

CONSTITUTION OF THE STRATFORD FOOTBALL CLUB

1 NAME

The name of the Club shall be Stratford Football Club.

2 OBJECTS

The objects of the Club shall be:-

- (a) To foster and further the interests of non-professional football in the Stratford district.
- (b) To provide suitable accommodation therefor.
- (c) To promote social intercourse amongst the members.

3 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee called the General Committee (hereinafter called the Committee) consisting of the following members who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Club:-

- (a) A President
- (b) Three Vice Presidents
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Secretary and Assistant Secretary
- (e) Ten committee men, all of whom shall retire each year. The committee shall be empowered to elect additional committee men if it so desires and deems necessary. The additional committee men so elected shall retire each year.
- (f) One player who may be nominated by the players as their representative. One representative appointed by 3rd 18 Committee to represent that Committee.
- (g) Executive Committee shall consist of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

In the event of a sufficient number of members not being nominated for any of the aforementioned offices, prior to the Annual Meeting, the vacancies may be filled at the Annual Meeting then being held. The names of the candidates for each of the foregoing offices, together with the names of the proposer and seconder must be handed to the Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting. Should there be an equal number of votes recorded at a Ballot for the above offices the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

The Committee shall meet as often as required, or arranged. Eight members shall form a Quorum.

The Committee shall have the sole management of the affairs and concerns of the club, and shall have power to perform all such acts and deeds as shall appear to them necessary or essential for the management of the Club.

4 SUB COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee may from time to time appoint Sub-Committees for matters of special interest that may require investigation, which Sub-Committee shall report the result of any such investigations to the full Committee.

- (b) The Social Committee shall consist of at least two members of the General Committee in addition to the Social Secretary, with the power to add from members and supporters of the Club.
- (c) The Committee may from time to time allot to the Social Committee such monies as it may deem necessary for carrying on the work of the Social Committee.
- (d) The Social Committee shall regularly report, through its Honorary Secretary, all its activities and present a financial statement to the General Committee as and when required.

5 **SUBSCRIPTION**

The Annual Membership subscription shall be decided after admission charges have been fixed by the League for that year.

6 **UNIFORM**

The uniform of the Club shall be decided by the Committee, and it shall be compulsory on the part of the players to wear the prescribed uniform.

7 **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee shall be empowered to elect for one season, any person it may deem worthy to deserve Honorary Membership. The right of Honorary Members and Honorary Life Members to exercise a vote shall be restricted to the occasion of Annual Meetings, Special Meetings, or Extraordinary Meetings.

8 **NON-ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Any member who may be elected to the Committee, excepting the President, absenting himself from three consecutive Committee Meetings without forwarding a satisfactory explanation shall be held to have vacated his office, and it shall be within the power of the Committee to fill any vacancy so created. The Committee shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the Committee of the Club during the currency of the Season, and may grant leave of absence.

9 **APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Committee at its first meeting in March shall elect three of its non-playing members, who, with the 1st 18 and 2nd 18 coaches shall comprise the Selection Committee. At the same meeting the Committee shall also elect one other non-playing member to act as Deputy Selector in the event of any regular member of the Selection Committee not being available.

10 **ELECTION OF CAPTAIN AND VICE CAPTAIN**

- (a) Prior to the first premiership match in each season, the Captain and Vice-Captain shall be elected by the players in each team who in turn shall be decided on by the Selectors at least two days before the first match.

(b) In the event of the Captain or the Vice-Captain resigning during the season, or being prevented owing to injury or any other circumstance from taking his place in the selected team, the players shall, as early as practicable, appoint alternatively a successor, or a deputy for the time being, which ever is deemed advisable, to fill any such vacancy or to act for the necessary period.

11 **APPOINTMENT OF COACHES**

The Committee shall appoint coaches upon such terms and conditions as it may from time to time determine. In the event of any coach or assistant coach engaged by the Club being paid for his services such coach or assistant coach shall not be entitled to be a Club Member for the period which he is coach.

12 **EXPENDITURE OF MONIES**

No monies of the Club shall be expended without the sanction of the Committee and all disbursements shall be made by cheque which shall be signed by any two of the following:-

The President, Treasurer, or Secretary.

13 **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall receive all monies and pay the same, as soon as possible, but preferable within seven days of receiving same, to any Bank from time to time to an account styled "Stratford Football Club Account". He shall also keep a correct account of the income and expenditure, submit an extract thereof to the General Committee as and when required so to do, and see to the payment of all accounts when passed by the Committee.

14 **SECRETARY**

- (a) The Secretary shall attend and take minutes of General Committee Meetings, conduct correspondence under the direction of the Committee, and generally carry out the policy and instructions of the Committee.
- (b) The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in all the above-mentioned duties.

15 **ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

The Committee shall appoint two delegates and one deputy, to represent the Club on the North Gippsland Football League or to such other bodies to which the Club may be affiliated. Such delegates shall report fully to the full Committee.

16 **CAPTAIN IN THE FIELD**

The Captain shall have the sole management of the team entrusted to his command and decide for it in all matters of dispute which may arise in the field of play.

17 **CONDUCT ON THE FIELD**

- (a) The Captain is required to inform the Committee after the occurrence in the field of any act of disobedience, bad language or unseemly conduct of any player calculated to lower the dignity of the Club.
- (b) Any player, or players, disobeying the orders of the Captain while on the field, or using abusive or bad language, shall be dealt with as the Committee may determine.

18 **PARTICIPANTS IN MATCHES**

All players to play in matches shall be chosen by the Selection Committee from registered players. In the event of any player chosen to play in a match being absent, the Captain shall act on the advice of the members of the Selection Committee present at the ground to fill the vacancy thus created. In the event of no member of the Selection Committee being present at the ground the Captain and the Vice-Captain shall act on their own judgement.

19 **EXPULSION**

The General Committee shall have the power to expel any member who shall be found guilty of such conduct as shall, in the opinion of the General Committee, render such member of the Club unfit to continue a member thereof, and the General Committee shall not be bound to give any reason for such expulsion. Any person so expelled may, within three months from the date of such expulsion, appeal against the decision of the General Committee to a Special General Meeting of the Club to be called as herein provided.

20 **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- (a) An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held not later than the seventh day of February, (the date and place of the meeting to be decided by the General Committee), for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, the election, (by ballot if necessary), of the President, three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and other members of the General Committee as herein provided. The Annual Meeting shall also appoint one Auditor and consider any other business submitted to the meeting in a proper manner and in accordance with the Constitution herewith.

21 **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The President, or any Vice-President, shall call a Special General Meeting on receiving a requisition setting forth the objects of the proposed Meeting signed by twenty-four members. The President, or any Vice-President, should such as occasion arise, shall then give seven days notice of such Meeting by instructing the Secretary to give notice thereof, and causing to be published a notice of the meeting in the local paper or papers. Such a special General Meeting shall be held within fourteen days from the date of such requisition, and at least thirty four members shall be present to constitute a Quorum at such a Special General Meeting.

(b) The General Committee shall have the power to call a Special General Meeting of the Club whenever they have matters under consideration upon which it may be deemed necessary or desirable to obtain the opinions of the members. The same notice shall be given in this instance as for a Special General Meeting called on the requisition of members.

22 **CHAIRMAN**
The President or a Vice-President shall take the chair at each General or Committee Meeting, but in the event of neither being present at the Meeting, the members present shall appoint a Chairman for the occasion. The Chairman of any Meeting, in addition to his ordinary vote, shall have a casting vote.

23 **FINANCIAL YEAR**
The Financial Year of the Club shall be deemed to commence on the day following the Annual Meeting in each year, and terminate fourteen days prior to the succeeding Annual Meeting.

24 **VOTING AT MEETINGS**
The vote of every Meeting excepting as elsewhere specified, shall be determined by a show of hands unless a ballot be deemed by any two members.

25 **ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION**
Any of the present Rules may be altered or repealed or a new Rule introduced by a simple majority at the Annual Meeting of the Club, or a three-fifths majority of the members present at a Special General Meeting of the Club, providing due notice of Motion in writing, signed by the Proposer and Seconder, has been lodged at a preceding Annual Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Club.

26 **INTERPRETATION OF RULES**
In the event of any question not provided for by these Rules arising, the General Committee shall have full power to act in the matter as it considers fit.

27 **BY-LAWS**
The General Committee shall have power to make such By-laws as deemed advisable for carrying out the objects of the Club and to vary to rescind such Laws from time to time if necessary. Provided always that such By-Laws shall not interfere with the Constitution as written herein, also providing that Notice of Motion has been given of such intention to vary or rescind such By-Laws at the previous Meeting.

28 **MISCONDUCT OF OFFICERS OR SERVANTS**
The General Committee may at any time upon complaint from anyone investigate such complaints and if necessary, suspend any officer or Servant of the Club until its next meeting when such a complaint will be considered and dealt with.

29 AUDIT

The accounts of the Club shall be audited by one Auditor to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. A Statement of Receipts and Expenditure by the Treasurer duly audited shall be submitted with a Report at the Annual Meeting of the Club, and shall be published in the Local paper or papers prior to such meeting if so directed by the Committee.

30 PROPERTY AND INCOME

- (a) All property of the Club shall be vested in Trustees who shall be:-
 - (1) At least three persons who shall be appointed by the Committee.
 - (2) Any such Trustees may be removed by the relevant body, by which they were appointed, however, that such a removal may only be by a two-third majority of such relevant body, voting to be by secret ballot and postal voting to be allowed.
 - (3) Such relevant body may fill any vacancy in the number of Trustees caused by resignation, death, unwillingness to act or otherwise.
 - (4) The following powers shall be vested in such Trustees and maybe exercised by them subject to the directions of the Committee:-
 - (a) To invest money and adopt such measures in relation thereto as may appear to them necessary in the interest of the Club.
 - (b) To purchase, or otherwise acquire any land or property of any tenure which the Committee may deem desirable, for or partly for, the purpose of the Club, at such price, or such terms upon such conditions as the Committee thinks fit and to use the Clubs monies and funds for such purposes and to hold such property on behalf of the Club and the members thereof.
 - (c) To sell and procure the selling of any property of the Club, real or personal, for such consideration, on such terms, and upon such conditions as the Committee thinks fit.
 - (d) To let any parts or parts of such last mentioned property at such rents, for such term and upon such conditions as the Committee thinks fit.
 - (e) To borrow and arrange for borrowing, either with or without security such sum or sums of money as the Committee is of opinion required by it, upon such terms and at such rate or rates of interest as the Committee thinks proper and for such purpose to give (if thought fit by the Committee) such security or securities over any property real or personal held by or on behalf of the Club. All securities shall be taken and investments made in the names of the Trustees of the property, the subject matter of the trust to be none the less subject to the disposition of the Committee.

(f) All income and property, whence soever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Club's object and no member is to receive payment either in cash or in kind out of the Club for any service or services he may render to it. The powers aforesaid shall only be exercised by the Trustee in accordance with the directions of the Committee, and the authority in writing of a majority of those assembled at a duly constituted meeting of such a Committee and duly signed by the Chairman of the day, shall be binding upon and a justification to the Trustees as to any purchase, sale, investment, or disposal as aforesaid or any exercise of such powers of any of them.

31 **WIND UP**

In the event of the Club being disbanded, the Club's assets and property, after payment of all just debts and liabilities, will be distributed to a fund with objectives similar to the club and/or to a fund which is appropriated exclusively for charitable purposes or which is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

INDEMNITY OF TRUSTEES

No Trustee shall be found to take any steps or incur any expenses on their own account for the preservation of, or otherwise, in respect of the property so held by them as aforesaid, but such Trustees as aforesaid shall be entitled to the indemnified in the case of Trustees of the Club.

DECLARATION OF TRUSTS

Trustees shall make such declarations of trusts of Club property as the Committee from time to time determine.