



CONSTITUTION AND RULES (AMENDED AUGUST 2007)

CONSTITUTION

- 1 The following clubs are founder members of the Scottish Supporters' Football League (hereinafter known as "The League"):
Alloa Supporters' AFC
Dundee Supporters Club (Edinburgh) AFC
Dundee United Supporters Club (Edinburgh & Lothian's) AFC
Gorgie Hearts Supporters AFC
Meadowbank Thistle Supporters AFC
Meadowbank Thistle Supporters Team 1985 AFC
Partick Thistle Supporters Club (St Georges Cross) AFC
Raith Rovers Supporters Club AFC
- 2 The object of the League will be to foster and develop the game of amateur football between the supporters of Scotland's senior clubs in an atmosphere of trust and friendliness.
- 3 The executive committee will consist of seven members being the three office bearers as defined in article 7, plus four other committee members from league clubs. The Quorum for Executive meetings will be four.

The remit of the Executive Committee will be to oversee the duties of the Office Bearers, to decide on matters of discipline and generally take decisions to facilitate the efficient operation of the Scottish Supporters' Football League. The committee will have the power to suspend a club or player or impose fines or bonds on member clubs as may become necessary.
- 4 The Chairman, (or elected deputy in his absence), will hold the casting vote at all meetings and his rulings shall be final.

At General meetings, each club may have a maximum of two delegates in attendance, however each club will have one vote only and one delegate shall be nominated to cast his club's vote throughout a meeting. Clubs failing to attend a meeting will, forfeit their right to vote.
At all meetings, delegates must retire whilst deliberation is made on any matter involving their club or any of its members. They will not be allowed to vote on the outcome and will only be readmitted after a decision is reached.
- 5 All matters will be decided by a simple majority of those present with the exception of the proposed expulsion from the League of a member club which must have the backing of two-thirds, (or nearest round figure), of existing member clubs in order to be implemented.
- 6 An Annual General Meeting will be held after each season. The General Secretary will decide the date and Venue and all member clubs will be informed at least three weeks prior to the meeting. A provisional date for the next Annual General Meeting will be made at each year's Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee will meet on a regular basis during the playing season. Additional meetings may be arranged to clear the business in hand.

The General Secretary will have the power to call a General or Executive Meeting, giving details of the agenda, date and venue at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

A member club may request, stating the business to be discussed, the General Secretary to convene a Special General Meeting. Such requests should be accompanied by a deposit of £20.00 which may be forfeited should that meeting so decide.

The quorum for all General Meetings will be 50% of the entire membership. No person may leave a meeting without the authorization of the Chairman.

Clubs failing to attend a General Meeting without tendering apologies may be called before the Executive Committee and may be fined up to a maximum of £50.00 at the Executive Committee's discretion.

Clubs failing to attend the Annual General Meeting will not be considered for membership of the League.

- 7 The League will have 5 Roles to be carried out by the executive committee - Chairman, General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Registration Secretary, & Treasurer. The committee members for each task will be elected by the Membership at each Annual General Meeting.

In the event of an Office Bearers post becoming vacant in mid season, the Executive Committee may fill the position from their ranks at their discretion or temporarily merge posts until a meeting is called to elect a new post holder.

The remit of each role is as follows:

CHAIRMAN

To chair all Executive and General meetings of S.S.F.L. in which the chairman has a deliberative and casting vote; To represent the League at Cup Finals and other official functions; To provide support and advice to League members when required.

GENERAL SECRETARY

To deal with general correspondence; Arrange meeting dates and venues and issue notices of such meetings; Maintain minute book; Provide general point of contact for League. Ensure the proper notification of clubs of claims and protests. Issue notices of decisions to all relevant parties.

In the event of an emergency situation arising in which it is not possible to convene the Executive Committee, the Office Bearers will have the power to make a binding decision on any matter. All clubs or individuals affected by such a decision will retain the right of appeal as detailed in Article 15 of this constitution.

The General Secretary will, have the power to delegate any of the tasks aforementioned but in doing so will remain solely responsible for the said tasks being completed to the smooth running of the League. The Secretary must ensure that all delegated tasks have been carried out as required.

TREASURER

To maintain proper accounts and provide updated statements of account for each meeting; Liaise with Leagues bankers as required; Oversee all payments and receipts throughout season; Issue letters notifying clubs of fines; Collect fees and fines from clubs; Provide reports to the Executive Committee on the status of club debts with regard to possible imposition of debt suspensions; Provide A.G.M. with estimated budget for following season; Provide A.G.M. with a Profit & Loss Account, Balance Sheet and narrative report on the immediate past seasons transactions

FIXTURE SECRETARY

Organise and distribute League fixture lists (including referee appointments) and cup draws; Re—arrange postponed fixtures and inform all parties concerned; Receive results and distribute to media and for general distribution; Receive and advise on cancellation requests. Organise Semi-final and Final venues. Obtain medals for Cup & League winners.

REGISTRATION SECRETARY

Receive and deal with all player registrations, cancellations and transfers; Receive team-lines and referees reports; Check team-lines for irregularities re-registration or suspension. Will Process the Suspensions of Players & inform the player, club secretary, and the Scottish Amateur F.A. of all suspensions.

8 The League will be affiliated to the Scottish Amateur Football Association and any Office Bearer may represent the League in any matter concerning the S.A.F.A. Two Executive Committee members will be nominated to represent the League at the Council of the Scottish Amateur F.A.

9 The terms of membership of the League shall be that members agree to abide by the Constitution and rules as laid down by the League

The Executive Committee will have the power to fine or suspend a member club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been objectionable, or has been found guilty of repeated breaches of the rules.

Clubs who have given the League problems during the past season may have a bond placed upon them at the discretion of the Executive Committee (amount will be decided by the committee).

Any club whose players, officials or members are found guilty of serious misconduct or repeatedly guilty of misconduct throughout their membership of this League may be expelled from membership at a General Meeting if agreed by a number of clubs totalling two-thirds (or nearest round figure) of League members as set out in Article 5 of the Constitution. Should such a motion fail the membership may consider the imposition of a bond or other form of punishment at their discretion, this to be decided by a simple majority of those present

10 All existing full member clubs will be automatically accepted for renewal of membership unless the Executive Committee deem otherwise.

Any new applicants must apply for membership to the General Secretary by no later than two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. All new applicants must attend the Annual General Meeting thereafter in order to have their application considered.

Each club must retire whilst their case is considered and must receive the support of one third, (or nearest round figure), of the existing full member clubs in order to be accepted. If applicant is accepted into the league they will be admitted as 'Associate Members' for a period of a year, and as such will not have a vote. All first year clubs will play in the lowest division of the League.

Upon completion of a season Associate members will be considered for full membership and must receive the support of one third, (or nearest round figure), of the existing full member clubs in order to be accepted. If they are not accepted the Associate membership may be extended or the club may be expelled from the league.

- 11 All member clubs will automatically gain entry to all competitions organised by the League.

Trophies and medals will be presented to the League & Cup Winners.

All trophies presented will remain the property of the League and should be returned to the General Secretary by March 1st of the season following that in which the trophy was awarded, or immediately on demand.

All teams who receive a trophy ie; league trophy, Inter-division cup or League possession, cup will be held responsible for the upkeep of the trophy whilst in their position.

- 12 All member clubs must pay a full and equal membership fee to the Treasurer. The amount of the Annual fee will be set by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The League treasurer will set a closing date for payment of fees at the AGM. Any club failing to pay a fee by the appropriate date will thereafter be suspended from play until such time as the debt is cleared.

All fines imposed by this League must be paid within the time of the letter of notification of the fine.

Failure to pay fine, if a team fails to pay a fine imposed on them by the League Committee within the permitted time, the aforementioned team will be suspended for 7 days, all games league/cup will be forfeited, this suspension will stay in place until fine is paid in full.

Any additional fees required will be set at a Special General Meeting, convened for such a purpose, and will be payable immediately.

The League Treasurer will be responsible for the opening of a current and/or deposit account and the appointment of two executive committee members as co-signatories.

- 13 The League shall pay an honorarium to members of the executive committee. Committee members that hold a role within the committee (e.g. General Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) will be given £100. Committee members without a specific role will be given £50.

The League shall repay all expenses incurred by members in the execution of their duties on behalf of the League. Such expenses will be administered by the Treasurer and ratified by the Executive Committee. All payments should be signed for on receipt. Wherever possible till

receipts, or invoices, should be provided.

- 14 Any club or individual may appeal to the Scottish Amateur Football Association against a decision of this League as directed in Rule 34(a) of the Constitution and Rules of the Scottish Amateur Football Association.
- 15 No changes may be made to this Constitution or the League Rules unless supported by a majority of member clubs present at an Annual or Special General meeting as defined in Article 6.

RULE ONE - ORGANISATION.

- (a) Every club shall play each of the other sides in their division twice each season, once at "Home" and once "Away".

The maximum number of teams playing in any one division shall not exceed ten. The maximum number of division shall not exceed two. The membership have decided on two up, two down format, the league members have the right to amend these decisions, should the number of teams be altered by the expulsion or resignation of a club during the course of the season.

- (b) Fixtures will be played on dates allocated by the Fixture Secretary on a fixture list to be issued prior to the start of each season. No date will be changed without the permission of the Fixture Secretary. At least six days notice must be given for any change of fixture.

The playing season will run from August until 31st May or any extended date granted by the Scottish Amateur Football Association.

In matches where the home team's pitch is more than 10 miles from the opponents home pitch, the kick off time can be no earlier than 11am, unless agreed to by the away team. In matches where the distance is greater than 25 miles the earliest kick off time would be 12pm.

The "Home" team will decide kick-off times and venues. They will inform opponents of these details at least six days prior to the match i.e. for Sunday fixtures, the Monday prior to the match. Should the "Home" club fail in this regard, the away club must contact their opponents four days prior to the match for details i.e. for Sunday fixtures, the Wednesday prior to the match. If either party is not contactable the General Secretary should be informed without delay so that the fixture is not affected. If a protest has been lodged concerning a venue, the Executive Committee will have the authority to have matches played at an alternative venue.

Any fixture postponed or abandoned because of the weather or otherwise will be replayed from the beginning on a date decided by the Fixture Secretary. Clubs will be entitled to request a maximum of two postponements of fixtures in any one season. Such requests must be made to the Fixture Secretary at least thirteen days prior to the scheduled date giving adequate reasons for the request.

- (c) Any club failing to attend a match without due warning or reason will forfeit the points and the points will be awarded to their opponents. The score for League purposes will be nil-nil. The offending club will be liable for the cost of any expenses incurred by the opposition. The opponents, having provided proof of payment to the League Treasurer, will be reimbursed for any pitch or referees fees paid or, if they are outstanding, they will be settled directly by the League. No claims of compensation for travelling expenses will be considered. Claims under

this rule must be submitted to the General Secretary within four days of the scheduled match date and a copy sent in like manner to the claimant's opponents. No fee is required and the use of recorded or registered delivery post is optional. Persistent offenders may have their membership reviewed at the Annual General Meeting at the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Should either club fail to appear fifteen minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the referee may, at his discretion, cancel the game and report the offending side. In this case the above ruling will prevail.

Should any home club fail to fulfil their home fixture they may be fined a maximum of £50.00 this will be used to compensate the away teams expenses.

In games which no protest or claim is made, will be investigated by the Executive Committee whose decision on the status or otherwise of such games will be final. Persistent offenders may have their membership reviewed at the Annual General Meeting, At the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Should a club in breach of the above rules gain an unfair advantage arising from such an offence, the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, order the match to be played.

Should a pitch be declared unplayable by the local authority, the "Home" team will be responsible for informing their opponents and the referee at the earliest opportunity.

The "Home" club will be responsible for contacting their match referee, in order to arrange an early pitch inspection to prevent unnecessary travelling expense. If there is any doubt about the conditions, the "Home" club secretary should contact the opponents without delay and inform them of the fact. Any club who persistently fails to take this action may be called before the Executive Committee and may face disciplinary action. The League will consider no claims for financial compensation arising from such incidents.

- (d) Should a club resign from the Scottish Supporters' Football League, once this is accepted by the Executive Committee, the General Secretary will inform all members of the fact and results of League matches played by the club will be declared null and void. This shall also apply to any club expelled from membership.
- (e) Any club suspended from play by the League shall have their matches scheduled for the period of suspension awarded to their opponents. The score for League purposes will be nil-nil. This will apply until the suspension is lifted.
- (f) The "Home" club will be responsible for the provision and payment of all match arrangements, which must include:
 - (1) Full size, lined football pitch (grass where possible) with goalposts and nets.
 - (2) Adequate changing and shower facilities.
 - (3) A suitably qualified referee, (see rule 4(a)).
 - (4) Corner flags (where provided).

NOTE – Where grass is not available the fixture may be played on Blaze, or Astroturf

For cup ties the club drawn first shall be the "Home" team and will make all match arrangements, the cost of which will be shared by the participating clubs unless the teams reside in different towns in which case all costs will be met by the "Home" team. The Executive

Committee will decide on which ties will should have shared expenses and their decision(s) shall be final. The League will meet all cup final costs.

All cup semi-final and final ties must be played on grass where possible at a neutral venue to be decided by the Executive Committee.

- (g) Protests must be lodged in writing or e-mail with the General Secretary within four days of the match in question giving full details of the grounds for complaint. The protest (if in writing) must be sent by recorded or registered delivery post and at the same time a copy should be sent in like manner to the complainants opponents. .
- (h) Club secretaries shall, not later than the commencement of the game, hand to the referee one copy of the team-lines as provided by the League. This copy must contain the full name, home address and signature of each player stripped to play. Team sheets must be completed in ink. No form other than the official League form is acceptable. The referee shall then be responsible for forwarding the team sheet to the Registration Secretary within four days along with any disciplinary offences recorded on official S.F.A. forms.

Club secretaries shall also hand one copy of the team sheet to their opponents not later than the commencement of the game.

“Home” club secretaries shall inform the Fixture Secretary of the result at the earliest opportunity. Results of Sunday fixtures must be reported by 8pm

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a £5.00 fine being imposed at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Fines for any further offence in the same season will rise in increments of £5.00.

- (l) All League and Cup matches shall be played over two halves of 45 minutes, the duration of the interval to be decided by the referee.
For League matches the score at that time will stand as the final result.
In the event of a Cup tie (knockout phase only) being drawn after 90 minutes play, two additional periods of fifteen minutes each way will be played. If, after this, the teams are still level, each team will take five penalty kicks, the team with the highest score being the winner. If, after five penalties each have been taken, the scores are still level, penalties shall continue to be taken on a sudden death basis.

- (j) Clubs will be awarded three points for a win and one point for a draw.

After all League matches have been played, the team accumulating the highest number of points in each division shall be Champions.

Should two or more clubs tie for a position, the club with the highest goal difference shall be deemed the higher. If goal differences are identical, the team scoring the highest number of goals shall be deemed the higher positioned. If, after all these factors have been taken into account, there is still deadlock, the matter will be referred to the Executive Committee whose decisions shall be final. Promotion and Relegation is referred to in Rule 1(a), paragraph 2.

- (k) All teams who receive a trophy ie; league trophy, Inter-division cup or League cup will be held responsible for the upkeep of the trophy whilst in their possession,

RULE TWO - PLAYERS.

- (a) Each member club will then complete an official registration form including all the players from the above list that they wish to register for the new season. For each player the following details MUST be entered – Full Name, Address (including full postcode), Date of Birth, and Player Signature.

These forms should be sent to the Registration secretary.

In accordance with the aims and ideals of the competition, clubs shall endeavour to form their pool from the supporters of the Scottish League club they represent. Players who are not supporters of the club they represent may be registered however clubs may not register more than two such players in any one season.

- b) Each club may have a maximum of twenty-five players at any one time.

Registration of players may be cancelled at any time by notifying the Registration Secretary in writing. However, a player whose registration has been cancelled may not rejoin during the remaining course of the season.

- (c) To register a new player the club must follow the procedure for signing (see rule 2a).

A player's registration form must be deposited with the Registration Secretary at least 12 hours before he is eligible to take part in a match organised by the S.S.F.L.

No registrations of players will be accepted from 31st March until the end of the playing season.

- (d) Players may be transferred from one club to another providing the criteria of Rule 2 (a) & 2(f) is met. Players may only move once within the season. All players are deemed to be free agents at the end of each season. His club if so requested by him must cancel the player's registration. His new club must then submit a new registration form in accordance with Rule 2(a) at least seven days prior to playing the player.

- (e) No trialists are allowed in official Scottish Supporters Football League matches. Players must be registered in accordance with rules 2(a) and 2(c) to be eligible to take part in League competitions.

- (f) All Scottish Supporters' Football League matches are for players of amateur status only. It is the responsibility of the club to ascertain a player's eligibility prior to registering him. Protests concerning unregistered or ineligible players should be lodged with the General Secretary in the manner referred to in Rule 1(g), paragraph. 2.

Any club may request the signature of any of their opponent's players through the match referee. The League in any future action may use this evidence in evidence.

Where a club is found guilty, as the result of a protest, of fielding an ineligible player, the club will be deemed to have lost the match, the score for League purposes being nil-nil. If the offending club have in fact lost the match in question, the score as played will stand. The offending club will have three points deducted from their existing League record for each offence. This rule will also apply to cup-ties. If the offences were discovered by the League, and no protest had been lodged, the match score(s) will be unaltered and the offending club will three points deducted from their existing League record for each offence.

RULE THREE - TEAMS.

- (a) Each club may field a maximum of eleven players at any time during a match. A maximum of seven substitutes may be listed. Any three of the nominated substitutes may be fielded at any time during the match.

In the event of a particular player being substituted, that player may take no further part in the match, including penalty shoot-outs. This also applies to any player ordered off by the match referee.

All players must wear numbered kit corresponding to their entry on the team sheet.

- (b) Teams should play in their registered colours whenever possible. Where there is a similarity in colours, the "Home" team should provide alternative strips unless otherwise mutually agreed. If teams are unable to reach a satisfactory agreement, the matter should be referred to the General Secretary without delay.

Substitutes should cover their team colours whilst the match is in progress and only discard garments on the referee's signal.

RULE FOUR - MATCH OFFICIALS.

- (a) Match referees should be appointed by the Fixture Secretary.

All referees of official Scottish Supporters' Football League matches should be suitably qualified and members of the Scottish Football Association (Referees).

Referees associated in any way with a member club may not referee matches involving that club.

Where the referee appointed does not appear within fifteen minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, opposing clubs may, by agreement prior to the kick-off, appoint a deputy referee who must obtain the signatures of both teams in order to sanction such a change. The deputy referee will thereafter have the full powers of a qualified official and his decisions will be final.

- (b) If, by the evening prior to the fixture, no match official has been appointed, the fixture should be postponed and the General Secretary and both competing clubs informed without delay.
- (c) Should any club wish to report a referee on the grounds of non-attendance, lateness, bad handling of a match, etc. the matter should first be reported to the General Secretary by the complainant along with the corroboration of the opposing club. A first complaint about a referee will be "noted" however in the event of further complaints against the same referee, the General Secretary shall pursue the matter(s) reporting the referee to his Association on behalf of the complainants.
- (d) Linesmen may only be appointed at the request of the referee. If required, clubs should appoint one member each to run the line. Linesmen should not signal offside unless specifically asked to do so by the referee.
- (e) The match referee should be paid by the "Home" club at a rate previously set by the membership. Should the match be postponed after inspection, the referee shall be paid half the normal fee. If the match is cancelled due to the non-appearance of a club, the referee must be paid in full.

- (f) Should a pitch seem unplayable to either club, they should draw the referee's attention to the fact. Only the referee may postpone a match due to unplayable conditions.

RULE FIVE - DISCIPLINE.

- (a) All matters of player discipline will be dealt with by the Registration Secretary
- (b) Any player dismissed from the field of play or reported for misconduct after a match by the match referee will be given the statutory ban as decided by the SAFA for the given offence.
- (c) Any player accumulating four cautions in any one season will be given an automatic ban as decreed by the SAFA. Players will be dealt with for any further blocks of four cautions in the same season.
- (d) A player may lodge an appeal against a caution, through his club, by his Secretary writing to the SAFA.
- (e) Players and Clubs will be informed in writing of all disciplinary decision.
- (f) The League will compile a crime count table throughout the season from the records of all official Scottish Supporters' Football League matches. Clubs will be penalised three points for an ordering off offence and one point for each booking. The Executive Committee shall fine clubs if any player or official of that club is found guilty of any offence. The fine imposed will be £5 for a sending off (this is increased to £15 for a sending off for violent conduct). If a club exceed 25 disciplinary points (1 point per caution & 3 points for a ordering off) then they will be fined £50.
- (g) Where it can be proved that spectators at a match organised by the S.S.F.L. conducted themselves in such a manner as to interfere with the players or stop the game, the Executive Committee shall have the power to order the game to be replayed on another ground or they may at their discretion award the match to either club and take further action as they deem necessary.

The above Constitution and Rules of the Scottish Supporters' Football League are as agreed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting held at Garscube Sports Complex on Sunday 29th August 2007, And no change may be made to this document except in strict accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution.

**William Mahomet
League Secretary
12/09/2007**