



FOOTBALL
NSW
SOUTHERN
BRANCH

Southern NSW Football
Incorporated
T/A Southern Branch
Constitution

1. **The name of the Association is Southern NSW Football Incorporated.
T/A Southern Branch**

2. **DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

2.1 **Definitions**

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

“Act” means the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)*.

“Affiliate Member” means an individual who is an umpire, referee, coach or other official who is associated with the Association but who is not an Individual Member.

“Annual General Meeting” means the annual general meeting of the Association held in accordance with **clause 22**.

“Branch” means Southern NSW Football Incorporated. T/A Southern Branch

“Board” means the body consisting of the Directors.

“Association” means an association, which is a Member, or is otherwise affiliated with the Branch.

“Constitution” means this Constitution of the Branch.

“Delegate” means the person(s) appointed from time to time to act for and on behalf of an Association and to represent the Association at General Meetings.

“Director” means a member of the Board and includes any person acting in that capacity from time to time appointed in accordance with this Constitution but does not include the Executive Director.

“Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Branch for the time being appointed under this Constitution. Where the Branch does not have an Executive Director, the Branch secretary or Public Officer will, subject to confirmation by the Board, assume the functions of the Executive Director under this Constitution.

“Financial year” means the year ending on the next 30 September following incorporation and thereafter a period of 12 months commencing on 1 October and ending on 30 September each year.

“General Meeting” means the annual or any special general meeting of the Branch.

“IF” means the International Federation for Football being FIFA.

“Individual Member” means a registered, financial member of an Association or a natural person who is otherwise recognised by the Branch as an Individual Member.

“Intellectual Property” means all rights subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trade marks (or signs), logos, designs, equipment including computer software, images (including photographs, videos or films) or service marks relating to the Branch or any activity of or conducted, promoted or administered by the Branch in the Region.

“Life Member” means an individual appointed as a Life Member of the Branch under **clause 5.2**.

“Member” means a member for the time being of the Branch under **clause 5**.

“NSO” means the National Sporting Organisation being Football Federation Australia

“Objects” means the objects of the Branch in **clause 3**.

“Public Officer” means the person appointed to be the public officer of the Branch in accordance with the Act.

“Region” means the geographical area for which the Branch is responsible and as recognised by the SSO.

“Register” means a register of Members kept and maintained in accordance with **clause 7**

“Regulations” means any Regulations made by the Board under **clause 38**

“Seal” means the common seal of the Branch (if any) is no longer required.

“Special General Meeting” means a special general meeting of the Branch held in accordance with **clause 23**

“Special Resolution” means a special resolution defined in the Act.

‘SSO’ means the State Sporting Organisation being Football NSW

2.2 Interpretation

In this Constitution:

- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty;
- (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority of the performance of the duty;
- (c) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (d) words importing any gender include the other genders;
- (e) references to persons include corporations and bodies politic;
- (f) references to a person include the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of that person;
- (g) a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other statutory instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them (whether of the same or any legislative authority having jurisdiction); and
- (h) a reference to "writing" shall unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail.

2.3 Severance

If any provision of this Constitution or any phrase contained in it is invalid or unenforceable, the phrase or provision is to be read down if possible, so as to be valid and enforceable, and otherwise shall be severed to the extent of the invalidity or unenforceability, without affecting the remaining provisions of this Constitution.

2.4 The Act

Except where the contrary intention appears, in this Constitution, an expression that deals with a matter under the Act has the same meaning as that provision of the Act. Model rules under the Act are expressly displaced by this Constitution.

3. OBJECTS OF THE BRANCH

The Branch is established solely for the Objects.

The Objects of the Branch are to:

- (a) Participate as a branch member of SSO so Football can be conducted, encouraged, promoted, advanced and administered in the Region and New South Wales;
- (b) Conduct, encourage, promote, advance and administer Football throughout the Region;
- (c) Ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the Branch, the SSO, the NSO, the Members and Football, along with its standards, quality and reputation for the benefit of the Members and Football;
- (d) At all times promote mutual trust and confidence between the Branch, the SSO, the NSO and the Members in pursuit of these Objects;
- (e) At all times act on behalf of, and in the interest of, the Members and Football in the Region;
- (f) Promote the economic and community service success, strength and stability of the Branch, the Members and Football in the Region;
- (g) Affiliate and otherwise liaise with the SSO and adopt its rule and policy framework to further these Objects and Football;
- (h) Use and protect the Intellectual Property;
- (i) Apply the property and capacity of the Branch towards the fulfilment and achievement of these Objects;
- (j) Strive for government, commercial and public recognition of the Branch as the controlling body for Football in the Region;
- (k) Abide by, promulgate, enforce and secure uniformity in the application of the rules of Football as may be determined from time to time by NSO or IF and as may be necessary for the management and control of Football and related activities in the Region;
- (l) Advance the operations and activities of the Branch throughout the Region;
- (m) Further develop Football into an organised institution and with these Objects in view, to foster, regulate, organise and manage examinations, competitions, displays and other activities and to issue badges, medallions and certificates and award trophies to successful Members;
- (n) Review and/or determine any matters relating to Football which may arise, or be referred to it, by any Member;
- (o) Recognise any penalty imposed by any Member;
- (p) Act as arbiter (as required) on all matters pertaining to the conduct of Football in the Region, including disciplinary matters;

- (q) Pursue such commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing opportunities as are appropriate to further the interests of Football in the Region;
- (r) Adopt and implement such policies as may be developed by NSO or the SSO, including (as relevant and applicable) member protection, anti-doping, health and safety, junior sport, infectious diseases and such other matters as may arise as issues to be addressed in Football;
- (s) Represent the interests of its Members and of Football generally in any appropriate forum in the Region;
- (t) Have regard to the public interest in its operations;
- (u) Do all that is reasonably necessary to enable these Objects to be achieved and enable Members to receive the benefits which these Objects are intended to achieve;
- (v) Promote the health and safety of Members and all other participants in Football in the Region;
- (w) Seek and obtain improved facilities for the enjoyment of Football in the Region; and
- (x) Undertake and or do all such things or activities which are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of these Objects.

4. POWERS OF THE BRANCH

Solely for furthering the Objects, the Branch has, in addition to the rights, powers and privileges conferred on it under section 25 of the Act, the legal capacity and powers of a company as set out under section 124 of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*.

4.1 JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of the Branch shall cover all of the following:

- (a) Associations, Clubs, Teams, Coaches, Managers, Players, Referees, Spectators and any other Person involved in a Football Activity.
- (b) Matches played within its boundaries and grounds used for that purpose.
- (c) Referees that are appointed who are not members of an official organisation or Referees affiliated with this Branch.
- (d) Representative Players, Officials and Teams representing this Branch in matches played in and outside its boundaries.
- (e) The jurisdiction of the Branch shall extend beyond its geographical boundaries by arrangement with other Soccer Football bodies and with approval of Football New South Wales Limited if applicable.

5. MEMBERS

5.1 Categories of Members

The Members of the Branch shall consist of:

- (a) Associations, which subject to this Constitution, shall be represented by one Delegate, and who shall have the right to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present, debate and vote on behalf of the Association at General Meetings;

- (b) Life Members, who subject to this Constitution, shall have the right to receive notice of General Meetings and to be present and to debate at General Meetings, but shall have no voting rights;
- (c) Individual Members, Affiliate Members and the Directors who shall have the right to be present at General meetings but shall have no rights, to debate or to vote at General Meetings;
- (d) The Directors, who shall have the right to be present and to debate at General Meetings, but have no right to vote; and
- (e) The Board may establish such new or other categories of Members. Any new category of Member established by the Board cannot be granted voting rights without the approval of the Branch in General Meeting.

5.2 Life Members

- (a) The Board may recommend to the Annual General Meeting that any natural person, who has rendered a minimum of 5 years continuous distinguished service to the Branch or Football where such service is deemed to have assisted the advancement of Football in the Region, be appointed as a Life Member.
- (b) A resolution of the Annual General Meeting to confer life membership (subject to **clause 5.2(c)**) on the recommendation of the Board must be a Special Resolution.
- (c) A person must accept or reject the Branch's resolution to confer life membership in writing. Upon written acceptance, the person's details shall be entered upon the Register, and from the time of entry on the Register the person shall be a Life Member.

6. AFFILIATION

6.1 Associations

- (a) To be, or remain, eligible for membership, an Association must be incorporated or in the process of incorporation. This process must be complete within one year of applying for membership under this Constitution.
- (b) For such time as the Association is not incorporated, the secretary of any such unincorporated Association shall be deemed to be the Member (on behalf of the unincorporated entity). The secretary shall be entitled to exercise the same voting and other rights and have the same obligations and shall follow such procedures on behalf of the unincorporated Association as incorporated Members, to the extent that this is possible.
- (c) The Board in its sole discretion shall resolve any dispute or uncertainty as to the application of this Constitution to an unincorporated Association.
- (d) Failure to incorporate within the period stated in **clause** Error! Reference source not found. **(a)** shall result in the expulsion of the secretary (acting on behalf of the unincorporated entity) from membership. The expelled unincorporated entity shall not be entitled to re-apply for membership until it becomes incorporated.

6.2 Application for Affiliation

An application for affiliation must be:

- (a) In writing on the form prescribed from time to time by the Board (if any), from the applicant or its nominated representative and lodged with the Branch;

- (b) Accompanied by a copy of the applicant's constitution (which must be acceptable to the Branch and must substantially conform to this Constitution) and the applicant's register of members; and accompanied by the appropriate fee.

6.3 Discretion to Accept or Reject Application

- (a) The Branch may accept or reject an application whether the applicant has complied with the requirements in **clauses** Error! Reference source not found. and **6.2** or not. The Branch shall not be required or compelled to provide any reason for such acceptance or rejection.
- (b) Where the Branch accepts an application, the applicant shall, become a Member. Membership shall be deemed to commence upon acceptance of the application by the Branch. The Executive Director shall amend the Register accordingly as soon as practicable.
- (c) Where the Branch rejects an application the Branch shall refund any fees forwarded with the application and the application shall be deemed rejected.

6.4 Re-Affiliation

- (a) Associations must re-affiliate annually with the Branch in accordance with the procedures set down by the Branch in Regulations from time to time.
- (b) Upon re-affiliation an Association must lodge with the Branch an updated copy of its constitution (including all amendments), a copy of the Financial Statement as tabled at the last AGM, and must provide details of any change in its Delegate and any other information reasonably required by the Branch. Each Association must ensure that its constitution is amended to conform to any amendments made to this Constitution and/or to the SSO's constitution.

6.5 Deemed Membership

- (a) All members which or who are, prior to the approval of this Constitution under the Act, members of the Branch, shall be deemed Members from the time of approval of this Constitution under the Act.
- (b) Associations shall provide the Branch with such details as are reasonably required by the Branch under this Constitution within one (1) month of the approval of this Constitution under the Act.
- (c) Any members of the Branch prior to approval of this Constitution under the Act, who are not deemed Members under **clause 6.5(a)** shall be entitled to carry on such functions analogous to their previous functions as are provided for under this Constitution.

7. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

7.1 Branch to keep Register

The Branch shall keep and maintain a Register in which shall be entered (as a minimum):

- (a) The full name, address, category of membership and date of entry to membership of each Association; and
- (c) The full name, residential address and date of entry to membership of each Director and Life Member; and
- (d) Where applicable the date of termination of membership of any Association,

Associations, Directors and Life Members shall provide notice of any change and required details to the Branch within one month of such change.

7.2 Inspection of Register

Having regard to the Act, confidentiality considerations and privacy laws, an extract of the Register, excluding the address or other direct contact details of any Life Member or Director, shall be available for inspection (but not copying) by Members who make a reasonable request.

7.3 Use of Register

Subject to the Act, confidentiality considerations and privacy laws, the Register may be used to further the Objects, in such manner, as the Board considers appropriate.

8. EFFECT OF MEMBERSHIP

Members acknowledge and agree that:

- (a) This Constitution constitutes a contract between each of them and the Branch and that they are bound by this Constitution and the Regulations and the SSO's and NSO's constitution and regulations;
- (b) They shall comply with and observe this Constitution and the Regulations and any determination, resolution or policy which may be made or passed by the Board or other entity with delegated authority;
- (c) By submitting to this Constitution and Regulations they are subject to the jurisdiction of the Branch, SSO and NSO;
- (d) The Constitution and Regulations are necessary and reasonable for promoting the Objects and particularly the advancement and protection of Football in the Region; and
- (e) They are entitled to all benefits, advantages, privileges and services of Branch membership.

9. DISCONTINUANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

9.1 Notice of Resignation

- (a) A Member having paid all arrears of fees payable to the Branch may resign or withdraw from membership of the Branch by giving one month's notice in writing to the Branch of such resignation or withdrawal.
- (b) An Association may not resign, disaffiliate or otherwise seek to withdraw from the Branch without approval by Special Resolution of the Association. A copy of the relevant minutes of the Association meeting showing that the Special Resolution has been passed by the Association must be provided to the Branch.
- (c) If an Association ceases to be a Member under this Constitution, the Branch membership of all Individual Members affiliated or registered with or through a Club of that Association shall not automatically cease at that time, but shall be dealt with in accordance with the Regulations.
- (d) Upon the Branch receiving notice of resignation of membership given under **clauses 9.1(a) and (b)**, an entry in the Register shall be made recording the date on which the Member who or which gave notice ceased to be a Member.

9.2 Discontinuance for breach

- (a) Membership of the Branch may be discontinued by the Board upon breach of any clause of this Constitution or the Regulations, including but not limited to the failure to pay any monies owed to the Branch, failure to comply with the Regulations or any resolutions or determinations made or passed by the Board or any duly authorised committee.
- (b) The Board under clause 9.2(a) shall not discontinue membership without the Board first giving the accused Member the opportunity to explain the breach and/or remedy the breach.
- (c) Where a Member fails, in the Board's view to adequately explain the breach, that the Branch giving written notice of the discontinuance to the Member shall discontinue Member's membership under clause 9.2(a). The Register shall be amended to reflect any discontinuance of membership under this **clause 9.3** as soon as practicable.

9.3 Discontinuance for failure to re-affiliate

The Board may discontinue membership of the Branch if an Association has not re-affiliated with the Branch within one month of re-affiliation falling due. The Register shall be amended to reflect any discontinuance of membership under this **clause 9.3** as soon as practicable.

9.4 Member to Re-Apply

A Member whose membership has been discontinued under **clauses 9.2** or **9.3**:

- (a) Must seek renewal or re-apply for membership in accordance with this Constitution; and
- (b) May be re-admitted at the discretion of the Board.

9.5 Forfeiture of Rights

A Member who or which ceases to be a Member, for whatever reason, shall forfeit all rights in and claims upon the Branch and its property and shall not use any property of the Branch including Intellectual Property. Any Branch documents, records or other property in the possession, custody or control of that Member shall be returned to the Branch immediately. Where an Association ceases to be a Member it shall also forfeit all representation rights on the Board and at General Meetings.

9.6 Delegate Position Lapses

The position of Delegate shall lapse immediately on cessation of membership of an Association.

9.7 Membership may be Reinstated

Membership which has been discontinued under this **clause 9** may be reinstated at the discretion of the Board, with such conditions as it deems appropriate.

9.8 Refund of Membership Fees

Membership fees or subscriptions paid by the discontinued Member may be refunded on a pro-rata basis to the Member upon discontinuance.

10. DISCIPLINE

- (a) Where the Board is advised or considers that a Member has allegedly:

- (i) Breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this Constitution, the Regulations, the SSO's or the NSO's constitution or regulations or any resolution or determination of the Board or any duly authorised committee; or
- (ii) Acted in a manner unbecoming of a Member, or prejudicial to the purposes and interests of the Branch, SSO, NSO and/or Football or
- (iii) Brought the Branch, SSO, NSO, any other Member or Football into disrepute;

The Board may commence or cause to be commenced, disciplinary proceedings against that Member, and that Member, will be subject to, and submits unreservedly to the jurisdiction, procedures, penalties and the appeal mechanisms of the Branch set out in the Regulations.

- (b) The Board may appoint a Judiciary Committee to deal with any disciplinary matter referred to it. Such a Judiciary Committee shall operate in accordance with the procedures expressed in the Regulations but subject always to the Act.

11. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES

The annual membership subscription (if any) and any fees or other levies payable by Members to the Branch, the time for and manner of payment, shall be as determined by the Board.

12. EXISTING DIRECTORS

- (a) The members of the administrative or governing body (by whatever name called) of the Branch in office immediately prior to approval of this Constitution under the Act shall continue in those positions until the next Annual General Meeting following such adoption of this Constitution. After this General Meeting the positions of Directors shall be filled, vacated and otherwise dealt with in accordance with this Constitution.
- (b) The person known and appointed to the position of Executive Director (or similar title) immediately prior to approval of this Constitution under the Act shall continue in that position following such approval, subject to any contractual arrangements.

13. POWERS OF THE BOARD

Subject to the Act and this Constitution, the business of the Branch shall be managed, and the Board shall exercise the powers of the Branch. In particular, the Board shall act in accordance with the Objects and shall operate for the benefit of the Members and the community throughout the Region.

14 COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

14.1 Composition of the Board

The Board shall comprise:

- (a) Five (5) elected Directors;

who must be the chairperson from each of the Member associations and who shall be elected under **clause 15**; and

- (b) up to two (2) appointed Directors;

who need not be Individual Members and who may be appointed by the Directors in accordance with **clause 16**.

A Director cannot also be a Delegate.

14.2 Election and Appointment of Directors

- (a) The elected Directors shall be elected under **clause 15**.
- (b) The appointed Directors may be appointed under **clause 16**.

14.3 Portfolios

The Board may allocate portfolios and/or titles to Directors.

15. ELECTED DIRECTORS

15.1 Nominations

- (a) Southern NSW Football Inc is a Branch Zone and will comprise the chairman or president of the governing body of each Association in the Branch Zone. These persons are the directors of the Southern Branch Zone..

15.2 Term of Appointment for Elected Directors

- (a) Directors elected under this **clause 15** shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. Subject to provisions in this Constitution relating to earlier retirement or removal of Directors, elected Directors shall remain in office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which the election occurred until the conclusion of the second Annual General Meeting following.
- (b) Three (3) elected Directors shall retire in each odd year and two (2) elected Directors shall retire in each even year until, after two (2) years the five (5) original elected Directors have retired after which those elected Directors (or their replacements) who first retired, shall retire and so on.
- (c) The sequence of retirements under **clause 15.4(b)** to ensure rotational terms shall be determined by the Board. If the Board cannot agree it will be determined by lot.

16. APPOINTED DIRECTORS

16.1 Appointment of Directors

The elected Directors may appoint up to two (2) appointed Directors.

16.2 Qualifications for Appointed Directors

The appointed Directors may have specific skills in commerce, finance, marketing, law or business generally or such other skills which complement the Board composition. They do not need to be Individual Members but must be natural persons. Appointed Directors cannot also be a Delegate.

16.3 Term of Appointment for Appointed Directors

- (a) Appointed Directors may be appointed by the elected Directors under this Constitution for a term of two (2) years, which shall commence from the first Board meeting after the Annual General Meeting until after the conclusion of the second Annual General Meeting following.

- (b) Appointed Directors may be appointed to ensure rotational terms that coincide with the elected Directors' rotational terms.
- (c) The Board shall determine any adjustment to the term of appointed Directors appointed under this Constitution necessary to ensure rotational terms under this Constitution.

17. VACANCIES ON THE BOARD

17.1 Casual Vacancies

The remaining Directors from among appropriately qualified persons may fill any casual vacancy occurring in the position of Director. Any casual vacancy may only be filled for the remainder of the Director's term under this Constitution.

17.2 Grounds for Termination of Director

In addition to the circumstances in which the office of a Director becomes vacant by virtue of the Act, the office of a Director becomes vacant if the Director:

- (a) Dies;
- (b) Becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally;
- (c) Becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in anyway under the law relating to mental health;
- (d) Resigns his office in writing to the Branch;
- (e) Is absent without the consent of the Board from meetings of the Board held during a period of six (6) months;
- (f) holds any office of employment with the Branch;
- (g) Is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Branch and fails to declare the nature of his interest;
- (h) In the opinion of the Board (but subject always to this Constitution):
 - (iv) Has acted in a manner unbecoming or prejudicial to the Objects and interests of the Branch; or
 - (i) Has brought the Branch into disrepute;
 - (v) Is removed by Special Resolution; or
 - (vi) Would otherwise be prohibited from being a Director of a corporation under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*.

17.3 Board May Act

In the event of a casual vacancy or vacancies in the office of a Director or Directors, the remaining Directors may act but, if the number of remaining Directors is not sufficient to constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board, they may act only for the purpose of increasing the number of Director to a number sufficient to constitute such a quorum.

18. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

18.1 Board to Meet

The Board shall meet as often as is deemed necessary in every calendar year for the dispatch of business (and shall be at least as often as is required under the Act) and subject to this Constitution may adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit. A Director may at any time convene a meeting of the Board within a reasonable time.

18.2 Decisions of Board

Subject to this Constitution, questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of votes and a determination of a majority of Directors shall for all purposes be deemed a determination of the Board. All Directors shall have one (1) vote on any question. Where voting is equal, the chairperson may exercise a casting vote. If the chairperson does not exercise a casting vote, the motion will be lost.

18.3 Resolutions not in Meeting

- (a) A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by telegram, cablegram, radiogram, facsimile, telex or other form of visible or other electronic communication by all the Directors for the time being present in Australia shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of Directors duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one (1) or more of the Directors.
- (b) Without limiting the power of the Board to regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, a meeting of the Board may be held where one (1) or more of the Directors is not physically present at the meeting, provided that:
- (c) All persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate with each other effectively simultaneously and instantaneously whether by means of telephone or other form of communication;
- (d) Notice of the meeting is given to all the Directors entitled to notice in accordance with the usual procedures agreed upon or laid down from time to time by the Board or this Constitution and such notice specifies that Directors are not required to be present in person;
- (e) If a failure in communications prevents **clause 18.3(b)(i)** from being satisfied by that number of Directors which constitutes a quorum, and none of such Directors are present at the place where the meeting is deemed by virtue of the further provisions of this Rule to be held then the meeting shall be suspended until **clause 18.3(b)(i)** is satisfied again. If such condition is not satisfied within fifteen (15) minutes from the interruption the meeting shall be deemed to have terminated or adjourned; and
- (f) Any meeting held where one (1) or more of the Directors is not physically present shall be deemed to be held at the place specified in the notice of meeting provided a Director is there present and if no Director is there present the meeting shall be deemed to be held at the place where the chairperson of the meeting is located.

18.4 Quorum

At meetings of the Board the number of Directors whose presence is required to constitute a quorum half the number of members plus one (1)

18.5 Notice of Board Meetings

Unless all Directors agree to hold a meeting at shorter notice (which agreement shall be sufficiently evidenced by their apology or presence) not less than seven (7) days written notice of the meeting of the Board shall be given to each Director. The agenda shall be forwarded to each Director not less than 48 hours prior to such meeting.

18.6 Chairperson

The chairperson shall be the nominal head of the Branch and will act as chair of any Board meeting or General Meeting at which he is present. If the chairperson is not present, or is unwilling or unable to preside at a board meeting the remaining Directors shall appoint another Director to preside as chair for that meeting only.

18.7 Directors' Interests

A Director is disqualified by holding any place of profit or position of employment in the Branch or in any company or incorporated association in which the Branch is a shareholder or otherwise interested or from contracting with the Branch either as vendor, purchaser or otherwise except with express resolution of approval of the Board. Any such contract or any contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the Branch in which any Director is in any way interested will be void unless approved by the Board.

18.8 Conflict of Interest

A Director shall declare his interest in any:

- (a) contractual matter;
- (b) selection matter;
- (c) disciplinary matter; or
- (d) financial matter;

in which a conflict of interest arises or may arise, and shall, unless otherwise determined by the Board, absent himself from discussions of such matter and shall not be entitled to vote in respect of such matter. If the Director votes the vote shall not be counted. In the event of any uncertainty as to whether it is necessary for a Director to absent himself from discussions and refrain from voting, the issue should be immediately determined by vote of the Board, or if this is not possible, the matter shall be adjourned or deferred.

18.9 Disclosure of Interests

- (a) The nature of the interest of such Director must be declared by the Director at the meeting of the Board at which the relevant matter is first taken into consideration if the interest then exists or in any other case at the first meeting of the Board after the acquisition of the interest. If a Director becomes interested in a matter after it is made or entered into the declaration of the interest must be made at the first meeting of the Board held after the Director becomes so interested.
- (b) All disclosed interests must also be disclosed to each Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Act.

18.10 General Disclosure

A general notice that a Director is a member of any specified firm or company and is to be regarded as interested in all transactions with that firm or company is sufficient

declaration under **clause 18.9** as regards such Director and the said transactions. After such general notice it is not necessary for such Director to give a special notice relating to any particular transaction with that firm or company.

18.11 Recording Disclosures

Any declaration made, any disclosure or any general notice given by a Director in accordance with **clauses 18.8, 18.9** and/or **18.10** must be recorded in the minutes of the relevant meeting.

19. Executive Director.

19.1 Appointment of Executive Director

An Executive Director may be appointed by the Board for such term and on such conditions as the Board thinks fit.

19.2 Executive Director to act as Secretary and Public Officer

The Executive Director shall act as and carry out the duties of secretary and Public Officer of the Association/Branch and shall administer and manage the Association/Branch in accordance with the Act and this Constitution.

19.3 Specific Duties

The Executive Director shall:

- (a) As far as practicable attend all Board meetings and all General Meetings;
- (b) Prepare the agenda for all Board and General Meetings;
- (c) Record and prepare minutes of the proceedings of all Board meetings and General meetings, and shall use his best endeavours to distribute those minutes to Associations promptly from the date of the meeting; and
- (d) Regularly report on the activities of, and issues relating to, the Branch.

19.4 Board Power to Manage

Subject to the Act, this Constitution, the Regulations and any policy directive of the Board, the Executive Director has power to perform all such things as appear necessary or desirable for the proper management and administration of the Branch. No resolution passed by the Branch in General Meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the Executive Director or the Board, which would have been valid, if that resolution had not been passed.

19.5 Executive Director may employ

The Executive Director may in consultation with the Board, as appropriate, employ such personnel as are deemed necessary or appropriate from time to time and such appointments shall be for such period and on such conditions as the Executive Director determines.

20. DELEGATIONS

20.1 Board may Delegate Functions

The Board may by instrument in writing create or establish or appoint special committees, individual officers and consultants to carry out such duties and functions, and with such powers, as the Board determines from time to time. In exercising its power under this clause the Board must take into account broad stakeholder involvement

20.2 Delegation by Instrument

The Board may in the establishing instrument delegate such functions as are specified in the instrument, other than:

- (a) This power of delegation; and
- (b) A function imposed on the Board or the Executive Director by the Act or any other law, or this Constitution or by resolution of the Branch in General Meeting.

20.3 Delegated Function Exercised in Accordance With Terms

A function, the exercise of which has been delegated under this clause, may whilst the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time in accordance with the terms of the delegation.

20.4 Procedure of Delegated Entity

The procedures for any entity exercising delegated power shall, subject to this Constitution and with any necessary or incidental amendment, be the same as that applicable to meetings of the Board under **clause 18** above. The entity exercising delegated powers shall make decisions in accordance with the Objects, and shall promptly provide the Board with details of all material decisions and shall provide any other reports, minutes and information as the Board may require from time to time.

20.5 Delegation may be Conditional

A delegation under this clause may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function or at the time or circumstances as may be specified in the delegation.

20.6 Revocation of Delegation

The Board may by instrument in writing; at any time revoke wholly or in part any delegation made under this clause, and may amend or repeal any decision made by such body or person under this clause.

21. SEAL

- (a) The Branch may have a Seal upon which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters, but is not required.

22. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) An Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be held in accordance with the Act and this Constitution and on a date and at a venue to be determined by the Board.

- (b) All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be Special General Meetings and shall be held in accordance with this Constitution.

23. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

23.1 Special General Meetings May be Held

The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a Special General Meeting of the Branch and, where, but for this clause more than fifteen (15) months would elapse between Annual General Meetings, shall convene a Special General Meeting before the expiration of that period.

23.2 Requisition of Special General Meetings

- (a) The Executive Director shall on the requisition in writing of not less than five percent (5%) of voting Members convene a Special General Meeting.
- (b) The requisition for a Special General Meeting shall state the object(s) of the meeting, shall be signed by the Members making the requisition and be sent to the Branch and may consist of several documents in a like form, each signed by one or more of the Members making the requisition.
- (c) If the Executive Director does not cause a Special General Meeting to be held within one (1) month after the date on which the requisition is sent to the Branch, the Members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a Special General Meeting to be held not later than three (3) months after that date.
- (d) A Special General Meeting convened by Members under this Constitution shall be convened in the same manner, or as nearly as possible as that, in which the Board convenes meetings.

24. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

- (a) Notice of every General Meeting shall be given to every Member Association and Life Member or other Member entitled to receive notice at the address appearing in the Register kept by the Branch. The auditor, Executive Director and Directors shall also be entitled to notice of every General Meeting, which shall be sent to their last notified address. No other person shall be entitled as of right to receive notices of General Meetings.
- (b) A notice of a General Meeting shall specify the place and day and hour of meeting and shall state the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (c) At least twenty-one (21) days' notice of a General Meeting shall be given to those Members entitled to receive notice, together with:
 - i. the agenda for the meeting; and
 - ii. any notice of motion received from Members entitled to vote.
- (d) Notice of every General Meeting shall be given in the manner authorised in **clause 24**.

25. BUSINESS

- (a) The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting includes the consideration of accounts and the reports of the Board and auditors, the election of Directors under this Constitution and the appointment of the auditors.

- (b) All business that is transacted at a General Meeting and all business that is transacted at an Annual General Meeting, with the exception of those matters set down in **clause 25(a)** shall be special business.
- (c) No business other than that stated on the notice for a General Meeting shall be transacted at that meeting.

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

Members entitled to vote may submit notices of motion for inclusion as special business at a General Meeting. All notices of motion must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director not less than thirty-five (35) days (excluding receiving date and meeting date) prior to the General Meeting.

27. PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

27.1 Quorum

No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. A quorum for General Meetings of the Branch shall be 2/3rds of Associations represented by their Delegates.

27.2 Chairperson to preside

The chairperson of the Board shall, subject to this Constitution, preside as chair at every General Meeting except:

- (a) In relation to any election for which the chairperson is a nominee; or
- (b) Where a conflict of interest exists.

If the chairperson is not present, or is unwilling or unable to preside the Delegates present shall appoint another Director to preside as chairperson for that meeting only.

27.3 Adjournment of Meeting

- (a) If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present the meeting shall be adjourned until the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day and at such other time and place as the chairperson may determine and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting will lapse.
- (b) The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, and shall, if so directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (c) When a meeting is adjourned for thirty (30) days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an original meeting.
- (d) Except as provided in **clause 27.3(c)** it shall not be necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or the business to be transacted at any adjourned meeting.

27.4 Voting Procedure

At any meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) demanded by:

- (a) the chairperson; or
- (b) a simple majority of Delegates on behalf of their Members.

27.5 Recording of Determinations

Unless a poll is demanded under **clause 27.4**, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously or by a particular majority or lost and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Branch shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.

27.6 Where Poll Demanded

If a poll is duly demanded under **clause 27.4** it shall be taken in such manner and either at once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise as the chairperson directs and the result of the poll shall be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

28. VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

28.1 Members Entitled to Vote

Each Association shall be entitled to one (1) vote at General Meetings, which, subject to this clause shall be exercised by the Club's Delegate. No other Member shall be entitled to vote but shall subject to this Constitution have, and be entitled to exercise, those rights set out in **clause 5.1**. The Directors and Executive Director shall have no right to vote at General Meetings.

28.2 Chairperson May Exercise Casting Vote

Where voting at General Meetings is equal the chairperson may exercise a casting vote by casting his vote in the status quo. If the chairperson does not exercise a casting vote the motion will be lost.

28.3 Postal Voting

A postal ballot shall not determine a motion unless determined by the Board. If the Board so determines, the postal ballot shall be conducted under the procedures set by the Board from time to time.

29. STRATEGIC FORUM OF BRANCH

29.1 Strategic Forums

The Branch shall hold a strategic forum at least once per year. The object of the strategic forum is to:

- (a) Inform the Board of significant membership issues;
- (b) Assist the Board to design or review the Branch's strategic plan and direction;
- (c) Discuss state-wide issues;
- (d) Provide feedback to the Board on the results of its governance decisions in practice at Member level.

29.2 Attendees at Strategic Forums

The following persons may attend strategic forums of the Branch:

- (a) Up to two (2) representatives from each Association;
- (b) The Directors; and
- (c) Such other persons the Board considers should be invited.

30. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- (a) The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these rules between a Member and:
 - (i) Another Member; or
 - (ii) The Branch.
- (b) The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within fourteen (14) days after the dispute comes to the attention of all parties.
- (b) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within ten (10) days, refer the dispute for resolution to an independent tribunal established by the SSO in accordance with the procedures determined by the SSO from time to time.
- (c) The Board may prescribe additional grievance procedures in Regulations consistent with this **Rule 31**.

31. RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS

31.1 Records

The Branch shall establish and maintain proper records and minutes concerning all transactions, business, meetings and dealings of the Branch and the Board and shall produce these as appropriate at each Board or General Meeting.

31.2 Records Kept in Accordance with Act

Proper accounting and other records shall be kept in accordance with the Act. The books of account shall be kept in the care and control of the Treasurer or the Executive Director.

31.3 Branch to Retain Records

The Branch shall retain such records for seven (7) years after the completion of the transactions or operations to which they relate.

31.4 Board to Submit Accounts

The Board shall submit to the Members at the Annual General Meeting the statements of account of the Branch in accordance with this Constitution and the Act

31.5 Accounts Conclusive

The statements of account when approved or adopted by an Annual General Meeting shall be conclusive except as regards any error discovered in them within three months (3) after such approval or adoption.

31.6 Accounts to be Sent to Members

The Executive Director shall cause to be sent to all persons entitled to receive notice of Annual General Meetings in accordance with this Constitution, a copy of the statements of account, the Board's report, the auditor's report and every other document required under the Act (if any).

31.7 Negotiable Instruments

All cheques, promissory notes, bankers, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments, and all receipts for money paid to the Branch, shall be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed, as the case may be, by any two (2) duly authorised Directors or in such other manner as the Board determines.

32. AUDITOR

- (a) The Branch at the Annual General Meeting shall appoint a properly qualified auditor or auditors. The auditor's duties shall be regulated in accordance with the Act, or if no relevant provisions exist under the Act, in accordance with the *Corporations Act* and generally accepted principles, and/or any applicable code of conduct. The Branch in General Meeting may remove the auditor.
- (b) The accounts of the Branch shall be examined and the correctness of the profit and loss accounts and balance sheets ascertained by an auditor or auditors at the conclusion of each Financial Year.

33. INCOME

- 33.1 Income and property of the Branch shall be derived from such sources as the Board determines from time to time.
- 33.2 The income and property of the Branch shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.
- 33.3 Except as prescribed in this Constitution or the Act:
 - (a) No portion of the income or property of the Branch shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to any Member; and
 - (b) no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be paid or given by the Branch to any Member who holds any office of the Branch.
- 33.4 Nothing in **clauses 34.2** or **34.3** shall prevent payment in good faith of or to any Member for:
 - (a) Any services actually rendered to the Branch whether as an employee, Director or otherwise;
 - (b) Goods supplied to the Branch in the ordinary and usual course of operation;
 - (c) Interest on money borrowed from any Member;
 - (d) Rent for premises demised or let by any Member to the Branch;
 - (e) any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Member on behalf of the Branch;

Provided that any such payment shall not exceed the amount ordinarily payable between ordinary commercial parties dealing at arm's length in a similar transaction.

34. WINDING UP

- (a) Subject to this Constitution the Branch may be wound up in accordance with the Act.
- (b) The liability of the Members of the Branch is limited.
- (c) Every Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Branch if it is wound up while a Member, or within one year after ceasing to be a Member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Branch contracted before the

time at which it ceases to be a Member and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up the Branch, such an amount not exceeding one dollar (\$1.00).

35. DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY ON WINDING UP

If upon winding up or dissolution of the Branch there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any assets or property, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the Members but shall be given or transferred to another organisation or organisations having objects similar to the Objects and which prohibits the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their Members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Branch by this Constitution. Such organisation(s) to be determined by the Members in General Meeting at or before the time of dissolution, and in default thereof by such judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales or other Court as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter.

36. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution can only be altered by Special Resolution.

37. REGULATIONS

37.1 Board to Formulate Regulations

The Board may formulate, issue, adopt, interpret and amend such Regulations for the proper advancement, management and administration of the Branch, the advancement of the purposes of the Branch and Football in the Region as it thinks necessary or desirable. Such Regulations must be consistent with the Constitution, the FNSW's and FFA's constitutions, and any regulations made by the FNSW or FFA and any policy directives of the Board.

37.2 Regulations Binding

All Regulations are binding on the Branch and all Members.

37.3 Regulations Deemed Applicable

All clauses, rules, by-laws and regulations of the Branch in force at the date of the approval of this Constitution insofar as such clauses, rules, by-laws and regulations are not inconsistent with, or have been replaced by this Constitution, shall be deemed to be Regulations and shall continue to apply.

37.4 Bulletins Binding on Members

Amendments, alterations, interpretations or other changes to Regulations shall be advised to Members by means of bulletins approved by the Board and prepared and issued by the Executive Director. Clubs shall take reasonable steps to distribute information in the Bulletins to Individual Members. The matters in the Bulletins are binding on all Members.

38. STATUS AND COMPLIANCE OF BRANCH

38.1 Recognition of Branch

The Branch is a member of SSO and is recognised by SSO as the controlling authority for Football in the Region and subject to compliance with this Constitution and the FNSW's and FFA's constitution shall continue to be so recognised and shall administer Football in the Region in accordance with the Objects.

38.2 Compliance of Branch

The Members acknowledge and agree the Branch shall:

- (a) Be or remain incorporated in New South Wales;
- (b) Apply its property and capacity solely in pursuit of the Objects and Football;
- (c) Do all that is reasonably necessary to enable the Objects to be achieved;
- (d) Act in good faith and loyalty to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of Football, its standards, quality and reputation for the benefit of the Members and Football;
- (e) At all times act in the interests of the Members and Football;
- (f) Not resign, disaffiliate or otherwise seek to withdraw from SSO without approval by Special Resolution; and
- (g) Abide by the SSO's and NSO's constitutions and the rules of Football.

38.3 Operation of Constitution

The Branch and the Members acknowledge and agree:

- (a) That they are bound by this Constitution and that this Constitution operates to create uniformity in the way in which the Objects and Football are to be conducted, promoted, encouraged, advanced and administered throughout the Region; and
- (b) To ensure the maintenance and enhancement of Football, its standards, quality and reputation for the benefit of the Members and Football;
- (c) Not to do or permit to be done any act or thing which might adversely affect or derogate from the standards, quality and reputation of Football and its maintenance and enhancement;
- (d) To promote the economic and community service success, strength and stability of each other and to act interdependently with each other in pursuit of their respective objects;
- (e) To act in the interests of Football and the Members;
- (f) That should a Member have administrative, operational or financial difficulties the Branch may act to assist the Member in whatever manner the Branch considers appropriate.

39. BRANCH'S CONSTITUTION

39.1 Constitution of the Branch

This Constitution will clearly reflect the objects of the SSO and will conform to the SSO's constitution, subject always to the Act.

39.2 Operation of NSO constitution

- (a) The Branch will take all reasonable steps to ensure this Constitution conforms to the SSO constitution subject always to the Act.
- (b) The Branch shall provide to SSO a copy of this Constitution and all amendments to this document. The Branch acknowledges and agrees that the SSO has power to veto any provision in its Constitution, which, in SSO's opinion, is contrary to the objects of SSO.

39.3 Register

The Branch shall maintain, in a form acceptable to SSO but otherwise in accordance with the Act, a Register of all Associations, Clubs and if appropriate all Individual Members.

40. STATUS AND COMPLIANCE OF ASSOCIATIONS

40.1 Compliance

Associations acknowledge and agree that they shall:

- (a) Be or remain incorporated in New South Wales;
- (b) Nominate a Delegate annually to attend General Meetings, and shall inform the Branch of the details of that person accordingly;
- (c) Provide the Branch with copies of their audited accounts, annual financial reports and other associated documents as soon as practicable, following the Association's Annual General Meeting;
- (d) Recognise the Branch as the authority for Football in the Region, the SSO as the authority in New South Wales and the NSO as the national authority for Football;
- (e) Adopt and implement such communications and Intellectual Property policies as may be developed by the Branch and/or the SSO from time to time; and
- (f) Have regard to the Objects in any matter of the Association pertaining to Football.

40.2 Associations Constitutions

- (a) The Associations' constituent documents will clearly reflect the Objects and will conform to this Constitution.
- (b) Associations will take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure their constituent documents conform to this Constitution.
- (c) Associations shall provide to the Branch a copy of their constituent documents and all amendments to these documents. Associations acknowledge and agree that the Branch has power to veto any provision in an Association constitution, which, in the Branch's opinion, is contrary to the Objects.
- (d) The constituent documents of each Association shall, at the earliest available opportunity, but within one year of the commencement of this Constitution, recognise the Branch as the authority for Football in the Region, the SSO as the authority in New South Wales and the NSO as the national authority for Football in Australia.

40.3 Register

Associations shall maintain, in a form acceptable to the Branch, a Register of all Members of the Association. Each Association shall provide a copy of the Register at a time and in a form acceptable to the Branch, and shall provide regular updates of the Register to the Branch.

40.4 Southern Branch Representative Teams.

Southern Branch is recognised as the sole property of the SNSW Inc and shall act at all times as the provider of Elite Football for the region; and shall comply with all the above points: -

- (a) Will nominate a Delegate to attend General Meetings of the Branch.
- (b) Consist of a Committee appointed by the Board
- (c) Will act as a Standing Committee for Elite Football as per the Regulations.

41. NOTICE

- (a) Notices may be given by the Branch to any person entitled under this Constitution to receive any notice by sending the notice by pre-paid post or facsimile transmission or where available, by electronic mail, to the Member's Registered address or facsimile number or electronic mail address, or in the case of a Delegate, to the last notified address, facsimile number or electronic mail address.
- (b) Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting the notice. Service of the notice is deemed to have been effected three (3) days after posting.
- (c) Where a notice is sent by facsimile transmission, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected upon receipt of a confirmation report confirming the facsimile was sent to/or received at the facsimile number to which it was sent.
- (d) Where a notice is sent by electronic mail, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected the next business day after it was sent.

42. PATRONS AND VICE PATRONS

The Branch at its Annual General Meeting may appoint annually on the recommendation of the Board a chief patron and such number of patrons, as it considers necessary, subject to approval of that person or persons.

43. INDEMNITY

- (a) Every Director and employee of the Branch shall be indemnified out of the property and assets of the Branch against any liability incurred by them in their capacity as Director or employee in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in their favour or in which they are acquitted or in connection with any application in relation to any such proceedings in which relief is granted by the Court.
- (b) The Branch shall indemnify its Directors and employees against all damages and losses (including legal costs) for which any such Director or employee may be or become liable to any third party in consequence of any act or omission except wilful misconduct:
 - (i) In the case of a Director, performed or made whilst acting on behalf of and with the authority, express or implied of the Branch; and
 - (ii) In the case of an employee, performed or made in the course of, and within the scope of their employment by the Branch.