



# SCOTTISH WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION



## Definition of terms

In this Constitution the following words bear the meanings unless the context requires otherwise;

“Annual General Meeting (AGM)”

shall mean an Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Premier League.

“Anti-Doping Charter”

shall mean the charter of the Scottish FA which came into force on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 as such shall be amended by the Board from time to time.

“Association Football”

shall mean any football played under the jurisdiction of FIFA and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

“the Board”

shall mean the board of the Scottish FA.

“Chairperson of the Management Committee”

shall mean the Chair of the League Management Committee, who is nominated by the Scottish FA.

“Chairperson of SWPL”

shall mean the Chair of the Scottish Women's Premier League elected at the SWPL's AGM.

“Club”

shall mean a football club playing Association Football in the Scottish Women's Premier League.

“Club Member”

shall mean a Club in the Scottish Women's Premier League which has been recognised as a club member in accordance with Article 6 of Scottish Women's Football Articles and the expressions “Club Membership” and “Club Members” shall be construed accordingly.

“Code of Conduct”

shall mean the Code of Conduct issued by the SWF from time to time.

“Code of Ethics”

shall mean the code of ethics issued by the Scottish Women's Football from time to time.

“the Constitution”

shall mean the Constitution of the Scottish Women's Premier League.

“Disciplinary Procedures”

shall mean the disciplinary procedures of the Scottish FA as promulgated by the Board from time to time to deal with incidents and/or acts of misconduct occurring at or in the environs of or associated with a match forming part of the Judicial Panel Protocol.



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**“Emergency Committee”**

shall mean the standing committee comprising of the Management Committee Chair, one SWPL Management Committee representative (or nominated alternative) and one SWFL Management Committee representative.

**“FIFA”**

shall mean the Federation of International Football Associations.

**“General Meeting”**

shall mean a General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Premier League.

**“Girls’/Women’s Policy Working Group”**

shall mean the Girls’/Women’s Policy Working Group which operates under the auspices of the Non-Professional Game Board of the Scottish FA.

**“IFAB”**

shall mean the International Football Association Board.

**“Judicial Panel”**

shall mean the body with that name formed by the Board in terms of Scottish FA Article 65.

**“Judicial Panel Protocol”**

shall mean the protocol relating to the operation of the Judicial Panel promulgated by the Board from time to time in accordance with Scottish FA Article 65 which will incorporate the Disciplinary Procedures and will also set out the disciplinary rules.

**“Laws of the Game”**

shall mean the laws of the game of Association Football promulgated and amended by IFAB from time to time.

**“League Administrator”**

shall mean the League Administrator employed by the Scottish FA.

**“League & League Cup”**

shall mean the Scottish Women's Premier League, the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup and the Scottish Women's Development League.

**“League & League Cup Competition Rules”**

shall mean the Competition Rules for the Scottish Women's Premier League, the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup and the Scottish Women's Development League.

**“the Management Committee”**

shall mean the League Management Committee (the title for which may be amended at the committees discretion based upon its strategic focus within the girls and women's game), comprising of one representative elected from the SWPL, two representatives from the SWFL and four representatives nominated from the Scottish FA.

**“Non-Professional Game Board”**

shall mean the body responsible for driving the development of the non-professional game in Scotland.



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**“Office Bearer(s)”**

shall mean the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Women's Premier League.

**“Official”**

shall mean any person having a function or duty or position involving authority or trust within a club or recognised football body.

**“Player”**

shall mean a player participating in Association Football under the jurisdiction of the Scottish FA and registered in accordance with SWF Article 7.

**“Quorum”**

shall mean the minimum required number of voting delegates attending a meeting before the meeting can commence.

**“Senior Leagues”**

shall mean the Scottish Women's Premier League, Scottish Women's Football League Division 1 and 2 and the Scottish Women's Development League.

**“Scottish FA”**

shall mean the Scottish Football Association Limited.

**“SWF”**

shall mean Scottish Women's Football.

**“SWFL”**

shall mean the Scottish Women's Football League.

**“SWPL”**

shall mean the Scottish Women's Premier League.

**“the SWPL Committee”**

shall mean the Committee of the Scottish Women's Premier League comprising of the Office Bearers of the Scottish Women's Premier League.

**“UEFA”**

shall mean the Union of European Football Associations.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1. Name**

The name of the organisation will be Scottish Women's Premier League hereafter referred to as the SWPL, unless title sponsorship is achieved.

### **2. Aims & Objectives**

The aim of the SWPL will be to promote and extend the game of Association Football for women in Scotland as determined by the IFAB.



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The SWPL shall adhere to the Laws of the Game, the Scottish FA Articles, SWF Articles, League and League Cup Competition Rules and Code of Ethics.

### **3. Membership**

The SWPL shall procure membership of SWF on an annual basis. Membership of the SWPL shall comprise of no more than sixteen clubs.

All clubs in membership shall complete and submit the necessary forms and payment in accordance with SWF Article 6 and the League & League Cup Competition Rules.

The clubs shall also be required to sign up to SWF Code of Conduct.

Where a club wishes to resign from the SWPL at any time it should do so in writing to the League Administrator at least five working days prior to the official date of the dissolution of the club.

### **4. Management of the League (the Management Committee)**

The Scottish FA shall, on behalf of SWF, organise and administer the League and the League Cup in accordance with the League & League Cup Competition Rules and the Laws of the Game, and as directed by the League Management Committee in conjunction with the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

The Management Committee shall comprise a total of seven representatives. The representative's period of tenure shall be for 1 year from the date of appointment, with the exception of the Chair whose period of tenure shall be three years.

One representative shall be nominated by the SWPL, from members elected at its Annual General Meeting.

Two representatives shall be nominated by the SWFL, from members elected at its Annual General Meeting.

The Scottish FA shall nominate a further four representatives including the Chairperson of the Management Committee.

A League Administrator, employed by the Scottish FA, shall provide secretariat and administrative support to the Management Committee.

Management Committee members representing the SWPL (retiring club representatives included) shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

Other club representatives seeking election to the Management Committee shall be nominated by forwarding to the League Administrator in writing their intention to stand for election, and shall be formally supported in writing by the individual's member club.



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The names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM of the SWPL. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the terms aforesaid, nominations may be received at the AGM.

If an election is required to determine the SWPL representatives in the Management Committee, this will be conducted on the day of the AGM by ballot.

The Management Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to the League and the League Cup. The Management Committee shall consider, review and implement, where appropriate, recommendations of the Girls'/Women's Policy Working Group.

Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat. No members shall be allowed to vote on any matter directly appertaining to themselves or the club which they represent.

In the event of voting being equal on any matter, the Management Committee's Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.

The quorum for any meeting of the Management Committee shall be five, provided that the Chairperson must be present for a meeting to be quorate.

## **5. Appointment/Election of Office Bearer(s) to the SWPL Committee**

The SWPL Committee will consist of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer to be elected at an AGM of the SWPL. All positions to hold office for a period of one year. Election to office will be by means of a majority vote of members present.

The SWPL shall administer the AGM (and General Meeting) of the SWPL. The SWPL Chairperson shall chair the AGM (and General Meeting).

Club representatives seeking election to the SWPL Committee shall be nominated by forwarding to the League Administrator in writing their intention to stand for election, and shall be formally supported in writing by the individual's member club.

The names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM of the SWPL. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the terms aforesaid, nominations may be received at the AGM.

If an election is required to determine the SWPL representatives in the SWPL Committee, this will be conducted on the day of the AGM by ballot.

Where an Office Bearer wishes to resign from office prior to the end of the elected period, they must do so in writing to the League Administrator with 3 months notice.

## **6. Judicial Panel Protocol**

The Judicial Panel shall carry out the Disciplinary Procedures for Players and Club Officials Misconduct for the clubs in accordance with the Scottish FA's Disciplinary Procedures.



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## 7. Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the SWPL will be held in the month of December, unless agreed otherwise by the SWPL, and clubs will be advised of the date no later than October.

Each club shall send a representative to the AGM.

Every club entitled to be represented at General Meetings shall have one vote.

No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. 8 members (clubs) entitled to be represented at a General Meeting and to vote thereat shall be a quorum.

Member clubs of the SWPL are entitled to make changes to the Constitution of the SWPL at the AGM providing that the changes have been proposed in accordance with the Constitution, and that a majority of clubs present vote in favour.

Notice of any proposed alteration or addition for consideration by the member clubs at the AGM to the Constitution of the SWPL, shall be submitted in writing by the member club and be in the League Administrator's hand not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September.

A written notice will be given to the member clubs 21 days prior to the AGM, stating the business to be transacted at the meeting.

The AGM must be minuted and will transact the following items of business, which will constitute the Agenda:

Apologies

Adoption of minutes from previous year

Election of Chairperson / Office Bearer(s)

Election of representatives to the Management Committee

Alteration or Addition to Constitution

Alteration or Addition to League and League Cup Competition Rules

There will be no other business dealt with at this time.

At any General Meeting a proposal put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided by a show of hands.

If voting is required at the AGM for the election or re-election as the case may be of the Office Bearers, it shall be by ballot.

A report detailing the business carried out at the AGM will be circulated to all SWPL member clubs timeously.

## 8. General Meeting

A General Meeting may be called by the receipt of a letter to the League Administrator, which is signed by no less than two-thirds of the sixteen clubs. The meeting shall be called no sooner than twenty-one days from receipt, and the business detailed on the original letter, shall be the only business discussed.

The League Committee may whenever it thinks fit convene a General Meeting.

The meeting shall be called no sooner than twenty-one days from the time of notice, and the business detailed on the notice shall be the only business discussed.



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## **9. Code of Ethics**

The League and its member clubs will agree to adopt and abide by the Code of Ethics.

## **10. Anti-Doping Charter**

The League and its member clubs will agree to adopt and abide by the Anti-Doping Charter. Furthermore, the member clubs shall procure compliance with the Anti-Doping Charter by its officials, players and coaches.