gear of match officials in accordance with the regulations above.
- (vii) Sponsorship of any kind of underage teams by alcoholic drink companies/hotels etc. is forbidden
- (viii) A unit, team, player or member shall not contract itself/themselves to wear or use any particular brand of playing gear, equipment or accessories unless such playing gear, equipment or accessories fully comply with the provisions of Rule.

4.

Acceptance of payment or other material reward by an individual is strictly prohibited.

PENALTY: A unit or team in breach of this Rule shall be liable to disqualification and/or loss of expenses and an individual to a suspension of not less than twenty four weeks.

12. NATIONAL FLAG & ANTHEMS

The flags of Ireland and Australia/New Zealand should be displayed at all matches. When a national anthem precedes a game, teams must stand to attention facing the flag/s in a respectful manner.

PENALTY: \$100

13. PENALTIES

Where at the end of a rule the word 'Penalty' appears, this denotes the minimum penalty for the breach, non-observance of or non-compliance with the rule, as appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP

14. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) There shall be two types of membership of the association: -
 - (i) Full membership for persons who have reached 18 years of age
 - (ii) Youth membership for persons who have not reached 18 years of age
- (b) Membership of the association shall be granted only by a Club to persons who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia as stated in the Rule Book. .
- (c) A person becomes a Full or Youth Member of the association when they are approved as a Full or Youth Member respectively of a Club. Once granted, Full membership of the Association shall continue for life and Youth membership shall continue until the member's eighteenth birthday unless the member resigns in writing, or is expelled in accordance with the Rule Book
- (d) The rights of a member of the Association shall be conditional upon the member complying with the Rules and Regulations of the Association and Club, including payment of any annual Membership fees and Levies. Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with the Rules of the Association and Club. Subject to the foregoing, only registered Full Members shall be entitled to vote at Club Meetings including the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) State Associations shall keep a register of all members. The Australasian Secretary will forward to Croke Park an annual fee of €2 for every full male member.
- (f) The Australasian Convention shall fix the Annual subscription for affiliated associations/members each year. **Clubs are responsible for ensuring players pay their registration fees before they play their first game each season (Penalties for playing unregistered players are outlined in Rule 21).** State Registrars/Secretaries are responsible for forwarding to the Australasian Secretary in the 1st week of each month during a playing season an updated database of members along with the appropriate fees for members who have registered in the previous month.
- (g) For States which play a **winter** season the registration year shall be from 1 January to 31 December. For States which play a **summer** season the registration year shall be from 1 July to 30 June

Any association whose subscriptions/membership/registration fees are not paid within 60 days of falling due shall be liable to a fine of \$1000 and may have its name removed from the roll of membership at the discretion of the Australasian Council.

5.

- (g) A Club or State association may grant life membership. Nominations for life membership of a State association shall be submitted only by a Club and seconded by another Club.
- (h) All members must be exclusive members of a GF&HAA affiliated club. Members who only hold membership of clubs not affiliated with GF&HAA State Associations are prohibited from participating in GF&HAA and State sanctioned competitions.
- (i) The Rules and Regulations governing application for membership shall be set out in the Official Club Constitution.

15. ALLEGIANCE

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

THE CLUB

16. THE CLUB

The Club is the basic unit of the Association and its object shall be the promotion at local level of the Association's aims as stated in this Rule Book. The Official Club Constitution as approved by Australasian Convention shall be adopted by the Club.

A Club shall be obliged to obtain a current copy of the Rule Book and its members shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the Rules and Regulations in it and shall be bound by them. A Club shall be held responsible for the conduct of its members and known partisans.

AFFILIATION

17. 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 if required alternative colours. The State Committee shall decide on affiliation costs for Teams/Players.

18. A Football/Hurling Club must have at least fifteen playing members before it can be affiliated to the Association except that Clubs playing in a 7/9/11 a side competition must have a set number of players as determined by the relevant State Committee. 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.

19. CLUB NAME

A Club will not be named after a living person or after any existing political or semi-political organisation. It should bear as part of its name a reference to Ireland and such name must be used in all correspondence and official documents.

A motion to change the name of a Club requires a two thirds majority of members entitled to vote and voting at a General Meeting

20. CLUB CONSTITUTION AND RULES

The Official Club Constitution as set out in the Appendix to these Rules shall govern the affairs of all Clubs in conjunction with any relevant State Incorporation guidelines. Each Club shall adopt the appropriate form of the Official Club Constitution.

Amendments and additions must be passed at a Club Annual/Special General Meeting and be submitted in writing to and be approved by State Committee.

21. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

State Committees will be responsible for deciding on the method to be used for registration of players.

**PENALTY - for playing an unregistered player - loss of game & award of game to opposing team
- Club \$100 fine**

For States which play a **winter** season the registration year shall be from 1 January to 31 December. For States which play a **summer** season the registration year shall be from 1 July to 30 June

22. LOSS OF RIGHTS

A Club that 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.

23. EXPULSION

If a Club is expelled from the Association and there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate State Committee of the Association to be disposed of as such State Committee shall direct.

24. WINDING UP A CLUB

A resolution to wind up a Club shall be passed only at a General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths of those present and entitled to vote. If upon such winding up there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members but the trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate State Committee of the Association to be disposed of as such State Committee shall direct but shall in no instance pay or distribute the property amongst the members, officers or employees.

Any decision to Wind-Up a Club shall be subject to the approval of the State Committee and in accordance with any relevant State Incorporation Guidelines.

25. CLUB COLOURS

A Club team shall wear its distinctive Club colours in Inter-Club competitions.

The State Committee shall determine if a clash of colours exists, and shall direct one team to change to colours approved by the Committee.

PENALTY: Clubs infringing this rule shall be liable to a minimum fine of \$40.

26. AMALGAMATION OF CLUBS

A resolution to amalgamate two or more Clubs shall be passed only at General Meetings of the Clubs concerned, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported at each of the respective meetings by not less than three quarters of those present, entitled to vote and voting. Upon such amalgamation, all property, assets and liabilities of the Clubs involved shall be transferred to and vested in the amalgamated Club.

The players of the Clubs involved shall be deemed to be players of the Amalgamated Club.

Any decision to amalgamate Clubs shall be subject to the approval of the State Committee. **3/11**

PLAYING ELIGIBILITY

27. PLAYING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- (a) A player must be a registered Full Member or Youth member of the Association.
- (b) A player may not be a member of a Club for which he/she is unable to play except as stated in Rule 28.

28. PLAYING ELIGIBILITY

A player shall not play for more than one Club except in the following cases:-

- (a) A player of an exclusive hurling club may play football with an exclusive football club and vice versa. The onus is on players to ensure that should they wish to play with different football/hurling Clubs they do not register in the first instance with a Club that has both hurling and football teams.
- (b) A minor may play for an exclusive minor Club
- (c) A minor may play minor football for one club and senior football for another.
- (d) A player who has registered/transferred in the first instance with/to a team in a particular competition can only play for that team in that competition if he/she has played more than one game in that competition. **Exception:** A team which disbands must advise the State committee in writing of this. Only after the committee has received this advice a player from a team that disbands during a competition will be eligible to lodge a transfer to play for a different team in that competition. The committee will be responsible for allocating players in this category to specific teams
**PENALTY: Player - 3 months suspension
- Club - loss of game**
- (e) A member may play for another club in a non-championship/trophy game provided he/she has obtained the permission of the State Committee or higher authority.
- (f) A player may play for a 13/15-a-side team and for a different team in a 7/9-a-side etc. competition if their 13/15-a-side team does not partake in a 7/9-a-side etc. competition.

TRANSFERS & SANCTIONS

29. WITHIN STATE

- (a) A player who wishes to leave one Club to join another in the same State must apply to the State Committee for a transfer.

**PENALTY: for playing without transfer - player - three months suspension.
- Team - loss of game and \$100 fine**

- (b) A State committee may delegate to a Sub-Committee authority to deal with application for Intrastate Transfers but a State Committee shall retain the right to make final adjudication on an application
- (c) A team which does not intend to take part in a competition must advise the State committee in writing of this fact. Only after the committee has received this advice can a player from that team lodge a transfer to play for a different team in that competition. The committee will be responsible for allocating players in this category to specific teams.

INTERSTATE/OVERSEAS

A male player from Ireland intending to play on a longer term basis in the area governed by the Australasian Board must obtain an Official Sanction in duplicate signed by his County Secretary and the Director General (or other designated person). For players completing the form in Australasia they are available on the association website www.gaelicfootball.com.au or from Club/State Secretaries/Registrars. Club Secretaries/Registrars are required to forward Sanctions to their State Secretary/Registrar within 7 days of signature. State Secretaries/Registrars are required to forward Sanctions to the Australasian Secretary within 7 days of receipt from Club Secretaries/Registrars

- (a) No player who is required under these rules to lodge a Sanction may take part in an approved tournament/challenge game until advice has been received from the Australasian Secretary that their Sanction has been approved. Sanctions are normally approved 10 days after they have been forwarded by Croke Park to County Secretaries
- (b) Such a Sanction shall entitle the player to play under the jurisdiction of the Australasian Board for a 12 month period from the date of approval of his sanction in Croke Park.
- (c) A player who has received a sanction shall not be eligible to play again with his club in Ireland for the 60 days after the date of approval of his sanction in Croke Park but is eligible to play with his County.
- (d) A player who remains in the Australasian Board area in excess of 12 months shall require an Australasian Overseas Transfer to be eligible to play there in competitions in the following year(s).
- (e) A player who completes a Sanction Form and then moves to another Australasian affiliate will continue to complete an Interstate Transfer Form.
- (f) A Sanctioned player who returns to Ireland may subsequently return to resume playing in the same year

A player from interstate or an overseas unit other than Ireland must complete an Interstate/Overseas transfer form prior to playing. This form is to be forwarded within 14 days to the Australasian Secretary who will seek the appropriate approval.

A player may transfer from a State to another State and back again once only during a season.

Sanction Forms that are filled out in Australasia are to be completed in duplicate (or original plus photocopy). The original to be forwarded by State Secretaries/Registrars to the Australasian Secretary within 7 days of receipt from Club Secretaries/Registrars.

PENALTY:

For Clubs not forwarding Sanctions within 7 days of signing to a State Secretary/Registrar – Club \$20 for each Sanction

For a State Secretary/Registrar not forwarding Sanctions within 7 days of receipt from Club Secretary/Registrar to Australasian Secretary - \$20 for each Sanction

Players requiring Sanctions or Transfers **MUST** complete the appropriate form prior to playing.

PENALTY: for playing without transfer/sanction - player - three months suspension
- Club - loss of game and \$100 fine
- State - \$200 fine

30. A transfer/sanction becomes effective as soon as the appropriate authority grants it.

31. **NON AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS**

- (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 Australasian Council/State Committee without the prior sanction of Australasian Council/State Committee.
- (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 Australasian Council/State Committee has been given.

PENALTY: 48 weeks suspension.

CONTROL OF ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

32. **USES OF PROPERTY**

All property including grounds, Club Houses, Halls, Dressing rooms and Handball Alleys owned or controlled by units of the Association shall be used only for the purpose of, or in connection with the playing of the games controlled by the Association. **Exception:** State associations may however permit the use of their grounds and property for other sports/activities when their facilities are not required for Gaelic games. Bookmaking shall not be permitted within Association property. A member breaching or aiding the breach of this Rule shall be suspended for 24 weeks.

PENALTY: In the event of any Club or State Committee acting contrary to this Rule, that body shall be subject to automatic suspension which can only be removed by a State Committee or higher Council.

33. **VESTING**

- (a) For any association not incorporated, all property owned by units of the Association shall be vested in members of the Association as Trustees who shall hold such property upon trust to use the same exclusively for the purpose of playing Gaelic Football and hurling and for such other purposes as may from time to time be sanctioned by Australasian Council/State Committees.
- (b) Australasian Council/State Committees are responsible for appointing Trustees who will be members of the Association.
- (c) Property owned by a State Committee or that owned by a combination of units under the control of a State Committee shall be vested in three Trustees who will be appointed for and on behalf of the relevant State Committee.

34. **POWERS**

Subject to the overall authority of the Australasian Council, the Association and its Clubs, State Committees and Australasian Council shall have the following powers:

- (a) To acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, hire or otherwise, lands and hereditaments of any tenure, or any interest in the same.
- (b) To erect and construct, either by itself or through other parties, houses, buildings, playing fields, stadia, offices or works of every description on any land of the Association, or upon any other lands or hereditaments, and to pull down, rebuild, enlarge, alter and improve existing houses, buildings, playing fields, stadia, offices or works thereon and generally to deal with and improve the property of the Association.

10.

- (c) To sell, lease, let, mortgage or otherwise dispose of the lands, houses, buildings, hereditaments and other property of the Association.
- (d) To borrow or raise money for the advancement of the aims of the Association.

STATE CONVENTION

35. CONVENTION

An Annual State Convention shall be held before 31 March. 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 that competed in a senior grade championship of the preceding year.

A newly elected officer, unless a member of the outgoing State Committee or a delegate, shall not have the right to vote at any stage of the Convention.

In special circumstances, a State Committee may summon a Special Convention. Representation shall be as for the Annual Convention.

36. 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, and Public Relations Officer who shall hold office until the conclusion of the election of officers at the next annual Convention.

Exception: Subject to the approval of the Australasian Council, a State Committee may appoint a permanent part/full-time Secretary/Administrator who shall not be subject to annual election.

The State Convention may also elect such other representatives of Clubs 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 State's representation on Australasian Council it shall be filled on the basis of (a) nominations by Clubs (b) ballot vote of Clubs and Members of Current State Committee as at State Convention.

37. NOMINATIONS

A candidate for a position on a State Committee outlined in Rule 35 shall be nominated by a Club. Such nominations shall be submitted on a nomination form which shall be sent to Clubs at least six weeks prior to a State Convention and returned to the State Secretary at least 14 days prior to the Convention. Where exceptional circumstances prevail State Committees may set a bye-law to suit local conditions regarding the method of nominations.

38. MOTIONS

Only Clubs and the State Committee may submit motions for consideration by the State Convention. Such motions shall be submitted on the motion paper which shall be sent to the Club at least four weeks prior to a State Convention/Special General Meeting and which shall be completed and returned to the State Secretary at least two weeks prior to the Convention/Special General Meeting.

11.

- (a) Motions: Only motions carried at a State Convention/Special General Meeting may be submitted by a State for consideration of the Australasian Convention.
- (b) Bye-Laws: State Conventions may set Bye-Laws however a State byelaw shall not be contrary to a rule in the Australasian Rule Book. A copy of any new byelaw must be forwarded to the Australasian Secretary. The Secretary shall sanction or reject a Bye-Law within one month from date of receipt.

39. AGENDA AND NOTICE

The State Secretary shall send an agenda, which shall include either their or a President's report and the audited accounts for the year, with the nominations and motions to each Club Secretary and to the outgoing State Committee at least one week before the Convention.

A copy of these documents including accounts shall at the same time be sent to the Australasian Secretary for the information of the Australasian Council.

40. 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 or a representative 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.

41. STATE BYE-LAWS

State Conventions may set Bye-Laws which shall become operative when sanctioned by the Australasian Secretary on behalf of Australasian Council.

A State Bye-Law shall not be contrary to a Rule in the Australasian Rule Book. A State Bye-Law shall not place a restriction on when Club fixtures are played or govern postponement of fixtures as such matters constitute powers of the State Committee.

The Australasian Secretary shall sanction/reject a proposed Bye-Law within one month of date of receipt.

Motions to remove/amend an existing Bye Law shall be carried by two thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

STATE COMMITTEE

42. COMMITTEE

- (a) A State Committee shall consist of the Officers, Australasian Council Vice President Representative (who shall be an ex-officio member) and other representatives of clubs as set out in State byelaws and in accordance with Rule 37. Only those members of Committee elected at a State Convention or subsequently elected by Clubs to fill a vacancy on the State Executive are permitted to vote
- (b) A State Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention. It shall be subject to the authority of the Australasian Council.
- (c) A member absent without just cause from three consecutive meetings shall automatically become disqualified from membership of the committee for that year. This also shall apply to all members of Sub-Committees.

POWERS

43. A State Committee shall be the governing and controlling body of all the affairs of the association within the State excepting those functions reserved to the Australasian Council under this Rule Book. The following shall be the powers of a State Committee:

- (a) To control Club affiliations. This shall include the power to approve or disapprove the Winding-up of a Club or the amalgamation of Clubs.
- (b) To manage State hurling and football
- (c) To determine all matters relating to the management and selection of its State teams.
- (d) To provide for the security and development of Association property within its jurisdiction
- (e) To nominate to Australasian Council it's representative as Vice President on the Australasian Council. Vice Presidents on Australasian Council if not on State Committees should be ex officio members of their State Committee and attend monthly/regular State Committee meetings.
- (f) To draw up Strategic Plans (either three or five year) for all activities within its jurisdiction and to report on same to the Australasian Convention.
- (g) To appoint a Referees Coordinator/s
- (h) To make the necessary appointments agreed in the Australasian Members Protection Policy for the protection of children
- (i) To make if required, the necessary appointments relevant to the implementation of the association's Anti Doping Policy
- (j) To ensure all association Policies are implemented
- (k) To develop and implement Policies that do not conflict with Australasian Policies

44. The State Committee shall have the power to form Subcommittees (e.g. Senior Men & Women's, Junior, Youth Development and Divisional Committees whose functions and powers will be defined in State Bye-Laws.

In the case of underage players, States must ensure that a Youth Development Board is elected each year. The format for election of this Board will be the responsibility of individual State Committees.

45. SUBCOMMITTEES - GENERAL

- (j) The Chairperson of each Subcommittee shall be selected from the members of the State Committee or from other personnel deemed qualified by the State Committee
- (ii) The Chairperson of Subcommittees shall present a Progress Report on the work of the Subcommittee at times directed by the State Committee
- (iii) The terms of reference of all Subcommittees shall be documented and distributed
- (iv) Each Subcommittee shall submit a written report to State Conventions to be included on the Convention agenda

AUSTRALASIAN CONVENTION

46. AUSTRALASIAN CONVENTION

The Australasian Convention shall be held annually at a date and venue decided by the Australasian Council. It shall consist of the outgoing Council (voting rights as on the Council) and a maximum of two delegates from each affiliated unit. Secretaries of affiliated units who are not attending as delegates shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote.

47. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Annual Australasian Convention shall be:

- (a) To consider reports of the Australasian Council and States for the preceding year to 31 October.
- (b) To consider the Treasurers Report and proposed budget in broad outline for the ensuing 12 months.
- (c) To elect by secret ballot a President.
- (d) To determine Association policy in broad outline.
- (e) To consider motions and to enact, amend or rescind Rules. Where required the Australasian Secretary shall seek approval from the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ireland to deviate from existing rules.

48. POSITIONS ON AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL

The Australasian Council may appoint a full-time Secretary who shall not be subject to annual election and whose employment contract and job specifications shall receive the approval of Management Committee. A State Committee shall nominate a candidate for all other positions. Such nominations shall be made on the nomination paper which shall be sent to State Committees at least six weeks prior to Congress and which shall be completed and returned to the Australasian Secretary at least four weeks before the Australasian Convention.

Nominees shall declare to the Australasian Secretary at least two weeks before the Convention whether they are/are not standing for election.

A President shall be elected one year prior to their term of office and for that year shall be referred to as the President-Elect. A President shall hold office for a term of three consecutive years and will be eligible for re-election. Election of a President/Vice President shall be by secret ballot of those attending entitled to vote.

A Treasurer will be elected for a term of three consecutive years and will be eligible for re-election. Vice Presidents will be representatives from each affiliated State and each State will nominate their representative to Australasian Council as Vice President. Nominees for positions as Vice President will require a majority of votes at the Australasian Convention to be elected.

Exception: A newly affiliated association will not be eligible to nominate a Vice President until their State has been affiliated for 12 months.

Should a vacancy on the Australasian Council arise prior to 30 September in any year it shall be filled on the basis of nominations by the States and decided upon by a ballot of members of Australasian Council. If a vacancy occurs after 30 September the position will be left vacant until the next Congress. In the case of death or permanent incapacity of the President the Australasian Council shall have the authority to appoint from among Vice Presidents an acting President who shall perform the duties of President until the next Australasian Convention.

49. SPECIAL CONVENTION

In special circumstances and with the support of a two-thirds majority of Australasian Council members, the Australasian Council may summon a Special Convention.

In such circumstances the Australasian Council shall be entitled to determine the representation and method of convening the Special Convention.

50. MOTIONS

Only motions carried at a State Convention/Special General Meeting may be submitted by that State Committee for consideration of the Australasian Convention. Prior to the Annual Australasian Convention the Australasian Secretary shall examine motions submitted and decide whether they are in order. Where required the Secretary may amend wording after consultation with the State which has submitted a motion. The President shall have the authority at Convention to rule a motion out of order.

- (a) State Committees may submit motions for Annual Convention. The Australasian Secretary should receive such motions at least six weeks prior to the Australasian Convention.
- (b) Motions to enact new or amend existing Rules shall give the full text of the proposed addition or amendment, and also quote the numbers of any rules affected thereby. It shall also provide a rationale to the motion.
- (c) Motions to remove or amend an existing Rule shall be carried by two thirds of those entitled to vote and voting.
- (d) The Australasian Secretary on behalf of Australasian Council may submit motions for consideration of the Australasian Convention.
- (e) New and amended rules shall become operative upon advice in writing by the Australasian Secretary to State Secretaries who will be responsible for distribution to Clubs.
- (f) A motion declared not to have received one-third of the votes at the Convention may not be tabled on a Convention agenda for the subsequent three years, unless Management Committee allows it in exceptional circumstances.

51. AGENDA AND NOTICE

At least three weeks before the Australasian Convention each State in accordance with representation should be issued with copies of the Australasian Secretary's report, audited accounts, agenda and list of nominations and motions.

52. AUSTRALASIAN SECRETARY

The Australasian Council shall appoint a Secretary who shall be the Chief Executive of the Association.

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL

53. COUNCIL

- (a) The Australasian Council shall consist of the President, Secretary, President-Elect if in office, the immediate Past President, Treasurer and Vice Presidents as nominated by each affiliated State and duly elected by an Australasian Convention.
- (b) No member of the Council shall be represented by proxies at meetings of the Council.
- (c) Should there be more than one nominee for a vacancy on Australasian Council except for the position of Secretary this will be decided upon by a secret ballot of those attending the Australasian Convention eligible to vote. **Exception:** States will nominate their Vice President to Australasian Council. Nominees for Vice President positions must be elected by those eligible to vote at the Australasian Convention.
- (d) A member absent without just cause from two consecutive meetings shall automatically become disqualified from membership of the Council for that year. This shall also apply to all members of Sub-Committees.

54. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

- (a) It is the supreme governing body of the Association between Annual Conventions.
- (b) It is the final authority to interpret the rules after consultation with the GAA in Ireland, if necessary. It may also issue guidelines and directives to its units and members to assist with their compliance of Rule.
- (c) Its jurisdiction shall extend over the whole Association in all matters. It shall appoint Trustees to hold funds, investments, and property of the Association. Its prior approval shall be obtained for any action affecting the general policy of the Association and for capital expenditure.
- (d) Its decisions on all matters appertaining to the Association are final and binding on the members of the Association. No appeal from the decisions of the Australasian Council shall be made at law or otherwise and no appeal may be made to Croke Park or any other body/unit on any decision made by the Australasian Council.
- (e) The Australasian Council shall have complete control of the Australasian Gaelic Football and Hurling competitions and shall conduct such competitions annually on a rotational basis in each State or as decided by the Australasian Council. Should a State be unable to host the Championships on the scheduled dates or the Championships need to be moved from one affiliate to another, the Australasian Council after consultation with affiliates will have the power to reschedule the Championships. The host State or a specially appointed Committee shall be responsible for the organisation of such competitions on behalf of the Australasian Council. States nominated as hosts of the Australasian Championships will have to agree to the designated list of minimum standards and sign such agreement to be eligible to host the Championships in a given year.
- (f) To monitor and supervise the performance of State Committees within it's jurisdiction in the areas of games development, competitions, Fixtures Administration, adherence to directives of the Australasian Council, Financial Management, Marketing, Public Relations and investment in Grounds and Facilities
- (g) To recommend/support where appropriate, State Ground/Facility developments to relevant authorities including the GAA in Ireland
- (h) A minimum of five days written notice shall be given by the Australasian Secretary to all members for meetings, except in an emergency, when he/she may, in consultation with the President, summon a meeting with shorter notice. A Special Meeting may be convened by the Australasian Secretary on the request of a majority of the members.

55. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (a) It shall consist of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Vice President. Australasian Council shall decide which Vice President will serve on Management Committee. It will have the power to make decisions at appeals/disciplinary/investigation hearings, which will be binding on the party or parties concerned. All other Sub-Committees of Australasian Council shall report directly to the Management Committee.
- (b) Subject to the overall jurisdiction of Australasian Council, it shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Association, including its general activities, matters of discipline, finances, and implementation of policies determined by the Australasian Convention.
- (c) It shall have authority to make recommendations on policy and finance to Australasian Council.
- (d) It shall, as required, furnish a report on its activities to meetings of Australasian Council.

56. DEVIATION FROM RULES

Australasian Council may seek in writing to the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ireland for permission to deviate from a specific Rule in the Official Guide published in Ireland. Proposed rule changes will have the agreement of the Australasian Convention and if approved by the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ireland will be operative throughout all units of the Australasian Association.

ADMINISTRATION

57. MEETINGS & QUORUM

Elective Officers referred to in the Rule Book shall be confined to paid up Full Members of the Association.

A minimum of five days notice shall be given by a State Secretary/Authorised person to all Committee Members of meetings except in the case of an emergency, when in consultation with the President/Chairperson the Secretary/Authorised person may summon a meeting with shorter or verbal notice.

A special meeting shall be convened by the Secretary/Authorised person on the written request of a majority of members of a State Committee.

The quorum for all meetings of Committees or Councils of the Association shall be one quarter and not fewer than three of the members entitled to attend unless these Rules or Bye-Laws provide otherwise. This requirement shall not apply to a Club General Meeting.

58. VOTING

Except where otherwise provided in these rules, all decisions at General Meetings and Committee Meetings shall be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie, the presiding Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote irrespective of whether or not he/she had originally voted on the issue. Any decision taken at a duly convened meeting of any Committee or Council of the Association, shall not be rescinded at a subsequent meeting, unless due notice of intention to propose rescindment has been previously conveyed to each member, and the consent of two thirds of those entitled to vote and voting is obtained. A secret ballot will only be used when there is an election of an officer/s.

59. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

All official correspondence to the Australasian Council in connection with State and Club matters must come through the Secretary of the State Association or if absent the Assistant Secretary. Likewise all official Club correspondence to State Committees and Sub-Committees must come through the Club Secretary. All correspondence to the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ireland on any matter from an affiliated Member/State/Club must be sent to the Australasian Secretary who will forward it on to Croke Park if applicable.

Methods

- (a) Unless otherwise specified in any given case, all notices and other communications under the Rules of the Association (including Objections, Counter Objections and Appeals) may be given in writing:
 - (i) to a Member, either:
 - (1) personally or
 - (2) by post or hand delivery to a member's usual address, or
 - (3) by email to any appropriate email address notified by or on behalf of the member to the sender or to the Council or Committee in Charge or
 - (4) by facsimile to any appropriate facsimile number notified by or on behalf of the member to the sender or to the Council or Committee in Charge, or
 - (5) by hand delivery, post, facsimile or email to the appropriate Secretary having regard to the level at which the breach of Rule took place (e.g. Secretary of the member's Club, State Committee etc.) The notice shall be personally addressed to the Member concerned.

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- (ii) and to a Unit, either
 - (1) personally to its Secretary, or
 - (2) by post or hand delivery to the address of the Unit or the Secretary's usual address, or
 - (3) by email to any appropriate email address notified by or on behalf of the Unit or its Secretary to either the sender or to the Council or Committee in Charge, or
 - (4) by facsimile to any appropriate facsimile number notified by or on behalf of the Unit or its Secretary to either the sender or to the Council or Committee in Charge.

Time of Delivery

- (b) Unless otherwise proved to the satisfaction of the appropriate Committee in Charge such notice or other communication shall be deemed to have been received
 - (i) Where sent by ordinary post, at 10 am on the second working day after it was sent;
 - (ii) Where sent by hand delivery, at the time of delivery
 - (iii) Where sent by email or facsimile, at the time of transmission
- Exception (to iii): If the transmission is after 6 pm on any day or is on a weekend and the recipient is affected by time limits in making a response, the time of receipt shall be deemed to be 10 am on the next working day.

Proof of Delivery

- (c) Where a dispute arises as to the fact or time of service of any notice or communication by email or facsimile, the sender shall be required to furnish such proof of transmission as the Committee in Charge shall deem necessary in the circumstances

Signatures

- (d) Where a notice or other communication requires a signature, transmission of that notice or other communication by email shall be deemed duly signed if the senders name is contained in it and the email, message is sufficiently identifiable (by reference to the sender's email address or otherwise) as having emanated from the person purporting to have sent it.

Fees and other Enclosures

- (e) Where any notice or other communication is to be accompanied by monies or other enclosure, transmission of the notice or other communication by email or facsimile shall not be invalid if the relevant enclosure is actually received within two days of the email or facsimile transmission

Email Single Transmission

- (f) Where any notice or other communication, required by Rule to be submitted in duplicate is sent by email, a single transmission is sufficient compliance

60. REVIEW OF FEES AND FINES

The Australasian Council at its meeting on the eve of the Australasian Convention shall have the power to review the amount of fees and fines referred to in the Rules and to increase or decrease same as considered necessary.

61. EXPENSES

The Australasian and State Councils shall pay the authorised expenses of their Officers.

62. TROPHIES

A trophy shall not be named after a living person or after an existing political or semi-political organisation.

Trophies shall not be used for any commercial purposes except where the Australasian or a State Association has entered into an approved Corporate Agreement/Sponsorship.

Cups/Trophies shall not be filled with any type of alcoholic beverage.

PENALTY: Twelve weeks suspension- individual or unit.

63. The Australasian Council shall award to Australasian Champions a maximum of twenty-five trophies/medals.

64. Cash prizes are forbidden.

PENALTY: Six months suspension for the promoting unit and participating Clubs or players.

65. (a) It shall be the privilege of the captain of a winning team to accept the trophy on behalf of the team.

(b) The safe custody of the trophy shall be the responsibility of the State Committee (Australasian Championships) or the Club Executive (Club Competitions) of the successful team. The State Committee having responsibility/custody of any Australasian trophy will pay the cost of repair or replacement for any damage caused to a trophy.

66. A player ordered off in an Australasian Championships final or any other game at Australasian or State level where there is a presentation ceremony shall be eligible to receive a medal/trophy however the medal or trophy cannot be presented during the after-match ceremony.

PENALTY: 3 games additional suspension for participating in an after-match ceremony

A player sent off during the Australasian Championships for an offence listed as an Aggressive Foul as stated in Rule 5.1 to 5.14 will not be eligible for selection in an Australasian team in the year the offence occurred in.

GAMES**67. APPOINTMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

Australasian Council and State Committees shall have the absolute power to appoint the match officials for all games under their respective jurisdiction. The Council or Committee may delegate those powers to a Sub-Committee, Co-ordinator, or in the case of the appointment of umpires and linespersons to the referee.

Where a referee is unable to act, either the referee's coordinator or the Secretary of the Committee in charge shall appoint a substitute. In the case of a referee who is unable to contact the coordinator or Secretary the referee may appoint a substitute.

68. OBJECTION TO DIMENSIONS/MARKINGS

No objection shall be made with regard to the markings of a pitch or the dimensions thereof unless an official protest is made to the referee by the captain of the team before the game.

69. RULES OF SPECIFICATION and CONTROL – PENALTIES

Penalties for breaches of the above rules shall be as follows:

Teams shall consist of fifteen players except that State by-laws may allow for teams to commence and finish a game with thirteen players and eleven players for women inclusive of players ordered off or retired injured. (Where a State has a Bye-Law for 13-a-side competitions a team may commence a game with 11 players but shall have fielded 13 players inclusive of players ordered off or retired injured by the start of the second half). In the event of this not being complied with the game shall continue but it shall be awarded to the opposing side. **Exception:** Late arrivals may join in the game during a cessation of play in the first half, but must report to the referee before so doing.

Team sheets shall be provided to the referee no later than half time however States may set a Games Regulation requiring Team Sheets to be provided to the referee prior to the commencement of a game.

PENALTY - for players joining game after half time – Forfeiture of game and Award to opposing team

In seven, nine and eleven-a-side games the above rule ratio will apply. **The PENALTY for breach of the Rule is Forfeiture of Game to opposing team.**

- (a) A team failing to field 15 players (13 for affiliates with a Bye-Law allowing for 13-a-side competitions. (11 for Women's football) inclusive of players ordered off or retired injured, by the start of the second half of a game.

PENALTY: Forfeiture of game to opposing team

In seven, nine and eleven-a-side games the above rule ratio will apply as will the penalty for breach of the Rule.

- (b) For games with interchange, no more than six interchange players are permitted to be toggled or inside the dugout. Games with substitutes may have a maximum of twenty five players toggled out.

A team exceeding the permitted number of substitutions/interchange players.

PENALTY: Forfeiture of game to opponents & \$50 Fine.

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- (c) A team with more than the permissible number of players on the ground during a game will have their score annulled at the time the referee is aware/made aware of this fact. The referee will include details of this in his/her match report

- (d) For not providing a Team Sheet by half time
PENALTY – Forfeiture of game and Award to opposing team: Club \$50/State \$100 fine

If at full time a player's name is on the team sheet and that player has not taken part in the game and is not present at the pitch, the following will apply:

PENALTY - Forfeiture of game and Award to opposing team: Club \$50/State \$100 fine

A players name is not on the Team Sheet

PENALTY – Forfeiture of game and Award to opposing team: Club \$50/State \$100 fine

A substitution/interchange made where a players name is not on the Team Sheet:

PENALTY – Forfeiture of game and Award to opposing team: Club \$50/State \$100 fine

(e) **Late Fielding**

- (i) A team shall take the field at least ten minutes before the nominated start time or upon completion of the previous game. A team taking the field late before game:-

PENALTIES - State \$50, Club fine \$20 for every five minutes or part thereof up to 15 minutes.

For over 15 minutes after the appointed starting time, the game shall be considered as conceded and shall be awarded to the opposing team unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

- (ii) A team exceeding the 10-minute interval in Club games will be fined \$20 for every five minutes or part thereof and a State exceeding the interval at the Australasian Championships \$50 for every five minutes or part thereof.

- (iii) A team responsible for an Interval period allowed being exceeded by more than five minutes.

PENALTY – Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.

- (iv) A team(s) failing to field for obligatory extra time, within the specified timeframe

PENALTY: Forfeiture of Game and Award to the Opposing Team.

- (vi) For unauthorised entry onto the field of play by a team official:

PENALTY: 3 games suspension

(f) **Jerseys/Colours**

- (i) Each State shall register with Australasian Council its distinctive State Colours, which shall be worn in interstate matches. Where the controlling Council determines that a similarity of colours occurs, the State which first registered their colours with the Australasian Council will be permitted to wear their colours in matches and the other State will wear alternate colours.

PENALTY: State - \$200

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- (ii) A Club team not wearing its registered distinctive Club colours in Inter-Club Competitions or where there is a similarity of colours not wearing alternate colours approved by the controlling Committee
PENALTY: \$50 Fine
- (ii) In all games the goalkeeper shall wear a jersey which is distinctive from their own team's and the opposing team's colours
PENALTY: Team - Fine - \$50
- (iii) In matches within States, State committees will decide whether players shall be appropriately numbered i.e. 1 to 25 relative to the position they are playing. Numbers shall be 24cm in length on the backs of jerseys.

70. AWARD OF GAME

The Award of a game rests with the Committee or Council concerned acting on the referee's report.

71. FACTS OF GAME

Where a referee fails to submit a Report within a period of four days after the game, the Committee in charge has the power to deal with the Facts of the Game on the basis of such evidence as the Committee-in-Charge considers appropriate.

COMPETITIONS

72. ORGANISATION (STATE)

A State Committee shall organise its Competitions on a knockout or league basis.

- (1) The Committee-in-Charge shall draw up and approve all Regulations governing the Organisation of a Competition in advance of its commencement. A Regulation once adopted shall remain in force unless altered or deleted by a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
- (2) Where teams finish with equal points for the concluding stages or promotion or relegation the tie shall be decided by the following means and in the order specified:
 - (i) Scoring Difference (subtracting the Scores Against from the Scores For)
 - (ii) Highest Total Score For
 - (iii) Where two teams only are involved – the outcome of the previous meeting of the two teams in the competition
 - (iv) Scoring Average (divide total Score Against into total Scores For)
Exception: The Committee in charge prior to the commencement of a competition will set a Regulation to cover if the accumulated scores of a team so involved, are affected by disqualification, loss of game on objection, retirement or forfeit.
- (3) If a Club is Disqualified or Retires during the course of the League Stage, its played games shall stand and its unplayed Games shall be awarded to the Opposing Teams.

73. NOTICE

Except where State Bye-Laws provide otherwise, a Club taking part in an adult Championship game shall be given five clear days notice of the fixture in writing except in the case of a replay or refixture for which four clear days notice in writing shall be given.

Notice for original fixtures shall be in writing but notice for replays/refixtures need not necessarily be in writing.

74. DISQUALIFICATION

The **PENALTIES** for a Club failing to fulfil a game in a competition shall be as follows;

- (a) In a “Knock-Out” game- the Club shall be disqualified from the competition and the game awarded to the opposing team
- (b) In a “League Stage” of a Competition –
 - (i) For a First Failure – The game shall be awarded to the opposing team, but without Disqualification, subject to the condition below.

If in the opinion of the Committee in Charge, the failure to field was for an ulterior purpose, affecting the position(s) of other Clubs, the defaulting Club may at the discretion of the Committee be disqualified from the competition.

- (ii) For a Second Failure – A Club shall be disqualified from the competition and the game awarded to the opposing team
- (c) (i) A Club/Unit shall be compelled to pay any fine for loss of revenue imposed by the Committee-in-Charge and all reasonable expenses incurred and failure to do so shall incur a suspension of forty eight weeks.
- (ii) A Club failing to give two clear days notice in writing of its intention not to fulfil a game may be liable to disqualification from the competition. The game shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- (iii) A State Committee may set a Rule relating to fines for unfulfilled fixtures

75. AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australasian Hurling and Football Championships shall be conducted annually (unless otherwise agreed by the Australasian Council) on a rotational basis in each State or at such venue as shall be agreed by the Australasian Council. The host State or a specially appointed Committee shall be responsible for the organisation of such competitions on behalf of Australasian Council, however, the Australasian Council shall have complete control of such competitions and associated events. States nominated as hosts of the Australasian Championships will have to agree to the designated list of minimum standards and sign such agreement to be eligible to host the Championships in a given year.

At the Australasian Championships each participating State is to provide a referee in accordance with Rule 81 (f) plus two goal umpires and linesperson (not necessarily the same people) who will be rostered for matches throughout the Championships.

76. NUMBERING OF PLAYERS

In Australasian Championship games players will retain the same number for the duration of the games.

77. TEAM SELECTIONS

A State team shall consist of not more than twenty-five players. A list of up to twenty-five players shall be given to the Australasian Secretary prior to the commencement of the Championships after which no additions will be permitted.

78. STATE COLOURS

Each State shall register with Australasian Council its distinctive State Colours, which shall be worn in interstate matches. Where the controlling Council determines that a similarity of colours occurs, the State which first registered their colours with the Australasian Council will be permitted to wear their colours in matches and the other State will wear alternate colours agreed to by Australasian Council.

PENALTY: State - \$100

79. ELIGIBILITY FOR AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (a) Players moving interstate may play club games in their new State of residence and represent their former State provided they declare accordingly at least 60 days prior to the commencement of the Championships each year. The Australasian Secretary must be notified in writing by this date.
- (b) A third hurling team comprising of players from all States including those from Victoria and New South Wales not selected in those two State's respective teams is eligible to partake in the Championships. Those players from Victoria and New South Wales will require the approval of their State Executive to play
- (c) If a State does not enter a team then no player from that State may represent another State unless eligible under Rule 79(a) or the Australasian Council deems that exceptional circumstances exist
- (d) Players not selected by a State may play for another State providing their home State does not raise an objection. If there is an objection, the Australasian Council will be the arbiter on the matter taking into account any exceptional circumstances
- (e) A player who lodges a transfer from one State to another must play a minimum of 3 games within the new State to be eligible to play in the Championships
- (f) No more than the maximum numbers of non-resident Australasian players agreed at Australasian Convention are permitted to be included in a State squad in men's football. Australian and New Zealand laws relating to permanent residency define non-resident. All players at the Australasian Championships who in accordance with the above are required to show proof of residency/citizenship must show photographic evidence prior to playing their first game. Details to be verified by three people appointed by Australasian Council. These three people may not necessarily be members of that Council.

PENALTY: In the case of Men's teams found guilty of including players not eligible under the above "Visa" rule, the Coach and Manager of the State of which the player/s is/are a member/s will be suspended for forty eight weeks and the illegal player or players shall also be suspended for 48 weeks. The team/s concerned will also be disqualified from the Championships in the code in the year in which the offence occurred.

- (g) To be eligible to participate at the Australasian Championships, each State must provide a Grade 1 referee in the codes which they have entered teams i.e. one referee who can referee men's and minor football, one referee for ladies football and one referee for hurling. In the case of football should a State enter men's, minor and ladies teams they will be required to provide two referees.

PENALTY: State - \$500 fine for each code referee is not supplied

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To be eligible to participate at the Australasian Championships, States must go through the following nomination process for each team:

1. 1st Stage Nomination 30 June – payment of \$500
2. 2nd Stage Nomination on 31 July – payment of \$500

This money is payable to the State hosting the Championships and can be used to assist with expenses before the Championships. Failure to pay within two weeks of the date may rule a team ineligible to participate at the Championships (i.e. they cannot join at 2nd nomination stage).

Withdrawal of a team at any stage will mean the State forfeits all money they have paid for that team. For teams that do participate, the \$1000 participation fee per team is returnable to a State after they have participated in their first game in each code they have nominated.

80. AGE LIMITS

To be eligible to play in the respective grades listed hereunder, all players shall meet the stated age criteria on 1st January* of their Championship/League year.

Adult: Be over 16 years
Under-21 Be over 16 and under 21 years
Minor* Be over 14 and under 18 years

Under-16 Be over 12 and under 16 years
Under-14 Be over 10 and under 14 years
Under-12 Be over 9 and under 12 years

Exception: In Adult Women's Football, players will be over 14 years

***Exception** relates to players in the Australasian Minor Football Championships being 17 years or under at the commencement of the Games

Girls may participate only up to and including the Under 12 Grade in mixed competitions.

PENALTIES:

(i) Team – Award of game to the Opposing Team

(ii) Suspensions shall be as follows

(a) Players:

- For playing overage at Under –16 or younger grades: 3 Games
- For playing overage at Minor or Under –21 Grade: 24 weeks
- For playing underage at any Grade – 1 game

(b) Person(s) in charge of the team committing the Infraction

- For playing overage Player(s) 48 weeks suspension
- For playing underage Player(s) 48 weeks suspension

(c) – Chairperson and Secretary of a Club/State: Playing overage player(s) at Minor and Under 21 Grades: 48 weeks

81. UNDER 21 CHAMPIONSHIPS

This grade shall be confined to players who are under twenty-one years of age on 1 January of the Championship year.

82. MINOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This grade shall be confined to players who are seventeen years of age or under at the commencement of the Championships.

PENALTY:

(a) Players – 24 weeks suspension

(b) Person(s) in charge of the team committing the Infraction – 48 weeks suspension

The team/s concerned will also be disqualified from the Championships in the year in which the offence occurred.

All players in Minor football at the Australasian Championships are required to have photographic evidence of their date of birth. This requirement to be checked by Australasian Council prior to a player competing in his first game.

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**83. ORGANISATION**

A League shall be subject to the general rules of the Association. Prior to the competition start, the Committee in charge shall draw up the regulations governing its organisation

- 84.** League results shall be credited as follows; two points for a win and one for a draw. Teams finishing with equal points shall decide the issue on a play-off system or a State may set a regulation to decide on ranking in the case of teams finishing level on points e.g. percentage. If a team retires or is disqualified during the course of a competition, its played games shall stand and unfulfilled games shall be awarded to the remaining teams. For each unfulfilled fixture the State committee may set a minimum penalty.

PENALTY: For each unfulfilled fixture at the Australasian Championships the team/s responsible will be fined \$500 each.

TOURNAMENT AND CHALLENGE GAMES

- 85.**
- (a) Units organising tournament games (and any challenge games involving teams from another State) shall make application to their State Committee at least six weeks prior to the commencement date of the proposed tournament for permission to stage the tournament. States may give authority to its Secretary to grant permissions
 - (b) A team travelling to another State to participate must have prior approval in writing from its home State to participate. A team's home State Secretary is to be advised in writing of all approvals at least four weeks prior to the tournament/competition.
 - (c) At least two weeks prior to the tournament the host Club will provide it's State Committee with the names of teams participating and a program
 - (d) Referees Match Reports shall be submitted within three days of games. When the Council or Committee-in-Charge deems it necessary, the Report shall be submitted within 24 hours. The host State Committee shall deal with any disciplinary matters arising. Any penalties will be operative throughout Australasia.

Failure to comply with the above Rule Provisions shall not affect Disciplinary Proceedings being taken, arising from a Game played.

86. UNAUTHORISED GAMES & TOURNAMENTS

All Clubs must seek the approval of their State Committee to play games against teams from another State and friendly matches between teams in the same State.

PENALTIES:**For Organising an Unauthorised Game/Tournament:**

- State:** - Fine \$1 000
Club: - Fine \$500; Liable to a minimum Suspension of 8 games

For Participation in Unauthorised Tournament:

- State:** - Fine \$500
Club: - \$250
Team/Player - Liable to a minimum Suspension of 8 games

87. COMPETITIONS WITH LESS THAN 13 PLAYERS

A State Committee or Australasian Council may grant sanction, as appropriate, for competitions involving teams of e.g. 7/9/11-a-Side. These competitions shall be subject to the rules of the Australasian Rule Book. No alteration in rules governing discipline shall be permitted.

ENFORCEMENT OF RULES**SUSPENSION - GENERAL**

- 88.** (a) A suspension under General Rules or State Bye-Laws of a member for an Infraction other than a suspension imposed for a category 1, 2, 3 playing Infraction or the suspension of a Club, means suspension from all functions, privileges and competitions under the Association but not from membership of the Association.
- (b) The suspension of a member for a Category 1, 2, 3 playing Infraction means suspension from playing in games (including Tournament and Challenge Games), refereeing, umpiring or acting as linesperson or Sideline Official.
- (c) A member other than a member suspended for a Category 1, 2 or 3 playing Infraction who takes part in the affairs of the Association whilst under suspension shall be suspended for a period of 24 weeks from the date of expiration of original suspension.

PENALTIES:

Member/Player: for illegal participation while under suspension - 24 weeks additional Suspension

For a Team playing a suspended player

- (i) **Arising from proven objection –Award of game to opposing team**
(ii) **Arising from an Inquiry by the Council or Committee-in-Charge: Forfeiture of game with award to the opposing team. Fine, within the discretion of the by the Council or Committee-in-Charge and depending on the circumstances**

- 89.** Any penalty imposed shall be operative throughout the Association. In all cases involving the suspension of a Club, such suspension shall not apply to the Juvenile (Under 16) section unless specifically stated.

90. SUSPENSIONS - MISCONDUCT ON FIELD**(1) Players Ordered Off/Reported**

- (i) A player ordered off the field for a Category 3, 4, 5 Infraction shall stand suspended in both hurling and football and shall not play again until the Council or Committee responsible for determining their suspension has dealt with their case.
- (ii) A player ordered off the field for a Category 2 Infraction shall stand suspended for the minimum 3 games. A dual player (hurling/football or 15-a-side/7-9-11-a-side) may serve their suspension in both codes/competitions however they must have played at least one game during the current season in the code/other competition other than the one they were sent off in to avail of this rule.

A player shall have the right to have their suspension reviewed by the Committee in Charge, on written representations, or by seeking, in writing, an oral hearing.

A player ordered off for a Category 3, 4, 5 Infraction for which more than the minimum 3 games suspension is applicable, shall not play again until their case has been dealt with by the Council or Committee responsible for determining the duration of suspensions over and above the minimum term of 3 games

(2) **Additional Suspension**

The suspensions under section Category 2, 3, 4, 5 Infractions are minimum penalties. The committee in charge shall have due regard for the gravity and repetition of offences in each case and shall where appropriate impose a longer term of suspension.

State committees will ensure a player incurring a 24 weeks suspension, part of which falls in the “close season”, misses the correct equivalent number of games that would have occurred had the suspension been imposed at the start/during a season.

Managers or officials under suspension are not allowed to play any part in team affairs on match days. Suspended managers and officials are also excluded from the pitch enclosure and barred from the dressing room and dressing room area. They are also not allowed to be seated or stand in the area adjacent to team dugouts i.e. within 10 metres.

(3) **Commencement of Term**

A term of Suspension shall commence:

- (i) In the case of a player sent from the field of play, immediately on them being sent off
- (ii) In the case of a player reported by the referee as having committed a category 2, 3, 4, 5 Misconduct at Games Infraction after the conclusion of the Game, immediately from the time of the Infraction, subject to them being notified in writing forthwith of the report having been made
- (iii) In any other case of Misconduct at Games by a player, from the date of their game played (where a Category 1 (Repeat), 2 or Misconduct at Games Infraction is concerned, this shall refer to the last game in the code in which the Infraction was committed);
- (iv) In the case of a non-player, from the date of decision of the Council or Committee-in-Charge.

(4) **Reduction of Suspensions and other Penalties**

A Council or Committee which imposes a Suspension or other Penalty which is more than the minimum provided for shall have the power on one subsequent occasion to reduce the penalty imposed on application of the Unit or Member affected subject as follows:

- (1) It is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the said Council or Committee that the Penalty imposed is unduly harsh
- (2) The Council or Committee may not reduce the Penalty below the minimum provided for in Rule or Bye-Law

91. DISCIPLINARY JURISDICTION

- (a) Australasian Council including its Management Committee and State Committees shall within their respective jurisdictions have the power to enforce Rules and Bye-Laws, investigate breaches of Rules and Bye Laws, warn any unit or member as to future conduct and impose upon Members, Teams and Units such penalties as may be prescribed, or where no penalty is prescribed, appropriate penalties for such breaches.

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Where reference is made in Rule to Australasian Council or State Committees, such reference shall include or be a reference to their Sub-Committees having jurisdiction over disciplinary matters.

- (b) Where a Council or Committee considers that a member or Unit from outside its area of jurisdiction has committed any infraction or breach of Rule within its area of jurisdiction, it shall report the matter to that persons State Committee for adjudication or to the Australasian Council in all other cases.
- (c) Any penalty imposed shall be operative throughout the Association.
- (d) The Disciplinary Jurisdiction of Match Officials in relation to Control of Games on the Field of Play is separate from the provisions of these Rules

These powers with the exception of the power to expel (which is a reserved power of State Committees and Higher Councils) may be extended to Divisional Committees by State byelaw.

92. JUVENILE JURISDICTION/ JUVENILE SUSPENSIONS – Special Rules

(a) Jurisdiction

A Juvenile Committee having under its jurisdiction persons under 16 years of age (**on 1 January of the year in question**) and having full powers to deal with them shall not impose a penalty on an adult full member of the Association but shall have the right to conduct disciplinary action against that member up to but excluding the imposition of penalty and to recommend a penalty to the parent State or Divisional Committee under whose jurisdiction the member is subject. The parent Committee being satisfied that correct procedures have been followed may impose a penalty without further Hearing.

(b) Suspension for match Offences

Juvenile players participating in Under 16 or younger grade competitions shall be subject to penalties for Misconduct at Games Infractions on the same basis as under the General Rules above, except that the Minimum Suspension shall in each case be one-half of that applicable. Suspensions for Category 1 or 2 offences shall apply only to the Code i.e. Hurling or Gaelic Football in which the offence was committed. Suspensions for Category (3) offences shall apply to both codes i.e. Hurling and Gaelic Football.

- (i) For an offence other than a Category (1) offence, except as provided in (iii) below –
Minimum of 1 game
- (ii) For a subsequent category (1) within the same season – 1 game
- (iii) For an offence other than a Category (1) offence in a competition played over one day or consecutive days –
Minimum Penalty – suspension from playing in next round of the competition. If their team's involvement is terminated – minimum 1 game

(c) The other provisions of Rule 92 shall also apply.

(d) Suspensions for Playing Illegally

The minimum suspension for a juvenile (under 16) player for playing overage or playing illegally with a Club in Under 16 or younger age group competitions shall be three games.

The person/s in charge of the team, shall

- (1) in the case of playing an overage player be suspended for 48 weeks
- (2) in the case of playing an otherwise illegal player, be dealt with in accordance with the Rules as otherwise stated in the Official Rule Book.

(e) Club Suspension

In all cases involving the suspension of a Club, such suspension shall not apply to the Juvenile (Under 16) Section, unless specifically included by the Council or Committee-in-Charge.

93. INFRACTIONS

The following shall constitute Infractions to which the Disciplinary Jurisdiction of the Association applies:

- (a) Any breach of the Rules and Bye-Laws including Codes, Regulations, Guidelines and Directives made under them

PENALTY:

As provided for in the relevant Rules and Bye-Laws Laws including Codes, Regulations, Guidelines and Directives made under them

- (b) Misconduct at games by Players, which consists of five categories of Infractions by players which occur on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play and which occur immediately before, during or after a Game.

Category 1

Being ordered off for a second Cautionable Infraction.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Fixed Penalty: Debarment from playing for the remainder of the game, to include any extra time**
(ii) **Fixed penalty on Repeat Infraction: 1 game suspension**

Category 2

Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official; Striking or attempting to strike with hurley, with minimal force; Kicking or attempting to kick, with minimal force; Striking or attempting to strike with arm, elbow, hand or knee; Behaving in any way which is dangerous to an opponent; Spitting at an opponent; Contributing to a melee.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum: 3 games Suspension**
(ii) **Minimum on repeat Infraction: 6 games suspension**

Category 3

Striking with hurley either with force or causing injury; Attempting to strike with hurley, with force; Kicking, either with force or causing injury; Attempting to Kick with force; Stamping; Striking or attempting to strike with the head; Inflicting injury recklessly by means other than those stated above; Any type of assault on an Opposing Team Official.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum 7 games suspension**
(ii) **Minimum on Repeat Infraction: 14 games suspension**

Category 4

Minor physical interference (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling), threatening or abusive conduct towards, or threatening language to a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum 12 weeks suspension. Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels.**
- (ii) **Minimum on Repeat Infraction: 24 weeks suspension. Suspension in all Codes and at all Levels.**

Category 5

Any type of assault on a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum 48 weeks suspension in all codes and at all levels with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate**
- (ii) **Repeat Infraction within 96 weeks: 96 weeks suspension in all codes and at all levels with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate**

Definition of "Repeat Infraction"

"Repeat Infraction" in the section of Rule above means a second or subsequent occurrence of any Misconduct at Games by Players Infraction in the same category within a 48-week period (or 96 weeks in the case of a Category 5 Infraction).

In relation to Categories 1, 2, 3 only an Infraction committed in the same Code and at the same level as the previous occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction. In relation to categories 4 and 5, a second occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction irrespective of the Code or level of the previous occurrence.

- (c) **Misconduct at games by Team Officials**, which consists of four categories of Infractions by Team Officials which occur on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play and which occur immediately before, during or after a Game.

Category 1a

Abusive language towards a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum: 3 games Suspension**
- (ii) **Minimum on Repeat Infraction: 6 games suspension**

Category 2a

Any type of physical interference with an Opposing Player or Team Official

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum: 6 games Suspension**
- (ii) **Minimum on Repeat Infraction: 12 games suspension**

Category 3a

Minor physical interference (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling), threatening or abusive conduct towards, or threatening language to a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum: 12 weeks Suspension**
- (ii) **Minimum on Repeat Infraction: 24 weeks suspension**

Category 4a

Any type of assault on a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official.

PENALTY:

- (i) **Minimum 48 weeks suspension in all codes and at all levels with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate**

- (ii) **Minimum on Repeat Infraction: 96 weeks suspension with offender's Team liable to Disqualification, where appropriate**

Definition of "Repeat Infraction"

"Repeat Infraction" means a second or subsequent occurrence of any Misconduct at Games Infraction in the same category within a 48-week period (or 96 weeks in the case of a Category 5 Infraction). In relation to Categories 1, 2, 3 only an Infraction committed in the same Code and at the same level as the previous occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction. In relation to categories 4 and 5, a second occurrence shall constitute a Repeat Infraction irrespective of the Code or level of the previous occurrence.

- (e) **Disruptive Conduct at Games by Players, Team Officials or Supporters** which occur on or in the vicinity of the Field of Play and which occur immediately before, during or after a game:

- (1) Premature Termination of a Game – By reason of serious disruption by Players, Officials or Supporters of a Team;

PENALTIES:

Team – Forfeiture of the game and Award to the opposing Team (unless both Teams are responsible), save where there are exceptional mitigating circumstances

Other Penalties at the discretion of the Council or Committee-in-Charge

- (2) Premature Termination of a Game – By reason of
 - (i) A Player(s) refusing to leave the field when ordered off or rejoining the game after being ordered off.
 - (ii) A Team or Player(s) leaving the field without the Referee's permission or Refusing to continue playing

PENALTIES:

Team and other Penalties – As in 1 above

Player(s) who caused Termination – 24 weeks suspension in addition to any Infraction committed in the game.

- (3) Disruption conduct by Players, Team Officials or Supporters (not causing the premature termination of the game)

PENALTIES: shall be at the discretion of the Council or Committee-in-Charge.

- (4) The Council or Committee-in-Charge may direct that Units refuse admittance to the Property owned or controlled by the Association to any person, whether or not a member of the Association, if that person is considered to be guilty of Disruptive Conduct at Games.
- (e) Misconduct considered to have discredited the Association. The following shall be a non-exhaustive list of examples of such Misconduct:
 - (1) Violence or threatening violence or using threatening or abusive language at Grounds or other premises of the Association

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- (2) Theft or misappropriation of property of the Association
- (3) Defamation of Members or Units of the Association
- (4) Wilful disregard of the Rules of the Association or lawful directions of authorised Units of the association
- (5) Recklessness with regard to the health, safety or security of Members of the Association
- (6) Intimidation of or interference with match officials or members of the association
- (7) Committing a criminal offence in the course of activities organised by or in the name of the Association

PENALTIES:

Member – A minimum 8 weeks Suspension. Debarment and Expulsion may also be considered.

Team/Unit – Where suspension is deemed appropriate – a minimum of eight weeks. A Fine, Disqualification, and Expulsion from the Association may also be considered.

94. PROCEDURES

- (a) Whenever the relevant Council or Committee proposes to adjudicate on any disciplinary matter (that may involve any penalty, **other than specified in Exceptions below**) it shall give the Council, Committee, Club or Member alleged to have offended notice in writing of the alleged Infraction within 21 days of the alleged infraction.

Exceptions:

- (1) A case in which a suspension of three games or less applies to a player under Rule 93 – Infractions or Rule 92 (b) – Suspensions of Juveniles for Match Offences
- (2) The imposition of a statutory fine
- (3) Loss of points for failure to fulfil a fixture
- (4) Application of penalties for breaches of competition regulations
- (b) Disciplinary Action shall commence where:
 - (1) A Referee's Report discloses an alleged Infraction
 - (2) The Controlling Council or Committee-in-Charge decides that Disciplinary Action is appropriate arising otherwise than from competitions or games
- (c) The Controlling Council or Committee-in-Charge may make a written request for clarification from a referee:
 - (1) where there is any ambiguity in their report or,
 - (2) where the Controlling Council or Committee-in-Charge is in the course of investigating a possible infraction not stated in the Referee's report (even if the incident itself is reported)

- (b) The Hearings Committee (also known as the Disciplinary Committee) shall preside over any Hearing. The Hearing shall require a quorum of at least three however not more than five members where the defending party is a Juvenile Member (under 16 years of age).
- (c) At the outset of the meeting, the Chairperson should remind all the members that they should declare any possible conflict of interest in regard to a case on the agenda and the person/s should be asked to remove themselves from the case in point if the majority of the Committee feel that this is warranted.
- (d) No member of a Committee hearing a disciplinary matter is to partake in the disciplinary process when a member of their own Club is appearing before a disciplinary hearing. This includes appeals/objections/investigations.
- (e) Where an individual is being heard at any stage of the Disciplinary process, the individual should in every case be asked if he/she has a concern about the involvement of any member in adjudicating on the case, because of an alleged conflict of interest. Where such a concern is voiced, the person involved shall not sit in judgement only if the majority of the Committee feel that this is warranted.
- (f) The actions at c, d and e, should be recorded in the minutes with regard to every case dealt with.
- (g) No member of the Association may communicate with any member of the Hearing Committee with a view to influencing the outcome of the Hearing

The Member or body shall have three days from the date of the notice to make written representation or to seek an oral hearing in relation to the alleged offence which hearing shall be granted on request. Written representations shall, in the case of a Body, be made by the Secretary of that Body and in the case of a member, by the individual personally.

At an oral hearing, a Club or Committee shall be represented by a maximum of two of its Full Members and a member shall attend personally and may be accompanied by one full member of his/her Club/Unit.

Regarding notice, the exception to this rule shall be that Management Committee/Australasian Council shall hear breaches of discipline at the Australasian Championships within 48 hours of the alleged breach for cases other than when a suspension of three games or less applies to a player under Rule 93.

- (h) A juvenile shall not be called before a disciplinary hearing unless they request such a hearing, in which case they will be accompanied by an adult full Member of their Club/Unit and while giving evidence, be heard by not more than five members of the Committee.
- (i) The body or member alleged to have committed an offence shall not call match officials to give evidence nor can they cross examine officials. The committee in charge may hear the match officials privately. Any evidence of match officials shall subsequently be conveyed to the body/member in relation to the alleged offence.
- (j) A Referee's Report, including any clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where an unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it;
- (k) A referee or other Official shall not be required to give oral evidence or to appear for cross-examination

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- (l) After the Hearing, the Hearings Committee may at its sole discretion seek clarification in writing of any matters in the Referee's Report. Any written clarification or comment by the Referee shall have the same status as the Referee's Report itself, but may be only used for the purposes of exoneration of the defending party or mitigation of any allegations made against him/her. Such clarification may not be challenged in any way or made the subject matter of any further Hearing.
- (m) Any member found by the Hearings Committee to have given deliberately false evidence whether orally or in writing, or to have deliberately misled any hearing shall be suspended for a minimum of forty eight weeks, without a further hearing.
- (n) In any objection, appeal, investigation or inquiry, evidence or information shall not be accepted or considered unless applicable to a period not longer than ninety six weeks prior to the date of first hearing. An exception to this shall be information in the possession of the Australasian Secretary or State Secretary or the Committee in charge. Such information will be furnished on direct application in writing when the appeal is lodged except in minor or under-21 competitions when it shall be made available prior to the lodging.
- (o) All motions for disciplinary action shall be moved and seconded. In the event of a motion not being moved or not in order or when moved the voting is equal; the Chairperson of the meeting shall impose an appropriate penalty. **Unless there is video evidence available, members of Disciplinary Committees do not have the power to exonerate players/members reported by a referee for an infraction. Without video evidence in these matters, a Disciplinary Committee's sole responsibility is to decide whether the minimum suspension or greater will apply. In no instance shall a term of suspension or penalty be less than the minimum specified by Rule.**
- (p) If arising from any game, other than games under the control of the Australasian Council, a player is reported for a Category 2, 3, 4, 5 Infraction the Committee in Charge shall not have the authority to exonerate the player or to mitigate the stipulated penalties unless there is video evidence as detailed in Rule 112 or other authentic evidence that the offence was not committed by the player.
- (q) When a penalty is imposed the Council other than in cases covered by the Exceptions in (a) above, the Committee, Club or member shall be informed of the decision in writing and the Rule(s) under which the decision was taken.

95. URGENT CASES

In urgent cases between meetings the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) In urgent cases, where a Player believes they may be the subject of Disciplinary Action but have not received Notice of Disciplinary Action they may request the Council or Committee-in Charge to clarify their position. The Council or Committee in charge shall make emergency arrangements on the receipt of such a request to check and direct on the position of the player concerned
- (b) If it is clear from the referee's report that a three games suspension or less applies (or a lesser penalty in the case of a juvenile), this shall be declared between meetings and the player concerned shall be entitled to play at the expiration of that penalty. The suspension shall be noted at the next meeting of the Committee/Council.

96. DISQUALIFICATION OF TEAMS AND FORFEITURE OF GAMES

- (a) Where forfeiture is imposed, the Team concerned shall be treated as if it had lost the game concerned but the game shall not be awarded to the opposing team unless provided for under the particular Rule under which the penalty was imposed
- (b) Where a Team is disqualified from a competition that team shall take no further part in that competition and if the disqualification arises from a particular game the team shall be treated as having forfeited that game
- (c) Any Infractions reported, Disciplinary action initiated or Suspensions or other Penalties imposed in respect of any breaches of Rule at or in connection with any games played by the disqualified Team shall stand
- (d) No team defeated by a disqualified team in a Knock-Out Competition (Including Knock-Out stages of a competition) shall be reinstated into the competition (except where the disqualification arises from a proven objection).

97. FINES

- (a) Fines shall be in the amounts set out in Rules and Bye-Laws. Where not specified, the amount of fines shall be at the discretion of the Council or Committee-in Charge but not less than \$50.
- (b) Fines shall be only imposed on Units, not on Members
- (c) In the event of failure to pay a Fine within such period as may be stipulated by the Council or Committee-in Charge (either at time of imposition of the Fine or afterwards) the Unit concerned and/or its Officers shall be liable to such Sanctions as the Council or Committee-in Charge shall deem appropriate.

98. DEBARMENT

In appropriate cases, the Council or Committee-in Charge may, by way of penalty, debar a member from identified privileges of the Association such as playing games, attending games, holding office, handling funds, attending occasions other than games etc.

PENALTY for Breach of Debarment:

Suspension from all functions and privileges of the Association for the period of Debarment together with further suspension of 12 weeks.

99. EXPULSION

- (a) No unit other than the Australasian and State Committees may exercise the jurisdiction to expel a member or Club
- (b) Where a Committee not having jurisdiction to expel, having conducted Disciplinary Action in relation thereto, is of the opinion that Expulsion is the appropriate penalty to be imposed, its recommendation to that effect shall be reported to its parent unit having such jurisdiction, for ratification.

37.

- (c) Provided there has been no misapplication or infringement of Rule and the parent Unit is satisfied that the sanction of Expulsion is appropriate, it shall ratify the recommendation and impose the Expulsion recommended.

If the recommendation is not ratified, an alternative penalty may be imposed by the parent Committee in substitution for Expulsion or the matter may be remitted to the original Committee for reconsideration

- (d) Where a Club is expelled from the Association it shall be wound up in accordance with Rule 24
- (e) Where a Club is expelled from the Association, all of its members shall be expelled in consequence. An individual member of the expelled Club may apply to the Council or Committee-in Charge which imposed the penalty of Expulsion to be allowed to acquire membership of the association through another Club. The said committee shall have discretion to grant or refuse such an application, having consulted with the Committee that recommended the Expulsion, where appropriate.

100. TERMS OF SUSPENSION - DEFINITION

A Term of Suspension shall commence:

- (1) In the case of a player sent from the field of play, immediately on them being sent off
- (2) In the case of a player reported by the Referee as having committed a Category II, III, IV or V Misconduct at Games Infraction after the conclusion of the game, immediately from the time of the Infraction, subject to the player being notified in writing forthwith of the report being made
- (3) In the case of a Disciplinary Action commenced against a player from the time of receipt of the notice of Disciplinary Action
- (4) In any other case of Misconduct at Games by a player, from the date of their last game played (where a category I (Repeat), II or III Misconduct at Games Infraction is concerned, this shall refer to the last game in the Code in which the Infraction was committed)
- (5) In the case of a Non-Player, from the date of decision of the Council or Committee-in-Charge

Where a Council or Committee imposes a definite term of suspension, reinstatement takes place automatically on the last day of the term e.g. a suspension terminates at midnight on Saturday when the suspension period commenced on a Sunday.

A term of suspension shall be in games or in consecutive weeks. A year means a period of forty-eight consecutive weeks.

101. REINSTATEMENTS/REDUCTION OF SUSPENSIONS AND OTHER PENALTIES

A Council or Committee which imposes a suspension or other penalty which is more than the minimum provided for shall have the power on one subsequent occasion to reduce the penalty imposed on application of the Unit or Member affected, subject as follows:

38.

- (1) It is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the said Council or Committee that the penalty imposed is unduly harsh
- (2) The Council or Committee may not reduce the penalty below the minimum provided for in Rule
- (3) This Rule shall not authorise any Council or Committee to exonerate the penalised Unit or Member, or treat them as having committed any different Infraction; and
- (4) If the original suspension or other penalty was varied on appeal, the Review Application must be made to the Appellate Committee concerned

The Australasian Council shall at its meetings consider and adjudicate on recommendations for reinstatement. The Council may only consider cases which meet the following criteria:

- (a) It is not a case of “Misconduct at Games” or any Infraction against a Referee, Umpire, Linesperson or Sideline Official
- (b) It is a case where strict application of the rules has resulted in a hardship
- (c) It is a case which has been recommended by the body which imposed the original penalty.

OBJECTIONS, APPEALS AND INVESTIGATIONS

102. SUBMISSION

An objection to the award of a game may be made on behalf of a Team by the relevant Secretary. An objection may not be made otherwise by a member or any third party. A Counter-objection or appeal shall set forth the grounds of same and the rules alleged to have been infringed or misapplied. If an incorrect rule number is given but it is clear from the contents what rule is involved, the Committee hearing the case may deem it in order.

103. TIME LIMITS AND FEES

- (a) An objection signed by the Secretary of the Club, Committee or Council making the Objection shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary of the Committee in charge of the fixture not later than three days after the official starting time of the game the subject matter of the objection, together with a fee of \$50 in the case of a Club or \$200 in the case of a State
- (b) A counter-objection signed by the Secretary of the Club, Committee or Council making the Objection together with a fee as above shall be lodged in duplicate no later than three days after the official starting time of the game the subject matter of the objection.
- (c) When an objection is made in underage grades on the grounds that an overage player has been played, the current cost of a Civil Certificate of birth for each player so objected to shall be lodged with the objection fee.
The Club or State objected to shall be obliged to provide the required certificate(s) at the hearing.
- (d) An appeal signed by the Secretary of the Club or Committee shall be lodged with the Secretary of the next highest body within three days of the receipt of the decision being made or in the case where Rule requires that statutory notice be given in writing within three days of the receipt of such notice. A fee of \$25 shall accompany an appeal by a Club or individual to a State committee and \$100 in the case of an appeal by an individual/Club/State to the Australasian Council.
- (e) When an objection, counter-objection or appeal is upheld, the fee shall be refunded.

104. NOTICE

- (a) The Committee in charge shall send a copy of an objection, counter-objection or appeal to the defending party within three days (failure of the Committee in Charge to keep this advised time limit shall not invalidate the objection, counter-objection or appeal).

The Secretary of the Committee or Council shall notify the two parties of the hearing. Each side shall be entitled to have two representatives (who shall be full members of the Club/Unit) present and be heard.

- (b) A copy of the objection/counter objection will be sent to the Defending Party or the Objector (in the case of a Counter Objection) by the Secretary of the Committee hearing the Objection as soon as possible and advisedly within three days of receipt of the objection, counter-objection.

Failure of the Council or Committee-in Charge to adhere to this advised time limit shall not invalidate the Objection/ Counter-Objection

- (c) In the case of an objection, counter objection or appeal sent by post, there is an obligation on the sender to take the necessary precautions regarding the date of posting to ensure delivery in compliance with rule time limits. If such precautions were taken and there was a delay in postal delivery, the correspondence shall be considered as being lodged as required by Rule, provided there is satisfactory evidence of date of posting.

In an appeal, points not made in the original case, which are relevant, may be considered but only witnesses heard in the first instance may be called.

105. EVIDENCE

- (a) In any objection, appeal, investigation or inquiry, evidence or information shall not be accepted or considered unless applicable to a period not longer than ninety six weeks prior to the date of first hearing. An exception to this shall be information in the possession of the Australasian Secretary or State Secretary or the Committee in charge. Such information will be furnished on direct application in writing when the appeal is lodged except in minor or under-21 competitions when it shall be made available prior to the lodging.

The Register of Players shall be available for inspection to a State Secretary and the Australasian Secretary upon demand in writing.

- (b) Match Officials shall not be called to give evidence by the parties to an objection counter objection or appeal
- (c) Any person giving false or forged evidence shall be suspended for not less than forty eight weeks.

106. OBJECTION/COUNTER OBJECTION/NON-PARTICIPATION AND PENALTY

- (a) Neither team concerned in an objection, counter-objection or an appeal arising from an objection, counter-objection shall take further part in the same knock-out competition until the issue(s) have been dealt with by the appropriate Committee.
- (b) A team proved illegal on objection shall lose the game to its opponents.

107. APPEAL PROCEDURES

- (a) State Committees in all cases shall have the right of appeal to Australasian Council.
- (b) An aggrieved Club or individual shall have the right of one appeal against a decision on the point at issue as follows:
 - (i) if it is against the decision of a Divisional Committee (e.g.) Disciplinary Committee), the appeal is to the State Committee
 - (ii) if it is against the decision of a State Committee, the appeal is to the Australasian Council

Exceptions: There shall be no appeal against the decision of a State Committee with regard to transfers within the State, provided correct procedure has been followed, arrangements for the date and venue of games (provided the required notice has been given) appointments of referees and administration and control of State teams.

- (c) An appeal by a third party (not directly involved), is not allowed
- (d) The Management Committee shall hear an appeal to the Australasian Council unless the appellant requests a hearing from the full Australasian Council. Australasian Council may after discussions by telephone with the Australasian Secretary decide that it would be more prudent that Management Committee hear the issue.

There is no right of appeal against decisions decided upon by Management Committee which has heard a case on behalf of Central Council, or against decisions of the Australasian Council.

- (e) An appeal shall be submitted to the Secretary of the committee hearing the appeal to be received within 3 days of the date of notification of the decision, or, where notification is not required in Rule, within 3 days of the decision being made
- (f) An Appeal shall be signed by the Appellant or in the case of a Club or Committee by its Secretary and shall:
 - (1) Set out the grounds of appeal including (i) the specific Rule(s) claimed to have been infringed or misapplied and (ii) the facts alleged in support of the grounds;
 - (2) Specify whether an oral hearing is requested
 - (3) Be accompanied by a fee of \$50 in the case of a Club or \$200 in the case of a State
- (g) In the case of an individual penalised or aggrieved, a Club or other Unit may not make an appeal on their behalf. The aggrieved individual shall sign the appeal.
- (h) An appellant must appear at the hearing. A Club/Unit shall be represented by a maximum of two of its members. An individual appellant shall appear personally, and may be accompanied only by a member of their Club/Unit
- (i) Points not made in the original case but which are relevant may be considered, but only witnesses heard in the first instance may be called.
- (k) An appeal shall not be upheld unless there is a clear infringement or misapplication of a rule.

41.

- (k) It is at the discretion of a Committee in Charge to postpone a game on the basis that an Appeal, not arising from an objection or Counter-Objection, is lodged with a higher body by a Unit involved in the game
- (l) If a game involving an appellant unit is not played on the scheduled date/time, pending the hearing by a higher Body of an Appeal, (not arising from a decision on an objection or Counter-Objection) and the appeal fails, the game shall be declared lost to the appellant unit
- (m) In the event of a knock out competition proceeding, pending the hearing of an Appeal (not arising from a decision on an objection or Counter-Objection) by a unit and if the appeal is successful, the following procedure will apply:-
 - (i) The results of games played in the interim shall stand.
 - (ii) The successful appellant shall play the opposing team (unless the latter is disqualified by the appeal decision) that was involved in the game not played pending the hearing of an appeal. If successful in this game, the appellant shall progress to the stage that was reached in the competition, with the appeal outcome pending.

108. RESTRICTION ON APPEAL

There shall be no appeal except as provided in these rules and in particular there shall be no appeal to any Court of Law or to any outside body on any matters including the Gaelic Athletic Association in Ireland.

109. INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

- (a) A motion to carry out an investigation into any matter must be proposed, seconded and have the support of the majority of the relevant Committee present and voting. In the case of Management Committee, members of Management Committee may make the above decision after telephone discussions.
- (b) The Committee in charge shall decide the composition and terms of reference of the investigating Committee.
- (c) The investigating Committee shall decide the date, time and venue of an initial hearing and the names of those it requires to attend.
- (d) The investigating Committee shall give at least three clear days notice in writing to all bodies or individuals summoned to the hearing.
- (e) The parties involved in an investigation shall be entitled to have in attendance two representatives (who shall be full members of the Club/Unit involved) who may present their case and call relevant witnesses.
- (f) The investigating Committee may hear the evidence of match officials in private, but such evidence shall be conveyed to the parties involved in the investigation.
- (g) While evidence is being given witnesses, other than match officials, already heard shall remain at the hearing.
- (h) Where it is established that a prima facie case has been made that a member/unit has a charge to answer or being present, the Member or Unit may waive their rights under this Rule. Exception: When Management Committee is involved in a hearing the issue will be decided at that time if the Committee so decides.
- (i) The investigating Committee shall report its findings and recommended penalties, if any, to the parent Committee unless Bye-Laws provide otherwise. Exception: Any penalty confirmed by Management Committee will not require ratification by Central Council.
- (j) Where a penalty is imposed, the Council, Club or Member shall be informed in writing of the decision and the rule(s) under which the decision was taken.

110. TEAM INVESTIGATION

The unit in charge of a team may request that the constitution of an opposing team that took part in the game be investigated.

Such request, setting out the points for investigation, shall be furnished within three days after the game – this without prejudice to the rights of the Council or Committee in Charge of a game to investigate a team at any time.

If illegal constitution is proved, the prescribed penalties for the offence(s) shall be enforced. A team may be disqualified or suspended but the opposing team shall not be awarded the game on the outcome of such investigations.

111. COSTS FOR HEARINGS

Travel and accommodation costs incurred by Management Committee during disciplinary/appeal/investigation hearings will be the responsibility of the relevant State Committee should it be found that the relevant State Committee acted incorrectly thereby necessitating the hearing.

112. USE OF VIDEO EVIDENCE.

The Committee or Council in Charge may have recourse to video evidence at its discretion, but it shall not be used in relation to the result of a game.

Governing Factors

- (1) Video evidence shall not be admissible to review the decision of a referee where the decision relates to the allowance or disallowance of a score or award of a free or the playing time allowed by the referee.
- (2) Video evidence shall be relevant, authentic and unedited. The Committee or Council in Charge shall be satisfied that the video evidence is relevant to the matter under consideration/investigation.
- (3) Where a Committee or Council in Charge decides to use video evidence, such evidence will be made available to any affected party.

Operational Principles

- (1) A Committee or Council in Charge may use video evidence to substantiate/complement/clarify what is contained in a referee's report.
- (2) A Committee or Council in Charge or Investigating Committee may use video evidence to formulate and prefer charges in relation to alleged offences not contained in a referee's report.
- (3) Where a member or unit requests permission to use video evidence in any proceedings, the member or unit shall make such request in writing to the Committee or Council in Charge in advance of the date of the hearing, stating the reason(s) for such request and specifying the source of the video evidence.

GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA CLUB CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. In these Rules: -

“The GF&HAA.” means the Australasian Governing Organisation for the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes, known as the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia.

“The Club” means the Club as set out in Rule 2 hereof.

“The Rule Book” means the Rule Book of the GF&HAA.

“Executive Committee” means Officers and ordinary Committee Members together.

“State Committee” means the elected committee of an Australian or New Zealand association affiliated to the Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia.

“Secretary” means the Secretary for the time being, or any person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Club.

“Real Property” means the property of the Club of an immovable nature, comprising any Playing Pitches, Grounds or Buildings, whether of Leasehold or Freehold tenure, with all Fixtures or Fittings attached thereto and used therewith.

“Personal Property” means the property of the Club of a movable nature, comprising all Playing or Sporting equipment of the Club, as well as all Stock in Trade and Money or other Assets of the Club not already classified as fixtures or fittings on “Real Property”, as heretofore defined.

Words importing the singular number only, include the plural number and vice versa, and words importing the masculine gender only, also include the feminine and vice versa.



NAME

2. The official Name of the Club shall be _____

OBJECTS

3.1 The Objects of the Club shall be the promotion of the aims of the GF&HAA as outlined in the Rule Book.

3.2 The Membership, Income and Property of the Club shall be dedicated to and applied solely towards the promotion of these objects.

COLOURS

4. The Club Colours shall be _____

MEMBERSHIP

5.1 There shall be four types of Membership of the Club: -

5.1.1 **FULL MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, who having reached the age of eighteen years, subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Club and the GF&HAA.

5.1.2 **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, not having reached the age of eighteen years, who subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objects of the Club and the GF&HAA.

5.1.3 **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, who have reached the age of eighteen years, who have rendered exceptional service to the Club or the games or activities of the GF&HAA. An Honorary Member shall have the rights of a Full Member, but shall be exempt from paying the Club's Annual Membership Fee.

5.1.4 **SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to persons, who have reached the age of eighteen years, subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and the G.A.A., but who do not seek full voting rights and rights to take part in the administrative affairs of the Club or the GF&HAA.

5.2 Full Members (including Honorary Members) and Youth Members of the Club will also become Members of the State association and GF&HAA

5.3 Once granted, Full Membership of the Club, State and the GF&HAA shall continue for life, unless the member has been expelled or their resignation in writing has been accepted, in accordance with this Constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.

5.4 The rights of any member of the Club shall be conditional upon the member complying with the provisions of this Constitution and Rules and the Rule Book, including payment of any annual membership fee and levies.

5.5 Such rights may be withheld, restricted or suspended in accordance with this Constitution and Rules and the Official Guide.

5.6 Any person seeking admission as a Member of any Class of Membership, other than Honorary, shall complete and sign a prescribed Application Form, which must be returned to the Secretary together with the prescribed fee.

2.

5.7 An Application for Full or Social Membership must be in the prescribed form signed by the Applicant and proposed by one Full Member and seconded by another Full Member who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Rule Book.

5.8 An Application for Youth Membership must be in the Prescribed Form signed by the Applicant and one of his parents or Guardians, as well as being proposed by one Full Member and seconded by another Full Member, who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Rule Book.

5.9 The name and address of such person proposed as a Member, together with the names of those proposing and seconding him, shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the Club Premises for at least one week before election if the Club has Clubrooms. An interval of not less than two weeks shall elapse between nomination and election of such Members.

5.9.1 Persons shall not be admitted to any of the privileges of Membership until after their election by the procedures stated in this Rule.

5.10 If and when the Application for Membership has been accepted by the Executive Committee, the new Member's particulars shall be forwarded by the Club Secretary to the State Secretary or other designated Officer for submission to the Australasian Secretary who will forward to the Central Council of the G.A.A. in Ireland for registration and allocation of a personal membership number.

5.11.1 The Executive Committee shall have the power to investigate any matter, and to expel, suspend, warn, fine or disqualify Members from Club activities for breach of this Constitution and Rules or the Rule Book or for conduct considered to have discredited or harmed the Club State association or the GF&HAA.

5.11.2 Such persons, if Full Members (including Honorary Members) or Youth Members, shall have the right to appeal to the State Committee of the association, within seven days of being notified of such decision.

5.11.3 Unless the offence is brought to the notice of the State Committee by the Club, and that body, having considered the merits of the case and having regard to the rights of the player or member, confirms the penalty imposed, the member continues to be a legal member of the Association and is suspended from Club activities only.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

6.1 The Annual Subscription to be paid by members of the Club shall be determined by the Executive Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

6.2 The determined Annual Subscription shall be payable on election and thereafter annually, in advance of the date and in the manner decided by the Executive Committee.

6.3 The Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe the payment of an Entrance Fee by new or lapsed members in addition to the Annual Subscription above.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 The business and affairs of the Club shall be under the management of an Executive Committee, and it shall be the controlling body of the Club.

7.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, one Players' Representative, and at least two other Full Members.

3.

7.3 Nominations to serve on the Executive Committee shall be by any two Full Members whose membership fees are paid up to date in accordance with Rule 6.2 and who are not suspended or disqualified under this constitution and Rules or the Official Guide.

7.4 The Players' Representative shall have participated as a player for the Club within the previous 48 weeks.

7.5 The Executive Committee including the Players' Representative shall be elected by the Full Members present, entitled to vote and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

7.6 Only Full Members, whose Membership Fees are paid up to date in accordance with Rule 6.2 and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution or Rules or the Rule Book, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

7.7 The outgoing Executive Committee shall conduct the Annual General Meeting.

7.8 The Executive Committee shall hold office until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting.

7.9 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each quarter, and four members present shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

7.10 The Chairperson, when present, shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee; in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside.

7.11 If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent, the Committee shall elect a member present to preside at the Meeting.

7.12 The Secretary shall record the Minutes of each Meeting.

7.13 The Minutes shall specify the date of the Meeting, those present, and a brief account of the Meeting, and shall be read to the next Meeting.

7.14 Such Minutes, if agreed as being accurate or having been appropriately amended, shall be signed by the Chairperson and Secretary, having been first proposed and adopted.

7.15 The Executive Committee shall have the sole right to appoint Sub-Committees, as required.

7.16 The Executive Committee 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 Club, including the disposal of any funds in the hands of such Sub-Committees.

7.17 The Executive Committee shall have power to nominate the Chairperson of such Subcommittees.

7.18 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be ex- officio members of all Sub-Committees.

7.19 The Executive Committee shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal all such Regulations as they deem necessary, expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Club, and in particular, but not exclusively, they may by such Regulations set out: -

(a) The terms and conditions upon which guests, children of members of the Club and visitors shall be permitted to use the premises and property of the Club;

4.

- (b) The times of opening and closing the Grounds and Premises of the Club, or any part thereof;
- (c) The conduct of members of the Club in relation to one another;
- (d) The setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Club's premises for any particular time or times, or for any particular purpose or purposes;
- (e) The imposition of fines for the breach of any of the Club Rules or Regulations.
- (f) And generally all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the Club Rules.

7.20 The Executive Committee shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient, to bring to the notice of members of the Club all such Regulations and all alterations and repeals.

7.21 All such Regulations so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding upon all members of the Club, provided nevertheless that no Regulations shall be inconsistent with or shall affect or repeal anything contained in this Constitution and Rules or the Rule Book, and that any Regulations may be set aside by a special resolution of a General Meeting of the Club.

7.22 Each Full Member shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee upon any complaint or representation sent by him/her, in writing, to the Secretary.

7.23 A Special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called

- (a) by the Secretary or
- (b) by the Secretary, for a date not more than seven days from the date of the receipt by him/her of a requisition duly signed by four members of the Executive Committee.
- (c) Such requisition shall set out the purpose for which the special meeting is required.

7.24 Any Member of the Executive Committee who shall have absented themselves from three consecutive meetings, without reasonable explanation, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

7.25 Should any Member of the Executive Committee resign, be deemed to have resigned, or their position otherwise lapse, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall, at their discretion, have the power to fill the vacancy, by co-opting a replacement from the body of the Full Membership.

7.26 The service of any Member so co-opted on to the Executive Committee shall not be reckoned in calculating the seniority of such Member, if subsequently elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 The Club shall in each year hold a general meeting as its Annual General Meeting, in addition to any other General Meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notice calling it.

8.2 All General Meetings, other than Annual General Meetings, shall be called Special General Meetings.

8.3 An Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time as shall be decided upon by the Executive Committee, but insofar as is practical shall be held before the end of November each year.

8.4 The following business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:-

- (a) Adoption of Standing Orders.
- (b) Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.

5.

- (c) Consideration of the Annual Report submitted by the Secretary/President.
- (d) Consideration of the Financial Statements including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s)
- (e) The Chairperson's Address.
- (f) Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.
- (g) Notices of Motion.
- (h) Other Business

8.5 The Annual General meeting of the Club shall be called in the following manner: -

8.5.1 The Executive Committee shall decide upon a date, time and place for the meeting, allowing adequate time to meet the time limits set out hereunder.

8.5.2 Once the date of the Annual General Meeting has been fixed, the Secretary shall give at least twenty-eight days notice in writing to the members of such date, at the same time inviting nominations for election to the Executive Committee for the following year and motions for consideration at the Annual General meeting, also specifying that such nominations and motions shall be received by him/her by a date not less than twenty one days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

8.5.3 The Secretary shall then, on or after the date specified for return to him/her of such Nominations and Motions, but so as to give the members ten days clear notice before the meeting, circulate to the members the following documentation: -

- (a) Copy of the Agenda for the meeting.
- (b) Copy of the Annual Report of the Secretary.
- (c) Copy of the Financial Statements, including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s)
- (d) Details of the Nominations for election to the Executive Committee.
- (e) Copies of any motions for consideration at the meeting.

8.6 In the event of the number of Nominees for any particular Executive Committee position being equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, such Nominees shall be declared elected, and any positions left unfilled, due to the lack of Nominees or Nominees withdrawing, shall be filled by the new Executive Committee, as soon as practical after the Annual General Meeting.

8.7 A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time, provided ten days clear notice, in writing, shall be given to the members, specifying the purpose of such Special General Meeting,

8.8 The Executive Committee shall call a Special General Meeting for a date not more than twenty eight days from the receipt by the Executive Committee of a requisition, in writing, signed by twelve members of the Club, and ten clear days notice, in writing, shall be given to the Members.

8.8.1 Such Requisitions by members of the Club shall set out the purpose for which the Special General Meeting is required, and shall be lodged with the Secretary.

8.8.2 If the Special General Meeting is not called for a date within the twenty eight days stipulated, then the Requisitioners may themselves convene a Special General Meeting, if necessary using newspaper advertisements to notify the members of such meeting.

8.9 No other business, outside that specified in the Notice, shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting.

6.

8.10 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Save as herein otherwise provided, twenty per cent of Full Members eligible to vote shall be a quorum at a General Meeting.

8.11 If within half an hour after the time appointed for a General Meeting, a quorum of members is not present, the meeting if convened on the requisition of members shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the following week, at the same time and place; and if at the reconvened meeting a quorum of members is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the members then present shall be a quorum.

8.12 The Chairperson, and failing him the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside as Chairperson at every General Meeting of the Club.

8.13 If there is no such Chairperson, or if at any meeting he is not present within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, the members then present shall choose someone of their number who is a member of the Executive Committee to be Chairperson of the meeting, and if there shall be no Member of the Executive Committee present, then the members shall elect any one of their number to be Chairperson of the Meeting.

8.14 The Chairperson may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any reconvened meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

8.15 Failure to comply strictly with the time limits set out in this Constitution and Rules or the non receipt of Notice of a Meeting by any persons entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting, but shall entitle the majority of members present to seek and be granted an adjournment of the meeting to such date by which they would be given an adequate time to be furnished with and consider the contents of any relevant documentation.

VOTING

9.1 Only Full Members, whose membership fees are paid up to date in accordance with Rule 6.2, and who are not suspended or disqualified under this Constitution and Rules or the Rule Book, shall be eligible to vote at a General Meeting.

9.2 A Chairperson of a General Meeting, Executive Committee meeting or any Sub-Committee meeting shall, in the event of a tie, whether on a show of hands or on a ballot, have a casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member, other than for the election to any position, when the outcome in the event of a tie shall be decided by lot.

9.3 At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on the show of hands, unless, before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a ballot is demanded: -

(a) by the Chairperson

(b) by at least five members present and entitled to vote.

9.4 Unless a ballot is so demanded, a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has on the show of hands been carried, or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, shall be final, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of proceedings of the Club shall be conclusive evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes in favour of or against such resolution.

7.

9.5 If a ballot is so demanded, the same shall be taken in such manner as the Chairperson directs, and the result of the ballot shall be deemed to be the decision of the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.

9.6 A Secret Ballot shall be carried out to decide the result of any contest for any elective position.

ASSETS AND TRUSTEES

10.1 The Club shall have power to acquire, hold and develop, sell, lease, mortgage charge, exchange or sell Real and Personal Property, and to borrow or raise money in promotion of the objects of the Club, subject to the overall authority of the Australasian Council of the GF&HAA.

10.2 The Real Property shall not be leased, mortgaged, charged, exchanged, sold, conveyed, transferred or otherwise dealt with without the consent of the Australasian Council of the GF&HAA, or as may be set out in any separate Declaration of Trust.

10.3 The Real Property, including the proceeds of sale thereof until otherwise directed by the Club, shall be vested in five full members of the State association as Trustees, who shall hold same in trust for the Club.

10.4 In the case of the appointment of the Trustees of the Real Property the Executive Committee shall select three persons, who shall then be appointed by the Chairperson for the time being as Trustees. The State Executive will appoint two further Trustees.

10.5 The Trustees shall hold office until their retirement or death, unless replaced by the committee that appointed them.

10.6 By way of acceptance of their appointment the Trustees of the Real Property shall sign a Declaration of Trust, as approved by the Australasian Council of the G.F.H.A.A. and which shall contain the provisions for appointment, removal and replacement of Trustees as well as regulating the conduct of the Trustees in performing their duties and exercising their powers under the trust.

10.7 The Trustees of the Real Property, having first obtained the consent of the Australasian Council of the G.F.H.A.A. where necessary, shall exercise their powers and perform their duties as directed by the Club from time to time.

10.8 The Directive of the Club shall be given by a resolution of the full members of the Club, passed by a majority of the members present and voting at a duly convened General Meeting and when so passed shall be binding upon all members of the Club.

10.9 A Certificate signed by the Secretary shall, in favour of any person relying on same, be conclusive evidence that a Directive, complying in all respect with the provisions of this Rule, was duly given to the Trustees.

10.10 The Personal Property shall be vested in the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary who shall hold same in Trust for the Club.

10.11 The Trustees of the Personal Property shall invest and use such property in accordance with the Directives of the Executive Committee, of which an entry in the Minute book shall be conclusive evidence.

10.12 The Club shall indemnify and save harmless its Trustees in respect of any loss or expenses bona fide incurred by them in or about the execution of the Trust

BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS

11.1 The Executive Committee shall open a Bank Account or Accounts with an approved Bank on behalf of the Club, and all cheques drawn on the said account shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by one of either the Chairperson or Secretary.

11.2 The Executive Committee shall cause proper Books of Account to be kept in respect of:-

- (a) All sums of money received and expended by the Club, and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditures take place; and
- (b) All Sales and Purchases of goods by the Club; and
- (c) The Assets and Liabilities of the Club.

11.3 The Books of Account shall be kept at such place or places as the Executive Committee shall think fit, and shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the members of the Executive Committee.

11.4 The Executive Committee shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places, and under what conditions and regulations, the Accounts and Books of the Club, or any of them shall be open to the inspection of Full Members of the Club not being an Executive Committee member, and no member (not being an Executive Committee Member) shall have any right of inspection of any Account or Book or Document of the Club except as authorised by the Executive Committee.

11.5 An independent suitably qualified Person or Persons shall be appointed as Accountant(s) or as Auditor(s) (if an Audit is deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee) to Report on the Financial Statements of the Club, for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

11.6 The Books and Accounts of the Club shall be presented to such Accountant(s) or Auditor(s) by the Committee in sufficient time to enable the Report of such Accountant(s) or Auditor(s) to be available and considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

11.7 The Financial Statements shall be approved by the Executive Committee, and signed by two of three Officers – Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer – on behalf of the Executive Committee.

11.8 The Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared and laid before the Annual General Meeting an Account of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet made up to a date not more than six months before such meeting.

11.9 The Balance Sheet and Accounts of the Club shall be made available to the Tax Commissioner, on request.

11.10 All Books of Account, including all documents, vouchers, statements and notes, as well as all minute books, notes of meetings, original and copy correspondence and all such documents are the property of the Club, and no person shall have any personal title to or interest in such documents to the exclusion of the Club.

11.11 The Club shall define the End of the Financial Year of the Club.

INCOME AND PROPERTY

12.1 No portion of the Income and Property of the Club shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit, dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever to the Members of the Club.

9.

12.2 No Officer shall be appointed to any Office within the Club paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Club in respect of such Office, provided however nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Club of:-

- (a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any Member or Officer of the Club for any services rendered to the Club (other than as an Officer);
- (b) reasonable and proper remuneration to any company of which a Member or Officer of the Club is a director or shareholder, for any services rendered to the Club;
- (c) interest at a rate not exceeding 5% per annum on money lent by Officers or other Members of the Club to the Club;
- (d) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by Officers or other Members of the Club (including any Officer) to the Club;
- (e) reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Club;
- (f) fee's, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member, holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company.

WINDING UP

13.1 A resolution to Wind Up a Club shall be passed only at a General Meeting, specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three-fourths of those present and entitled to vote.

13.2 Any decision to Wind Up a Club shall be subject to the approval of the State Committee.

13.3 If upon such Winding Up, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members, but the Trustees shall continue to hold same in trust for the appropriate State Committee, to be used or disposed of as such State Committee shall direct, but shall in no instance pay or distribute such property amongst Officers, Members or Employees of the Club.

ADDITIONS TO AND AMENDMENTS OF RULES

14.1 Additions to and Amendments of this Constitution and Rules may be made at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, providing that the Resolution proposing same is carried by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, that same do not conflict with the Official Guide, and that prior approval has been given by the State Committee for the change.

14.2 Members wishing to propose Additions to or Amendments of this Constitution and Rules must send notice of the proposed Additions or Amendments in writing to the Secretary not later than twenty one days before the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting as provided by Rule 8.5.2 hereof.

14.3 Where appropriate, no Addition or Amendments shall be made to or in the provisions of the Main Object(s) (3), Income and Property (12) and the Winding-Up Clauses (13) in this Constitution and Rules.

COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF OFFICIAL GUIDE

15. This Constitution and Rules shall be read in conjunction with and subject to the Australasian GF&HA Rule Book.

INTERPRETATION OF CLUB CONSTITUTION AND RULES

16. The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the Interpretation of these Club Constitution and Rules (with the exception of Rules 5.11.1, 5.11.2 and 5.11.3) and of any byelaws and regulations made herein; and the decision of the Executive Committee upon any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for, shall be final and binding on the members, subject to appeal to the State Committee in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5.11.2, and shall not under any circumstances be subject to appeal to any Court of Law.

GENERAL

17.1 A Notice may be given by the Club to any Member either personally or by sending it by post or electronically to him/her at their last known address.

17.2 Where a Notice is sent by post, service of this Notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter containing the Notice, and shall be deemed to have been effected at the time which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

17.3 The failure to give notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

17.4 This Constitution and Rules shall be taken as an amendment of and in substitution for any existing Constitution and Rules of _____ G.F.&H.A. Club as of the:
_____ Day of _____

Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia

Full Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____
_____ Post Code _____

Phone/Fax (if available): _____

Email (if available): _____

Date of Birth: |__| Day |__| Month |__| Year (e.g. 06 02 65)

I hereby apply to: _____ Club for Membership
of the above Club and Membership of The State and Australasian Associations)

I subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and of The State and Australasian Associations, and to abide by its Rules, and I attach herewith the appropriate membership fee as determined by the above Club.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

For Official Use only:

Membership/approved by Club Executive on _____ Date

Signed: _____ Club Secretary.

Registration forwarded to State Secretary/Registrar for Registration in Central Membership Database on _____ Date

Membership Identification Number: _____



Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia

Youth Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____
_____ Post Code _____

Phone/Fax (if available): _____

Email (if available): _____

Date of Birth: |__| Day |__| Month |__| Year (e.g. 06 02 90)

I hereby apply to: _____ Club for Membership
of the above Club and Youth Membership of The State and Australasian Associations

I subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of the Club and of The State and Australasian Associations and to abide by its Rules, and I attach herewith the appropriate membership fee as determined by the above Club.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), on behalf of the above named:-

We/I consent to the above Application and to undertakings given by the Applicant.

Signed _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date _____

Print Name: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date _____

Print Name: _____

For Official Use only:

Youth Membership Application approved by Club Executive on _____ Date

Signed: _____ Club Secretary.

Registration forwarded to State Secretary/Registrar for Registration in Central
Membership Database on _____ Date

Membership Identification Number: _____



