



St. Mary's Football Club

Constitution of St Mary's Football Club

I. NAME

The name of the Association is St Mary's Football Club (hereinafter called 'the club')

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the club shall be to achieve greater participation by youth and men in sport and healthy recreation in Glengormley and North Belfast and its environs (the 'area of benefit') by:

- (i) Providing quality facilities for junior clubs, local primary and secondary schools and voluntary and community organisations;
- (ii) Promoting the development of sporting events, competitions and activities;
- (iii) Encouraging participation in sports and recreation by youth from all communities;
- (iv) Assisting the mental, moral and physical development of its members through age related practice, coaching and participation in playing football;
- (v) Providing a safe environment for members to participate in soccer;
- (vi) Encouraging proper attitudes to the game of football and promoting high standards of discipline and sportsmanship.

3. POWERS

In furtherance of the above objects, the club may:

- (i) Provide, maintain and equip premises and facilities designed to carry out the objects of the club;
- (ii) Encourage and promote an active child protection policy and all other appropriate policies;
- (iii) Write, print, publish, distribute and sell books, periodicals, magazines, pamphlets, posters, sounds and visual recordings, films and communications in any form, as shall further its objects;

- (iv) Organise or assist in organising practice classes, coaching, workshops, training courses, meetings, competitions, events and activities consistent with the objects of the club;
- (v) Recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the work of the club;
- (vi) Employ paid staff (not being members of the Executive Committee) as may be necessary for the furtherance of the above objects upon such normal and reasonable terms and conditions as the club may decide
- (vii) Co-operate to such an extent as may be necessary with voluntary and statutory agencies and the inhabitants of the area of benefit so as to advance the said objects;
- (viii) Raise funds and invite or receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise;
- (ix) Purchase, take lease or exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges necessary for the attainment of the said objects and construct, maintain and alter any buildings or edifices so necessary as aforesaid;
- (x) Support or subscribe to such charities and charitable purposes as may be recommended by the Executive Committee;
- (xi) Do all such other lawful things as may be necessary to the attainment of the above objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 There shall be two classes of members of the club:
 - 3.1.1 Full Members, aged eighteen or over, who are entitled to attend and vote at Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings and out of whom the Officers and Committee of the club shall be elected.
 - 3.1.2 Junior Members, aged less than eighteen years, who are eligible to play football once they are registered by the Committee.
- 3.2 Every person nominated for full membership shall become a full member if he or she is elected as such by a simple majority vote of the Committee.
- 3.3 Every person nominated for junior membership shall become a junior member if he or she is elected as such by the Committee.
- 3.4 The Club Secretary shall keep a register of members and enter in it the names and addresses of all persons who become members.
- 3.5 The club shall have power at the Annual General Meeting to fix a weekly, monthly or annual membership subscription. It shall not however be obligatory for the club to fix a membership subscription but if so fixed, it shall be a qualification for membership that such subscription shall be fully paid up.
- 3.6 A member of whatever type shall cease to be a member if:
 - (i) He/she gives to the Secretary written notice of resignation of his/her membership;

- (ii) He/she fails to pay any subscription within one month after the due date of payment;
- (iii) The member having committed some act or being guilty of behaviour inconsistent with membership of the club, the Committee resolves by a majority of three quarters to remove him/ her from membership.

4.0 GENERAL MEETINGS

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the club shall be held in each year at such a time (not being more than thirteen months after the preceding AGM), and place as the Executive Committee shall determine.
- 4.2 At least fourteen clear days notice of this meeting shall be given in writing by the Secretary to the Members.
- 4.3 The business of the AGM shall include:
 - (i) Annual Reports of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer;
 - (ii) Receiving Audited Accounts including accounts of all Sub-Committees;
 - (iii) Appointment of Independent Auditor;
 - (iv) Electing a new Executive Committee;
 - (v) Fixing Subscription rates (if any);
 - (vi) Considering proposals to amend the Constitution, if such proposals are presented.
- 4.4 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at anytime upon either a resolution of the Committee or a requisition setting out the resolution of resolutions to be proposed at it. The requisition must be signed by which is the lesser of five full members and (not less than) one tenth of the full members, and served on the Secretary by personal delivery or recorded delivery post. If the Secretary does not give notice of the meeting pursuant to the requisition on or before the expiry of fourteen days from service of the requisition, the requisitionists or any one or more of them may give notice of the meeting.
- 4.5 Only full members of the club shall be entitled to attend, participate in and vote at the General Meetings.
- 4.6 The quorum of all General Meetings including the AGM shall be six full members. In the event that no quorum is present at a General Meeting of the Association, the meeting shall stand adjourned and be reconvened fourteen days later, and those members present at the meeting shall be deemed to form a quorum.
- 4.7 Subject to clauses 10 and 11, voting at all General Meetings including the AGM shall be by simple majority on a show of hands, or by ballot as the meeting may decide. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second and casting vote.

5.0 THE COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Subject as hereinafter mentioned, the policy and general management of the affairs of the club shall be directed by an Executive Committee (hereinafter called 'the Committee') which shall consist of not less than four members.
- 5.2 The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be Officers of the Club, shall be elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.3 Any member of the Committee may retire by giving one week's prior notice to the Secretary, and all shall retire at the end of each Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election at that meeting.
- 5.4 Any casual vacancy on the Committee or of any office arising between Annual General Meetings may be filled by the Committee.
- 5.5 Any person who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee without giving any reason acceptable to it shall cease automatically to be a member of the Committee.
- 5.6 The quorum of the Committee shall be three.
- 5.7 Decisions at meetings of the Committee are made by a simple majority and in the event of equality of voting the Chair (or acting Chair at any particular meeting) shall have a casting vote.
- 5.8 The Committee may appoint such special or standing committees as may be deemed necessary by the Committee and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such special or standing committees shall be reported back to the Committee at its next meeting.
- 5.9 The Committee shall have the power to publish and administer by-laws as they deem necessary to govern the activities of the club.
- 5.10 The club shall adopt and actively use a Child Protection Policy which shall be monitored by at least two elected Liaison Officers to ensure that the policy is adhered to.

6.0 THE CLUBS YEAR AND AUDIT

The Club's year shall run from 1st July to 30th June. At least once in every year the accounts shall be audited by a competent person appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

7.0 FINANCE

- 7.1 The income and property of the club from wherever it is obtained, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes of the club as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly in any manner by way of profit to any member of the club.
- 7.2 Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the club or the repayment of out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of the club's business by any Officer or

other member appointed to act on behalf of the club. The club, or its Treasurer on its behalf, shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to all sums of money received and paid out by the club, and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place.

- 7.3 An account shall be opened in the name of the club at a bank to be approved by the Committee into which monies received on behalf of the club shall be paid by the Treasurer or other responsible official. Cheques for the payment of all accounts shall be signed by one of two persons appointed by the Committee, and also the Treasurer as the Committee may decide. Other bank accounts may be established for special purposes and such accounts shall be in the name of the club, and subject to similar regulation and management by the Committee.

8.0 TRUSTEES

The club may appoint and terminate not less than three persons to act as Trustees for the purposes of holding any monies or property belonging to the club. The title to all or any such real and/or personal property which may be required by or for the purposes of the club shall be vested in the Trustees who shall hold such property in trust for the club. The Trustees shall act under the consent of the club as determined by a General Meeting and the members in General Meeting shall have power to fill vacancies among Trustees.

- 8.1 The initial term of office for Trustees will be two years from date of General Meeting, with an option for a further two terms each of one year.

9.0 INDEMNITY

- 9.1 The club may indemnify and keep indemnified every officer, member or employee of the club from, and against, all claims, demands, actions and proceedings (and all costs and expenses in connection therewith or arising therefrom), made or brought against the club in connection with its activities, the actions of its officers, members and employees, or in connection with its property and equipment.
- 9.2 The Treasurer may affect a policy of insurance in respect of the indemnity aforementioned.

10.0 ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

Alterations to the Constitution shall receive the assent of not less than two-thirds majority of the members of the club present and voting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution shall be received by the Secretary at least twenty one clear days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward.

The Secretary shall give members at least fourteen clear days notice in writing of such a meeting and shall include notice of the alterations proposed. No amendment may be made which would have the effect of the club ceasing to be a charity under the Charities Act 2008.

11.0 DISSOLUTION

The club may be dissolved at any time by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds majority of those present and voting at a general and quorate meeting of the club, of which at least twenty one clear days notice shall have been given to all members of the club.

Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Club, provided that if any property remains, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the club, but shall be transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the club as the club may determine. Such distribution shall not take place until three months after the dissolution of the club.

This amended resolution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th June 2011.

Signed: _____

Chair

Signed: _____

Secretary