

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GREAT NORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (INC)

INDEX	PAGE
Agreement with Other Leagues	15
Alterations of Rules	13
Annual General Meeting.....	16
Appeals to Board of Directors.....	15
Auditors	12
Changes to Regulations and By-Laws.....	16
Committees	11
Directors - General.....	7
- Election.....	7
- Duties	9
- Chairman.....	8
- Proceedings	10
Dissolution.....	14
Expulsion and Resignation from League	13
Finance.....	12
League Officials	11
Life Members	7
Membership of the League.....	6
National Football League of Australia.....	14
Notices.....	13
Objects.....	2
Office and Place of Business	2
Review of Directors Decisions	15
Rules.....	2
Seal.....	13
Validation	11
WACFL Representative	11

RULES

1. This body shall be called "The Great Northern Football League Incorporated" and the members thereof shall be all Australian Football Clubs admitted to the League, and also all persons elected as life members of the League; who shall hold the status of Honorary Membership with no voting rights.

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise required:

"Club" means a Club which is a member of the League or of an association affiliated with the League.

"Directors" means the Board of Directors acting as such.

"Football" means the Australian National Game of Football.

"Junior" shall mean all that football played under the direct control of the League Junior Council.

"League" means the Great Northern Football League Incorporated.

"Year" means calendar year.

"The Laws" means the Laws of Football as adopted by the National Football League of Australia.

"Official" means official of a Club and includes coach, trainer, runner and any employee of the Club in any capacity.

Words defined in the Interpretation Act as from time to time amended shall have the same meanings in these Rules.

OFFICE AND PLACE OF BUSINESS

3. The office and principal place of business of the League shall be at such place as the Directors shall from time to time direct.

OBJECTS

4. The objects for which the League is established are to promote, control, manage and encourage the game of Football and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing for that purpose:
 - (a) To promote, control, manage and encourage Football matches and competitions in and out of the Geraldton Region in the State of Western Australia.

- (b) To determine the terms and conditions upon which persons may play Football for Clubs or upon which Clubs may take part in matches.
- (c) To arrange matches with other leagues and/or Associations to select and control all representative League teams.
- (d) To frame and administer laws relating to Football and to take such action as may be necessary to achieve uniformity in such laws.
- (e) To raise money by subscription or otherwise from member Football Clubs or the members thereof.
- (f) To render assistance pecuniary or otherwise to member Football Clubs.
- (g) To recognize the services of or assist pecuniary or otherwise present or past players of Football.
- (h) To hear and determine and settle all questions and disputes of any matter relating to Football.
- (i) To hear and enquire into any allegation, complaint or charge which may be made or laid against any Club or member, player or Official of a Club or umpire or Official of the League involving a breach of the Rules of the League, By-Laws of the League or the Laws.
- (j) To inflict fines or other penalties (by way of suspension, expulsion or otherwise) for any breach of the Rules of the League or the Laws on any Club or member, official or player of any Club or any umpire, member or Official of the League.
- (k) To grant, suspend, exclude or forfeit the right of a club to membership of the League, but so that the right of a Club to membership of the League shall not be forfeited without the approval of at least 70% of the Clubs in the League.
- (l) To administer the activities of players, coaches and umpires in any activity associated with Football and in particular, activities connected with television broadcasting, radio advertising, the writing of articles for newspapers and contributions to other publications.
- (m) To invest and deal with the money of the League not immediately required for any of its objects in such manner as may from time to time be determined.

- (n) To subscribe to become a member of and amalgamate with any organizations whether incorporated or not whose objects are altogether or in part similar to those of the League, provided that the League shall not subscribe to or support with its funds any organization formed or operated for the purpose of trading or securing pecuniary profit to the members from the transactions thereof.
- (o) To purchase or otherwise acquire and undertake all or any part of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any one or more organizations with which the League is authorized to amalgamate.
- (p) To transfer all or any part of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of the League to any one or more organizations with which the League is authorized to amalgamate.
- (q) To buy, sell and deal in all kinds of liquid and solid provisions, souvenirs and other goods in the furtherance of the objects of the League.
- (r) To enter into any arrangement with any government or authority whether supreme, municipal, local or otherwise that may seem conducive to any of the League's objects and to apply for and obtain from any such government or authority any rights, privileges or concessions which the League may consider it desirable to obtain and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.
- (s) To appoint, employ, remove or suspend such secretaries, managers, clerks, servants and other persons as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the League.
- (t) To establish and support or aid in the establishment or support of associations and institutions, funds, trusts and conveniences calculated to benefit employees or past employees of the League or players, coaches or umpires or dependants of any such persons and to grant pensions and allowances to any such persons or dependants and to make payments towards insurances to provide any benefits as aforesaid.
- (u) To draw, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Bills of Lading, Warrants, Debentures and other negotiable or transferable instruments.
- (v) To lay out, construct, maintain and alter any grounds for Football or other sports or activities necessary or convenient for the purposes of the League.

- (w) To construct, erect, maintain and alter any buildings, houses or works necessary or desirable for the purposes of the League and to furnish and equip the same in such manner as may be necessary or convenient for such purposes.
- (x) To acquire by purchase, lease, exchange or otherwise land buildings and hereditaments or any tenure or description wherever situated and any estate of interest therein and any rights over or connected therewith.
- (y) To establish, maintain and conduct a Club for the purpose of providing social facilities for members of the League and other persons interested in Football.
- (z) To guarantee or give guarantees of indemnities for the payment of money or the performance of contracts or obligations by any Club, Person or Company to secure to undertake in any way the repayment of money lent or advanced to or the liabilities by any Club, Person or Company.
- (aa) To borrow or raise money in such manner as the League shall determine and in particular by the issue of debentures (perpetual or otherwise) and to secure the repayment of any money borrowed, raised or owing or the payment of any money borrowed, raised or owing or the payment of any other money by mortgage, charge or lien upon the whole or any part of the League's property or assets (whether present or future) and also by a similar mortgage, charge or lien to secure and guarantee the performance by the League of any obligation or liability it may undertake and to purchase, redeem or pay off any such securities.
- (bb) To remunerate any person or company for services rendered or to be rendered in placing or assisting to place or guaranteeing the placing of any Debentures or other securities of the League in or about the organization or the promotion of the League or the conduct of its business.
- (cc) To sell, improve, manage, let, dispose of or turn to account all or any part of the real or personal property of the League.
- (dd) To take or hold mortgages, liens and charges to secure payment of the purchase price of any unpaid balance of the purchase price of any part of the League's property of whatsoever kind sold by the League or any money due to the League from purchasers or others.
- (ee) To receive any gift or property whether subject to any special trust or not for any one or more of the objects of the League.

- (ff) To take such steps by personal or written appeals public meetings or otherwise as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purpose or procuring contributions to the funds of the League in the shape of donations annual subscriptions or otherwise.
- (gg) To make donations for patriotic or charitable purposes.
- (hh) To acquire, establish, print and publish newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets or other literary work that the League may consider desirable.
- (ii) To control the use of the Program of Matches published by the League and to take such action as may be necessary from time to time to protect the rights of the League in respect thereof.
- (jj) To delegate all or any of its powers to any Committee or Committees or to any Board or Tribunal appointed by the League.
- (kk) To grant leases or licenses in respect of liquor and other rights at properties under the control of the League.
- (ll) To do all such acts and things as are incidental or subsidiary to all or any of the above objects.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE

5. The members of the League from time to time shall be:
 - (a) the Clubs who are members of the League on the date these Rules are adopted and such other clubs as are admitted to the League in accordance with the provisions of Rule 6 hereof: and
 - (b) all persons elected as life members of the League.
6.
 - (a) Any club which shall desire to become a member of the League shall send an application in writing to the Secretary prior to 1 November in any year together with an entrance fee of \$100.00. Such application shall be signed by an official of the applicant club.
 - (b) Any application for membership shall be considered at the next meeting of the Directors and shall be accepted if and when a resolution in favour of the application shall be carried by at least a 70% majority of Directors present at the meeting. If the applicant club is admitted as a member of the League the applicant club and all the members thereof shall in all respects be bound by and conform to these Rules.
 - (c) Every Club admitted to the League in addition to playing a team in the League competition shall also play a team in the Reserves competition

and such other competitions as the Board of Directors may prescribe from time to time.

- (d) The Directors at their discretion may allow school based teams to compete in the Colts competition.

LIFE MEMBERS

- 7. The Directors may in each year elect Honorary Life Members. The qualification for each appointment shall be that the person nominated has in the opinion of the Directors rendered special services to the League, or the game of Australian Football. An Honorary Life Member shall be elected by secret ballot which must be carried by a 70% majority of Directors present at the meeting.

DIRECTORS

- 8. The business of the League shall be managed by a board of seven (7) or more to a maximum of nine (9) directors as agreed to by the League Directors from time to time.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- 9.
 - (a) Applications for Directors will be called publicly no later than 14 October and close no later than 31 October each year.
 - (b) A copy of each application together with a voting paper signed by the returning officer and with the Common Seal of the League affixed and a return addressed envelope to the returning officer shall be posted by registered mail to each Club within ten days of the date of closure of applications.
 - (c) The completed voting paper must be in the hands of the returning officer by the last day of November.
 - (d) Only League Clubs are entitled to vote.
 - (e) Voting for the Directors positions will be on the method with the first choice being given one vote, the second two votes, etc. Those candidates with the lowest totals will be successful.
 - (f) The League solicitor and or auditor will be the returning officer for all ballots for Directors positions.
 - (g) Each Director will serve a two year term with four coming up for election one year and three the following year.

- (h) In the situation of an Extraordinary election where all seven Directors come up for election the first three in the voting will serve a two year term and the next four will serve a one year term.
- (i) The Returning Officer will announce the successful candidates for Directorship in voted order, tabling the return. All ballot slips shall be retained by the Returning Officer for a period of 28 days, pending any appeal. Should there be no appeal the ballot slips shall be destroyed.
- (j) Each successful applicant to Directorship may not hold any administrative or committee appointment or be an employee with any Club affiliated with the League.
- (k) If a Director cannot complete his/her term of office for any reason the Directors may appoint a new Director to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term either directly or by calling for nominations to be voted for by the Clubs in an extraordinary election.
- (l) Any retiring member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- (m) A Director may be removed from office by the unanimous resolution of all the other members of the Board of Directors.
- (n) If there are insufficient nominations to fill all the vacancies for Directors, the Directors may appoint a new Director or Directors to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term either directly or by calling nominations to be voted for by the Clubs in an extraordinary election.
- (o) Any Director who is absent for three successive meetings without giving notice of apology to the secretary prior to the meetings will have their directorship terminated.

CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS

- 10. (a) At the first meeting in December the Board of Directors shall elect a chairperson from one of their number who shall hold office for one year, also a Deputy Chairperson who shall hold office for the same period.
- (b) The elected Chairperson will be President of the League and the Deputy Chairperson shall be Vice President.
- (c) If the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson cannot complete their term of office for any reason their position shall be filled immediately by the Directors from within their numbers.
- (d) The Chairperson shall act as Chairperson at meetings of the Board of Directors provided that if the Chairperson is not present within the time

appointed for holding the meeting the Deputy Chairperson shall assume control. Should both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be absent and a quorum exists the remaining Directors shall elect one of their numbers to Chair the meeting. The Chairman of a meeting of the Board of Directors shall have a deliberative vote and a casting vote.

DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

11. The management and control of the affairs of the League are vested in the Directors who without limiting the generality of the foregoing shall have the following powers and duties, viz:
 - (a) To appoint, dismiss and fix the salary and terms and conditions of employment of such employees as the Directors may from time to time determine and to delegate to any person so appointed any of its powers or duties.
 - (b) To appoint sub-committees composed of such persons as the Directors may determine to investigate any matter in any way relating to the affairs of the League or to perform such duties as the Directors may determine and subject to these Rules the Directors may regulate the proceedings of all such committees. Members of sub-committees need not be Directors.
 - (c) To ensure that Minutes are kept of all meetings of the Directors and of such other meetings as the Directors may from time to time determine.
 - (d) To deal with all necessary correspondence for the League.
 - (e) To keep a correct account of all moneys and other assets belonging to the League; to ensure that all moneys received by the League are in a bank approved by the Directors; and to authorize persons to sign cheques on any such bank account and endorse cheques and other documents on behalf of the League.
 - (f) To maintain proper books of account for the League and balance them for the purposes of annual audit and also whenever so decided by the Directors: to prepare and submit annual accounts to the Auditors and to furnish every League Club with a copy of such accounts when audited.
 - (g) To invest moneys of the League not immediately required for the purposes thereof in any form of investment deemed appropriate by the Directors and from time to time vary or realize such investments.
 - (h) To sell any real or personal property of the League whether for cash or terms and by auction or by private contract; to exchange any real or personal property of the League for any other property and to buy or take on exchange or otherwise acquire, any real or personal property

for the League and do any such thing on such terms and conditions as the Directors may determine.

- (i) To borrow money for the League and give security by mortgage or charge over any property of the League.
- (j) To make and give receipts releases and other discharges for money payable to the League or any other claims or demands of the League.
- (k) To institute, conduct, defend, compound or abandon any legal proceedings by or against the League or against any other person to refer any claims or demands by or against the League to arbitration and observe and perform the awards.
- (l) To enter into all such negotiations and contracts and rescind and vary all such contracts and execute and do all such acts, deeds and things as the Directors may consider desirable for the proper performance of their duties.
- (m) To convene meetings of Directors as required.
- (n) To do all such acts and things as are incidental to or expedient for the fulfilment of the objects of the league.

PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

- 12. The Directors shall meet at such times and places as they shall from time to time determine but they shall meet at least once in every calendar month and whenever specially convened in accordance with the Rules. They may adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they decide.
- 13. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and a determination by a majority of Directors shall for all purposes be deemed a determination of the Directors.
- 14. A Director shall not vote in respect of any contract or proposed contract with the League in which he has an interest and shall declare that interest prior to the vote being taken.
- 15. The Quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors shall be a majority of Directors.
- 16. The continuing Directors may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their body.
- 17. A resolution in writing signed by all the then Directors shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Directors duly convened

and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more Directors. This rule does apply to a resolution pursuant to Rules 6, 33, 34 or 35.

COMMITTEES

18. Subject hereto and to other determination by the Directors a committee may determine its own procedure and may elect a Chairman of its meetings. If no such Chairman is elected or if at any meeting the Chairman is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present may choose one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting.
19. A committee may meet and adjourn as it decides. Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and in the case of equality of votes the motion shall fail unless the Chairman is a Director in which case the Chairman may vote to resolve the dead-lock.
 - (a) The President or a delegate of the Great Northern Junior Football League is permitted to attend these committee meetings as an observer with no voting rights.

(Added 04.04.05)

VALIDATION

20. All acts done by a meeting of Directors or of a committee shall notwithstanding any defect in the constitution of the meeting be valid if ratified by the Directors.
21. deleted

LEAGUE OFFICIALS

22. The Directors shall appoint Officers of the League who shall carry out such duties as are specified by the Rules or determined by the Directors. In the performance of their duties they shall be under the control of and shall comply with the directions of the Directors.

REPRESENTATIVE TO WEST AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

23. A representative from the League to the West Australian National Country Football League shall be appointed each year by the Directors. The representative shall represent the League at all meetings of the WACFL as instructed by the Directors and at all times shall ensure the well-being and interest of the League at such meetings. The representative may be a Director or any other person.

AUDITORS

24. At the AGM the League shall appoint an Auditor or Auditors at such remuneration (to be paid by the League) as they determine. The auditors shall examine the books, accounts, receipts and any other financial records of the League for the financial year of appointment and compare them with the annual accounts submitted by the Directors. The auditors shall not later than *the Annual General Meeting* in the financial year following that in which they were appointed prepare and send to each Club which is a member of the League and to the Directors, a report as to the accuracy of the accounts and the financial position of the League. The auditors finding any deficiency in money or goods shall report the same immediately to the Directors.
Amended 04.04.05

FINANCE

25. The annual subscription to be paid by the clubs admitted to the League shall be as prescribed by the Directors from time to time and shall be paid by the admitted clubs in three instalments due as follows:

Prior to first premiership match	- of the season	30%
	- of the second round	30%
	- of the third round	40%

26. The gate receipts of all qualifying matches shall be retained by the Home Club. All final round matches and other matches arranged by the League shall be under the control of the League, which shall take all receipts and pay all expenses. All expenses incurred at qualifying matches excluding umpires travelling expenses shall be the responsibility of the Home Club.
27. The financial year of the League shall commence on 1 November and end on 31 October.
28. (a) A cash statement showing the amount of the gross proceeds of each match and the amounts appropriated out of the same shall be forwarded to the League on completion of the match.
- (b) A statement of all receipts and payment by the League shall be submitted to the Directors for their approval at their next meeting.
29. All fines or other penalties imposed under or pursuant to these Rules shall be paid into the funds of the League.
30. The Directors may at any time create any special fund for any special purpose, and may prescribe the means by which such funds shall be maintained and at any time thereafter may order that such special fund shall be closed and prescribe the manner in which any moneys remaining therein shall be used or applied.
31. (a) The remuneration to be paid to umpires shall be fixed by the Directors.

- (b) Maximum gate entrance fees shall be fixed by the Directors.

NOTICES

32. Any notice to be given for the purposes of these Rules may be given by registered letter and if so given will be deemed to have been received by the addressees in the ordinary course of post. Notices to Club members, players and officials may be addressed to them care of their Club.

SEAL

33. The Directors shall provide for the safe custody of the seal, which shall only be used by authority of the Directors, or of a committee of the Directors authorized by the Directors in that behalf, and every instrument to which the seal is affixed shall be signed by a Director and shall be countersigned by the Secretary or by a second Director or by some other person appointed by the Directors for the purpose. Until other provisions have been made the persons authorized to use the common seal shall be the President and the Secretary.

ALTERATION OF RULES

34. (a) The rules of this Constitution shall not be altered, repealed or added to, except upon resolution carried by a three-fourths (75%) majority of Directors, Club President's or his proxy in attendance and voting at the Annual General Meeting, or any special meeting called for the purpose.
- (b) The League shall notify in writing all Directors and President's of the affiliated clubs of the league of the proposed Rule Change (14) days prior to the relevant meeting. Pursuant with Schedule 1, Clause 8 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987.
- (c) The League must lodge with the Commissioner of Fair Trading within one month of notice of the special resolution setting out particulars of the alterations together with a certificate given by a member of the League certifying that the resolution was duly passed as a special resolution and that the Rules of the League as so altered conform to the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (1987).

Amended 04.04.05

EXPULSION AND RESIGNATION FROM LEAGUE

35. The Directors may by a vote of 75% of their number expel any Club or other member from the League provided that in the case of a Club such expulsion must first be approved in writing by 70% of the Clubs which are members of the League other than the Club proposed to be expelled. In the event of expulsion the Club or person expelled shall lose and forfeit to the League all interest and benefit in the funds and property of the League and all rights attaching to membership. Any Club or other member may on similar

conditions resign from membership. Expulsion or resignation of any Club or member does not absolve the Club or member from any debt owing to the League.

DISSOLUTION

36. The League shall be deemed to have been dissolved if and when a resolution in favour of dissolution shall be carried by a 75% majority at a meeting of the Directors specially called for the purpose of considering such dissolution and such resolution shall be ratified by a 75% majority of the committee of each Club which is a member of the League present at a meeting of the club specially called for the purpose.
37. Upon the dissolution of the League a liquidator shall be appointed to wind up the affairs of the League. All property of the League shall be realized and sold and the moneys obtained thereby together with any moneys in hand, shall be used and applied firstly in paying the expenses of such realization and sale, secondly in paying and discharging all the debts and liabilities for which the League is responsible and the surplus (if any) then remaining shall be distributed to another incorporated association having objects similar to the League or for charitable purposes.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

38. The League shall adhere to and be bound by the Rules of the National Football League of Australia until such time as a resolution shall be carried at a meeting of the Directors specially called for the purpose that the League shall no longer adhere to and be bound by the said Rules.
39. In all League competitions the laws of the Australian Games of Football as adopted by the National Football League of Australia from time to time shall be complied by the Clubs playing in such competitions.
40. Deleted
41. Deleted
42. Deleted
43. Deleted

REVIEWS OF DIRECTORS DECISIONS

44. Any League Club has the right to request the League to review any action of the Directors. Such request, together with a non refundable payment of \$100.00, is to be lodged in writing to the Secretary of the League within fourteen (14) days of the Directors' decision.

Amended 04.04.05

APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

45. (a) Any League Club that is dissatisfied with the decision made by the Directors of their request for a review and is of the opinion that the Directors by their actions are not acting in the best interest of football may appeal against such action provided that:

- (i) the appellant League Club has the written approval and support of at least three (3) other League Clubs;
- (ii) the appeal is in writing addressed to the Secretary of the League; together with payment of \$100.00 within seven (7) days after the date upon which notification by the Secretary of the League to the club, of the decision on review was given. The payment of \$100.00 shall be forfeited to the League upon dismissal of the Appeal to the Board of Directors, but shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

Amended 04.04.05

- (iii) the appeal shall, in the case of a fine, be accompanied with payment of such fine and if such appeal is upheld, the fine shall be refunded to the appellant.
- (b) On receipt of a notice of appeal the Secretary shall notify the President of the League who shall convene a meeting within 14 days to hear the appeal. The Secretary shall notify all Clubs in writing of the date, time and venue of such meeting and attach thereto a copy of the appeal.
- (c) The meeting shall be attended by at least 70% of the Directors and 70% of League Clubs (one representative from each Club).
- (d) The Chairman of the meeting shall be the President of the League who shall have a casting vote only. The appeal shall be resolved by a majority vote and the decision shall be binding on all parties

AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LEAGUES

46. The Directors may from time to time by resolution enter into any contract agreement or other agreement with any other League or Association formed for the purpose of encouraging the Australian game of Football and may by resolution cancel or determine any such contract agreement or other arrangement.

CHANGES TO REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS

47. The Directors may from time to time make such Regulations and by-law and amend or vary such Regulations and by-laws as they determine and all such Regulations or by-laws shall bind all Clubs, Affiliated Associations and their Officials, Committee members, players and members, umpires and other members of the League.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

48. The GNFL will hold an Annual General Meeting within 4 months of the end of the GNFL Financial Year (ending 31 October).