



1. Introduction

1.1 These membership regulations have been agreed by the Directors of the company as part of the regulations to ensure the proper conduct and management of AFL England; they deal with matters of membership and are binding on all persons within the organisation.

1.2 The membership regulations should be read in conjunction with the company's Articles of Association which shall take precedence in all matters where an inconsistency might arise.

1.3 Words and expressions in these Membership Regulations shall have the same meaning as in the AFL England Articles of Association.

1.4 There shall be different categories of member and membership with different rights and privileges as agreed by the Directors and confirmed in these regulations. References to the Directors shall include any person or committee to whom the Directors have delegated the exercise of powers under these Regulations.

2. Applicable definitions

2.1 "Individual member" is the term used for a named individual who affiliates as part of a club, school, university/college or regional association or affiliates directly because of non-residency in England;

2.2 "Nominated Representative" is the person nominated by a member with voting rights to attend, speak and vote on behalf of that member at meetings of the Company;

2.3 "AFL England Umpiring" is the arm of AFL England dedicated to the development and accreditation of umpiring and technical officials;

2.4 "Writing" means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

3. Classes of Membership

Only certain classes of membership are eligible to hold voting membership rights of the Company. An individual acting as their Nominated Representative can only hold voting rights on behalf of such classes of membership, unless a proxy is appointed in line with the Company Articles of Association. Membership is not transferable at any time. Membership shall be offered under the following main categories:-

3.1 Member Club – open to all Australian Rules Football Clubs in England. A Member Club shall:-

- Complete a registration process annually;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting;
- Provide the name of its Nominated Representative when requested;
- Hold voting rights at meetings of the company through its Nominated Representative;
- Provide the names and details of its individual members on the appropriate form / process together with the required affiliation fee for each person in membership of that club.
- Provide the names and details of its officials/officers of the committee responsible for running the club.
- Keep AFL England informed of its number of members by uploading their details into the appropriate system.

3.1.1 Individual members of clubs – an individual member of a Member Club shall not hold any voting rights unless that individual is the Nominated Representative of that Member Club.



3.2 Member School – open to all schools in England both primary and secondary A Member School shall:-

- Complete a registration process annually;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting;
- Provide the name of its Nominated Representative when requested;
- Hold voting rights at meetings of the company through its Nominated Representative;
- Provide data about its individual members or activities if requested.

3.2.1 School Teachers – an individual teacher of a Member School shall not hold any voting rights unless that individual is the Nominated Representative of that Member School.

3.2.2 School children – an individual member (IE a school child or young person under the age of 18) of a Member School, shall not hold any voting rights.

3.3 Member University/College A Member University/College shall:-

- Complete a registration process annually;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting;
- Provide the name of its Nominated Representative when requested;
- Hold voting rights at meetings of the company through its Nominated Representative;
- Provide data about its individual members or activities if requested.

3.3.1 Individual members of University/College - an individual member of a Member University/College shall not hold any voting rights unless that individual is the Nominated Representative of that Member University/College.

3.4 Coach Membership Coach membership is available to coaches. Members who are coaches shall not hold any voting rights unless that individual is the Nominated Representative of a Member Club of School. Member coaches shall:

- Complete a registration process as required;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

3.5 Recreational Membership Recreational membership is available to players who do not take part in regular organised leagues and/or fixtures. Recreational members are not able to vote and cannot be the Nominated Representative of a Member Club. Recreational members shall:-

- Complete a registration process as required;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting;

3.6 Competitive Player Membership – is open to individuals who do not reside in England or play Australian Rules Football for a English Member Club. Competitive Player members are not able to vote and cannot be the Nominated Representative of a Member Club. The only individuals likely to be included in this category of membership are those that represent England or Great Britain either as an international athlete members shall:-

- Complete a registration process annually;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual General or Extraordinary Meeting.

3.7 Life Membership – may be awarded by the Board of Directors to a person who has made a significant contribution and/or provided exceptional service to Australian Rules Football in England over many years. Life Members shall not be required to complete a registration form or pay any affiliation fee but are requested to keep AFL England advised of their contact details.

3.8 Individual Membership Individual membership is open to individuals who are not members of English Member Clubs. Individual members are not able to vote and cannot be the Nominated Representative of a Member Club. Individual members shall:-

- Complete a registration process annually;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual General or Extraordinary Meeting.



3.9 Member League – open to all Australian Rules Football Leagues in England. A Member League shall:-

- Complete a registration process annually;
- Pay the appropriate affiliation fee as agreed by the Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting;
- Provide the name of its Nominated Representative when requested;
- Hold voting rights at meetings of the company through its Nominated Representative;
- Provide the names and details of its individual members on the appropriate form / process together with the required affiliation fee for each person in membership of that club.
- Provide the names and details of its officials/officers of the committee responsible for running the club.
- Keep AFL England informed of its number of members by uploading their details into the appropriate system.

4. Directors Dispensation to Change Membership Requirements

The Directors may at any time:-

4.1 Change the name or title of any class of membership

4.2 Change the criteria or terms of any class of membership

4.3 Introduce new classes of membership The Board of Directors shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient to bring to the notice of members of the Company and others all such changes. These should include open, transparent and widely available communications methods. The Board may make regulations granting dispensation in whole or in part from any membership requirements.

5. Obligations of All Classes of Members

5.1 All members shall abide by AFL England company documents, rules, regulations, policies, byelaws and codes of conduct and such other requirements as the Directors shall reasonably determine from time to time. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken.

5.2 Every member shall be expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken.

5.3 A member will be liable whilst a member and will remain liable after ceasing to be a member to pay to AFL England promptly on demand any monies payable by the member to the Company, including but not limited to any fee, affiliation, levy, fine or other penalty, or reimbursement in accordance with any scheme or benefit.

6. Membership Fees

6.1 Each applicant for admission as a member (other than a Life Member) shall pay such membership fee as the AGM determines from time to time following recommendations from the Board of Directors.

6.2 No application for admission as a member shall be considered unless the applicant has paid any annual affiliation payable in respect of the year in which admission is being sought. This will only be different where no fee applies.

6.3 The Directors will recommend different fees for different classes of members to the membership through an Annual General or Extraordinary meeting. Fees will be voted on and agreed at such meetings.



6.4 The Board may also, at its own discretion, reduce such fees for members who are unemployed or in receipt of benefits, students, on maternity leave (for limited time period only) and can provide proof of this status at the beginning of the billing year from when concessionary rates are applicable.

6.5 The affiliation term for clubs shall run from 1st September to 31st August each year. For individual members the 12-month period shall run from the day of joining to 12 months later.

6.6 Affiliation fees shall be payable by such date as the Directors from time to time determine. For clubs, this will usually be 30th October each year, and then updated as new members join the club. For individual members, renewal date will be 12 months post the previous join/renewal date.

6.7 The affiliation fee due from individual members who are admitted to membership for the first time after any set date may be reduced as determined by the Directors.

6.8 If any member fails to pay the annual affiliation fee applicable to them within two months of the date on which it has become payable, such member may be required to pay in addition to the annual affiliation a late payment fee as the Directors may from time to time determine.

6.9 The affiliation process and fees for indoor players will be the same as outdoor players. No transfer fee will apply between teams and the full affiliation fee will be payable by the primary club.

7. Lapsed Membership

7.1 If within two months of the date on which the annual affiliation has become payable a member has not paid such annual affiliation (together with any late payment fee for which the member is liable) the Directors may lapse the member from membership provided that the Directors are satisfied that:

7.1.1 at a date prior to the annual affiliation becoming payable the member was sent a written notice (to the last registered address or email address previously provided) advising that payment of the member's annual affiliation was due, and

7.1.2 a further notice was issued, either individually or by way of a notice on the AFL England website four weeks after the final payment date advising of the potential lapsing of membership

7.2 Unless the Directors otherwise determine, a person who has ceased to be a member only for failure to pay the annual affiliation fee (or any late payment fee) may be re-admitted upon payment of all membership fees specified by and according to timescales set out by the Directors and upon completion of the defined registration process..

7.3 A lapsed membership will result in the Member Club or individual member losing their right to participate in the Australian Rules Football Leagues.

8. Refusal of Membership

8.1 An applicant whose application for membership is refused shall be given brief reasons for the refusal.

8.2 An applicant who has been refused admission as a member (or to a class of membership) may appeal, in writing, to the Directors. Any such appeal must be made within 21 days of the date of refusal (or of the date on which reasons for refusal is given if later) and shall set out in full the grounds for appeal.

9. Rights of Members

Each category of member shall enjoy rights and privileges as are contained in the Articles of Association and additionally:

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9.1 AFL England shall take out insurance on behalf of Member Clubs such that all members are covered for civil liability insurance and accidental death cover as well as permanent total or partial disability. Options to extend this automatic cover for certain categories of Member may be offered at an additional cost. Detailed information regarding insurance will be kept up to date on the AFL England website.

9.2 Voting Members shall be entitled to a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, have one vote at general meetings and be on the official mailing list.

9.3 Members, other than recreational members and some classes of individual memberships, may enter competitions and leagues once the current year's affiliations are paid.

9.4 All categories of members including individual members data will be safeguarded with high levels of security, will not be distributed to anyone outside of the AFL England governance structure, and will be treated with the highest respect and importance.

9.5 Member Clubs may register for membership and register their clubs individual members via the online registration scheme administered centrally by AFL England. Individual categories of members will register through the designated process, which will be electronic and on-line. The AFL England website will make clear the relevant process for each membership category.

9.6 Members are entitled to seek advice and/or technical assistance from AFL England.

9.7 All members may access coaching and umpiring training courses.

9.8 Members may seek safeguarding guidance from the AFL England lead Safeguarding Officer.

9.9 Members may access the services of AFL England employees to provide information, advice and assistance.

9.10 Members will be automatically registered for relevant AFL England communications, and may register for additional correspondence as required/available. Members and individuals (other than official representatives and nominated representatives) may also opt out of receiving communication at any time.

9.11 Members may use the AFL England website for news, up to date information, guidance and promotion of their own activities.

9.12 A comprehensive player development pathway is provided through the Player Pathway Framework and is available for all individual members in England who are eligible.

9.13 Opportunities to represent England at age group and senior levels and to be selected for Great Britain (GB) teams subject to the appropriate GB selection criteria

9.14 A voting Member may withdraw from membership by giving 7 days' notice to the company in writing; no refund of affiliation fee(s) is payable.

9.15 The Directors reserve the right to withdraw or add to this list of member's rights, any change will be clearly identified on the AFL England website prior to amendment of this list.

10. Obligations of Members

10.1 By becoming a member of AFL England, all member Clubs, Schools, Colleges/Universities, National Organisations and individuals agree to abide by these membership regulations.



10.2 Agreement to membership includes abiding by all AFL England policies and procedures including, but not limited to, code of ethics and codes conduct and ethics, safeguarding and protecting young people in sport, Equality and Drugs in Sport,. All of these policies, procedures and guidelines are available to all members through the AFL England website or by request from the AFL England Head Office.

11. Annual obligations of voting members

11.1 Each voting Member shall send to the AFL England Office, or complete via the relevant online system, the name and full contact details of the representative to whom all correspondence should be sent and shall keep the AFL England Office informed of any change in the name and/or contact details of its representative(s).

11.2 Each voting Member shall send to the AFL England Office the name and contact details of its Nominated Representative on registration or not less than 48 hours before an AGM. A Nominated Representative must be over 18 years of age.

11.3 Each voting Member shall be responsible for ensuring that all its athletes, officials, coaches, spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and abide by the codes of conduct and relevant policies of AFL England at all times.

11.4 Member Clubs, Schools, University/Colleges are responsible for data protection of their individual members; AFL England will provide some guidance on usual data protection actions.

12. Termination of Membership

12.1 An individual membership terminates when that person dies, Member Club, School, University/College membership terminates when an organisation ceases to exist.

12.2 AFL England, providing it acts reasonably and follows its Disciplinary Regulations may expel any voting Member or any other class of member if it considers that it is inappropriate that membership should continue or if the conduct of the member shall bring AFL England into disrepute.

13. Membership Information for General Meetings

13.1 Each Member Club, School, University/College in membership shall be entitled to appoint a Nominated Representative to attend, speak and vote at general meetings of the Company. The Nominated Representative would normally be one of its individual members but this is not always necessary and a relevant other individual may be appointed. In this case, the Nominated Representative may only carry 1 vote for 1 member.

13.2 For the avoidance of doubt no person other than a Nominated Representative of a voting member shall have the right to a vote at general meetings unless that person is holding a proxy.

13.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the Directors, the Company Secretary or a request signed by at least 6 Nominated Representatives at least two being from the regional leagues.

14. Related Policies

These regulations should be read in conjunction with the following:

14.1 Articles of Association

14.2 Disciplinary regulations

14.3 Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct

14.4 Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Sport Policy and Guidelines

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14.5 Equality Policy

14.6 Membership Fees and benefits AFL England will endeavour to all related document to these regulations up to date on its website.

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