

IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

AS PASSED

AT THE

EXTRA-ORDINARY

GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2006

INDEX	PAGE No
Definitions	3
Article 1 – Explanations	6
Article 2 – Registration	7
Article 3 – Membership	8
Article 4 – Divisions	13
Article 5 – Council	15
Article 6 – Office Bearers	18
Article 7 – General Meetings	21
Article 8 – Proceedings at General Meetings	22
Article 9 – Votes of the Members	24
Article 10 – Minutes	26
Article 11 – Women’s Football	27
Article 12 – Clubs and Combinations	28
Article 13 – Committees	30
Article 14 – Executive Committee	33
Article 15 – Premier League Committee	41
Article 16 – Intermediate Committee	43
Article 17 – Interim Intermediate League / Premier Intermediate League Committee	45
Article 18 – Disciplinary Committee	48
Article 19 – Appeals Committee	49
Article 20 – Referees Committee	53
Article 21 – Referees Inspectorate	55
Article 22 – Junior Committee	56
Article 23 – Coaching and Development Committee	59

INDEX	PAGE No.
Article 24 – Matches	60
Article 25 – Disqualification of Office Bearers and Committee Members	62
Article 26 – Players and Clubs	64
Article 27 – Suspension	70
Article 28 – Records	72
Article 29 – General Discipline	73
Article 30 – Referees	74
Article 31 – Audit	75
Article 32 – Common Seal	77
Article 33 – Notices	78
Article 34 – Communications	80
Article 35 – Alteration to Articles	81
Article 36 – Indemnity	82
Names & Addresses and Descriptions of Subscribers	83

Definitions

'Club'	A football club playing Association Football in Northern Ireland
'Full Member'	A Club. (Clubs in these Articles shall include teams of Clubs which teams shall be eligible to be members.)
'Association'	The Irish Football Association Limited
'Associate Member'	A football club playing Association Football in Northern Ireland which is a member of Northern Ireland Boys Football Association and affiliated to the Association in accordance with the provisions of Article 3.5
'the Office Bearers'	The President, the Association Vice President, the Premier League Vice President and the Honorary Treasurer.
'Organisational Member'	Each of the following associations: North East Ulster Football Association North West of Ireland Football Association Mid Ulster Football Association Fermanagh & Western Football Association Northern Ireland Boys Football Association Northern Ireland Schools Football Association

	Northern Ireland's Women's Football Association Northern Ireland Referees Association Army Football Association
'Chief Executive'	The person appointed pursuant to Article 14.7 (vii)
'Board of Directors'	The Executive Committee
'Council'	The Council elected pursuant to Article 5
'The President'	Shall mean the President of the Association elected pursuant to Article 6
'Senior League Club'	Each Club who on the 1 st day of June in each year is entitled to play in the Premier League
'Premier League'	The league formed by the Association pursuant to Article 15 consisting of no more than 16 teams
'the Premier League Vice President'	Shall mean the Vice President of the Association elected pursuant to Article 15
'the Association Vice President'	Shall mean the Vice President of the Association elected pursuant to Article 6
'Honorary Treasurer'	Shall mean the Honorary Treasurer of the Association elected pursuant to Article 6
'the Order'	Means the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and any act statute or order

	amending or replacing the same
'FIFA'	Means Fédération Internationale de Football Association
'UEFA'	Means Union des Associations Européenes de Football
'Referee Inspectorate'	Members of the Referees Committee not exceeding 3 in number who shall have been FIFA officials
'Challenge Cup Competitions'	The Irish Challenge Cup Competition, the Intermediate Challenge Cup Competition, the Junior Challenge Cup Competition, Harry Cavan Youth Challenge Cup Competition, the IFA Women's Challenge Cup Competition and such other competitions as the Executive Committee shall from time to time sanction or approve.

Article 1 - Explanations

- 1.1 Save as aforesaid and unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in the Articles bear the same meaning as in the Order.
- 1.2 A reference to any statute or provision of a statute includes a reference to any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force and from time to time.
- 1.3 Unless the context otherwise requires words importing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa, words importing any gender shall include all genders and words importing natural persons shall include corporations.
- 1.4 Reference to an Article is to an article of the Articles of the Irish Football Association.
- 1.5 The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of the Articles.
- 1.6 Reference to “printed forms”, “forms” or “in writing” includes the use of appropriate electronic media.
2. The regulations contained in Table C in The Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1986 and in any Table C applicable to the Association under any former enactment relating to companies shall not apply to the Association.

Article 2 - Registration

- (1) The Association is a member of FIFA and UEFA and where there is a conflict between the statutes of FIFA and UEFA and these Articles, the statutes of FIFA and UEFA shall prevail. Without prejudice to the generality of this Article 2, any Club wishing to participate in any UEFA Competition on behalf of the Association must comply with the National Club Licensing procedures set out in the Association's Club Licensing Manual (as published from time to time).
- (2) For the purposes of registration, full members of the Association shall not exceed 1,000 in number unless the Executive Committee shall otherwise determine.

Article 3 - Membership

- 1 Members of the Association shall be:-
 - (a) Full Members,
 - (b) Associate Members;
 - (c) Organisational Members;
2. All members shall be subject to and shall comply with the Articles and to any regulations or decisions promulgated by the Executive Committee or by any relevant committee of the Association, or by FIFA or UEFA.
3. Each member shall use its best endeavours to ensure its officials, its members, servants, agents and employees observe the Articles and any regulations or decisions promulgated by
 - (a) The Executive Committee;
 - (b) Any committee of the Association;
 - (c) Any sub-committee or Commission;
 - (d) FIFA; or
 - (e) UEFA.
4. Each Full Member, Associate Member and Organisational Member shall cause to be sent to the Chief Executive no later than 31st July in each calendar year:

- 4.0.1 The name and address of the Secretary and of the officers of each Full Member, Associate Member and Organisational Member.
 - 4.0.2 And in the event of the same having a ground, the full postal address of that ground and the name and address of the owner of that ground;
 - 4.0.3 And in the case of a member which plays Association Football, the official colours of the team which so plays;
- 4.1 In the event of there being a change in the Secretary or Officers during the year, particulars of the change and the details of any new Secretary or Officer shall be forwarded forthwith to the Chief Executive
5. Applicants for membership of the Association shall apply annually in such form as may be from time to time prescribed by the Executive Committee. All applications for membership shall be considered and decided upon by the Executive Committee whose decision on the matter shall be final and against whose decision there shall be no appeal. Each member shall pay an annual subscription as follows:
- Full Members – shall pay to the Divisional Association in which such club is situated a subscription of £25, of which £8 shall be retained by the Divisional Association and the balance forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Association.
- Associate Members – shall pay direct to the Executive Committee of the Association a subscription of £1 per team.
- Organisational Members – shall pay direct to the Executive Committee of the Association a subscription of £25.

All such subscriptions to be reviewed annually.

All such subscriptions are due by 1st September (excepting as permitted under Article 11)

6. No member shall have a right to a representative at a General Meeting of the Association whose subscription is not paid on or before the 1st March preceding such General Meeting.
7. Any member whose subscription is unpaid by 1st September in any year shall, if the Executive Committee so decide, cease to be a member and thereupon forfeit all privileges of membership and cease to have any claim on the property of the Association but its liability as provided for in the Memorandum of Association shall nevertheless continue.
8. Any member may withdraw from the Association by giving at least one month's notice in writing to the Chief Executive of its intention to do so, from the date that notice is given until its expiry provided that:
 - (i) There shall be no money due by the member to the Association;
 - (ii) The member shall not be in breach of any of its obligations to the Association;
 - (iii) There shall be no disciplinary hearing or complaint outstanding against the member.
9. (i) The Executive Committee shall have the power to expel any member on such grounds as it may consider appropriate;

- (ii) An appeal against such decision shall be to an extraordinary general meeting of the Association and shall follow the procedures set out on Article 19 (4) to (6) inclusive;
 - (iii) Upon receipt of an appeal the Chief Executive shall take all necessary steps to convene an extraordinary general meeting of the Association to deal with the appeal.
10. If any member shall for any reason cease to be a member of the Association it shall remain liable for and shall pay to the Association all monies which may be due by it to the Association. The Association shall not be liable for any debts or obligations of any member.
11. Each member of the Association shall when requested by the Executive Committee furnish forthwith to the Chief Executive a copy of its rules, constitution or memorandum and articles of association.
12. (i) A member may not seek directly or indirectly to transfer its Membership of the Association.
- (ii) Any member which is in breach of the provisions of these Articles shall if required, indemnify the Association and its members against all losses, damages, liabilities, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by the Association and its members which result directly or indirectly from such breach, including and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing any loss of income or profits from any undertaking, contract, commercial liaison, sponsorships, or arrangement entered into by the Association or by any of its members.

13. The membership of a member may be suspended or terminated by the Executive Committee in the following circumstances:-

- (i) Where a Club fails to have its registered ground accepted by the Executive Committee for the then current playing season;
- (ii) Where a Club fails for 2 successive playing seasons to play or to complete its participation in those of the Challenge Cup Competitions for which it is eligible and in which it has applied to play.
- (iii) Where a Full Member, Associate Member or Organisational Member without the written permission of the Executive Committee becomes a member of another National Association or of any other body promoting Association Football;
- (iv) Where the Executive Committee has exercised its power of expulsion in relation to a Full Member Associate Member or Organisational Member in terms of Article 3(9);
- (v) where in respect of a Club a petition is presented for its winding up or where the Club in question shall convene a meeting to pass a resolution for voluntary winding up or shall enter into any form of liquidation (other than for the purposes of a bona fide solvent reconstruction or amalgamation) or shall be deemed by virtue of Article 103 of the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 or any other appropriate statutory provision to be unable to pay its debts.

14. A member's membership shall cease automatically on the termination of that membership.

Article 4- Divisions

1. The operation and playing of Association Football in Northern Ireland shall be undertaken by the following Divisional Associations:
 - (a) North East Ulster Football Association;
 - (b) North West of Ireland Football Association;
 - (c) Mid Ulster Football Association;
 - (d) Fermanagh and Western Football Association; and

2. The Executive Committee shall in its absolute discretion fix the areas and boundaries within which a Divisional Association shall operate and have jurisdiction.

3.
 - (a) Each Divisional Association shall appoint in each year its members to the Council and Executive Committee and shall provide written particulars of the persons so appointed no later than 1st May in each calendar year;

 - (b) Each Divisional Association shall appoint one representative to the Executive Committee who shall be a member of Council.

4.
 - (i) In the event that a Divisional Association shall cease to exist or cease to be a member of the Association those Clubs within its jurisdiction shall at the request of the Executive Committee form a new Divisional Association;

(ii) Such Divisional Association shall not become an Organisational Member until the Executive Committee has resolved in writing to accept it as such;

(iii) Each Divisional Association shall account to the Association for all subscriptions which it receives for the account of the Association in respect of subscriptions of Members and referees.

Article 5 - Council

1. Unless and until resolved to the contrary by the Members, the Association shall have a Council.

2. The Council shall consist of:-

- (a) 10 persons comprising
 - 5 persons nominated by the North East Ulster Football Association,
 - 2 persons nominated by the North West of Ireland Football Association,
 - 2 persons nominated by the Mid Ulster Football Association; and
 - 1 person nominated by the Fermanagh and Western Division;
- (b) One person nominated by each Club in membership of the Irish Premier League;
- (c) One person nominated by the Intermediate Committee
- (d) One person nominated by the Junior Committee;
- (e) One person nominated by the Northern Ireland Schools' Football Association;
- (f) One person nominated by the Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association;
- (g) One person nominated by the Northern Ireland Women's Football Association;
- (h) One person nominated by the Army Football Association; and
- (i) One person nominated by the Northern Ireland Referees Association.

Each Divisional Association shall also have the right to return additional representatives to the Council in the proportion of one member for the first ten clubs,

one member for the next twenty clubs, one member for further twenty clubs, and one member for each additional fifty clubs affiliated to such Divisional Associations, up to and not exceeding eight (8) additional members for any one Divisional Association.

3. Age – No person shall be appointed a member of the Council, or Executive Committee, or any other Association Committee, if at the time of appointment that person has attained the age of 65 years.

Any appointee who is appointed a member of the Council, or Executive Committee, or any other Association Committee, after the date of the adoption of these Articles, shall vacate their position at the AGM following their 70th birthday.

Any member of the Council, or Executive Committee, or any other Association Committee who was appointed prior to the date of the adoption of these Articles shall vacate their position at the AGM following their 75th birthday.

4. The Council shall meet at least four times in each year:

- (i) To review reports from the Executive Committee as to the affairs of the Association;
- (ii) To consider and advise on specific questions which may be addressed to it by the Executive Committee;
- (iii) To provide a forum for discussion about and consideration of significant issues for the development of Association Football in Northern Ireland; and
- (iv) To give advice to any committee of the Association.
- (v) To elect the President, the Association Vice President and the Honorary Treasurer in accordance with Article 6.2
- (vi) To appoint 4 members to sit on the Junior Committee.
- (vii) To appoint two members to sit on the Coaching and Development Committee.

The provisions of Article 13 (2) to (7) shall apply to meetings of the Council (*mutatis mutandis*).

Article 6 - Office Bearers

1. The Office Bearers of the Association shall consist of the President, the Association Vice President and the Premier League Vice President and the Honorary Treasurer.

2. At the first meeting after each Annual General Meeting the Council shall elect from its members, a President, and an Honorary Treasurer to act for a year. Nominations for such elections, duly proposed and seconded by two members of the Council, should be made in writing and received by the Chief Executive of the Association not later than 31st March, and included in the notice for the relevant meeting. The Council shall also appoint 2 Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be elected by the Premier League Committee and one who shall be elected from and by the rest of the Council Members in accordance with the aforementioned nomination procedure. Where, on the day of the election there are no nominees, or the only nominee for any of the positions of President, Vice President or Honorary Treasurer is unable to accept election, such election or elections will be postponed until the next meeting of Council with new nominations, as outlined above, to be received by the Chief Executive of the Association not later than a date determined by Council.

3. Subject to 4 below any Office Bearer shall be eligible for re-election.

4.
 - (i) In the event that more than one nomination is received for each post an election shall be held. Only those candidates receiving more than 50% of the votes shall be elected as President, Association Vice President or Honorary Treasurer. In the event of a tie the person to be elected shall then be decided by the drawing of lots.
 - (ii) In the event that one person is nominated that person shall be automatically elected.
 - (iii) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of the President or the Association Vice President or Honorary Treasurer the vacancy shall be filled by the Council and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, (subject to Article 6.2).
 - (iv) In the case of the office of Premier League Vice President becoming vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by a representative of a Full Member appointed by the Premier League Committee and the person so appointed shall hold office, until the next Annual General Meeting, (subject to Article 6.2).
5. The Association in general meeting may by a special resolution expel any member of Council or member of any other Association committee or Commission before the expiration of his period of office. The original nominating body may then appoint someone to act in his place until the expiration of that period of office.

6. Any Office Bearer or member of Council or member of any other Association committee or Commission shall be at liberty to contract with the Association, and shall not be disqualified by reason of his having so contracted, and such officer or member of Council or member of any other Association committee or Commission shall not be bound to account to the Association for any profit which he may derive from the Association from him having so contracted with it, provided that at the time the contract is entered into he discloses his interest therein and does not vote on the matter.

7. Members of committees and Commissions shall be allowed such expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as the Executive Committee shall approve.

8. Each President of the Association, or any person who has acted as a member of Council for a total period of ten years or member of any other Association committee or Commission who has so been for a total period of ten years shall, on retiring or ceasing to be such member (other than by reason of expulsion), be furnished with a life member's ticket and badge, entitling him to admission free of charge to all matches played by Clubs under the jurisdiction of the Association.

9. Each member of Council and of any other Association Committee shall be furnished with a ticket (which shall not be transferable) which during his term of office, shall enable him to gain admission free of charge to matches under the jurisdiction of the Association (excepting matches involving clubs or representative teams from other Associations).

Article 7 - General Meetings

1. All business shall be deemed special that is transacted at an extraordinary general meeting.
2. The Executive Committee shall determine the venue, date and time of the Annual General Meeting, excepting that the AGM shall take place each year no later than 30th June.
3. Twenty-one days' notice at least in writing specifying the place, the day, and the hour of the meeting and in the case of special business, the general nature of such business, shall be given to the member in the manner hereinafter mentioned.
4. The Executive Committee may when they think fit, and shall when required so to do in accordance with the Order, or any statutory modification thereof, convene an extraordinary general meeting.
5. Each full and organisational member of the Association shall be entitled to appoint a representative to attend all general meetings of the Association. A representative shall only represent one Member. However, Associate Members will be entitled to appoint one representative for every 100 teams affiliated pursuant to Article 3.5. Members of the Executive Committee, Council and of any other Association committee or Commission shall be entitled to be present and speak at all general meetings, but shall not be entitled to vote unless they are a representative of a Member.

Article 8 - Proceedings at General Meetings

1. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting, unless a quorum be present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
2. 25 members shall constitute a quorum.
3. The business to be transacted at each Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:-
 - (i) To receive, consider and if thought fit, approve the report of the Executive Committee;
 - (ii) To receive consider and if thought fit approve the accounts and balance sheet of the Association and the report of the auditors thereto;
 - (iii) To appoint the auditors and agree or provide for the determination of their remuneration;
 - (iv) To receive the report of those committees who are required under the terms of these articles to report to the Association at the Annual General Meeting.
 - (v) any other business appropriate to an Annual General Meeting.
4. If within half-an-hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present it shall stand adjourned sine die.

5. The President or in his absence the Association Vice President or in his absence the Premier League Vice President or in his absence the Honorary Treasurer shall preside as Chairman at every general meeting of the Association.
6. If at any general meeting the President, the Association Vice President or the Premier League Vice President or the Honorary Treasurer shall be not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present shall choose someone of their number to be Chairman.
7. The Chairman may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn any meeting at which a quorum may be present 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.

Article 9 - Votes of the Members

1. No person shall be admitted to any general meeting of the Association unless such person (1) has a ticket, signed by the Chief Executive, entitling him to admission or (2) has been specifically invited to attend by the Office Bearers.
2. At any general meeting all votes shall be made personally and not by proxy. The meeting shall decide on the mechanism of voting on all or any matters.
3. The chairman at all meetings of the Association shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.
4. A declaration that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously or by a particular majority or lost or not carried by a particular majority shall be made by the chairman of the meeting and an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Association shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
5. At general meetings of the Association:
 - (a) Matters requiring to be passed by ordinary resolution shall be so passed if the relevant resolution is carried by a simple majority of the members who, being present and entitled to vote upon the resolution do vote; and

- (b) Matters requiring to be passed by special resolution shall be so passed if the relevant resolution is carried by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members who, being present and entitled to vote upon the resolution, do vote.

- 6. It shall be deemed serious misconduct for any member or a representative of a member directly or indirectly to offer any bribe, consideration or other improper inducement to any other member or representative of a member for the purpose of procuring a vote on any matter and for any member or representative of a member to accept such offer. The Executive Committee shall impose such sanction as it considers appropriate for any breach of this Article.

Article 10 - Minutes

1. The Executive Committee shall cause minutes of meeting of the Association to be prepared recording:-
 - (a) The appointment of the Office Bearers;
 - (b) The appointment of the Auditors;
 - (c) The name and address of the Chief Executive;
 - (d) The names and addresses of the members and their representatives at meetings of the Association;
 - (e) The names and addresses of the members of each committee of the Association; and
 - (f) The resolutions passed by the Association.

2. All such minutes shall be approved at the next meeting of the Association and if approved shall be signed by the person acting as chairman of that meeting and shall be prima facie evidence of the matters recorded therein. Minutes should be circulated with agendas prior to each meeting.

Article 11 - Women's Football

1. All Articles of the Association shall apply equally to all genders save that for Association Football played by women these exceptions apply:-
 - (a) Playing Season – the playing season for Association Football by females shall be from March – October
 - (b) Affiliation – women's Clubs must affiliate to the Divisional Association in which their ground is situated in order to become Full Members (as per Article 3) however all subscriptions from women's Clubs shall be paid to the Association by the 28th February and all Club details must likewise be forwarded to the Association by this date.

Article 12 - Clubs and Combinations

1. The formation of any Association, League or other organisation which includes a Club requires the prior approval of the Executive Committee. The provision of sub-clause 5 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
2. All Clubs shall play under these Articles and all Clubs playing under any Articles or rules other than those of the Association, or playing with clubs not members of the Association, without the permission of the Association shall be liable to be expelled, suspended, fined or otherwise dealt with as the Association shall think fit. This sub-article shall not apply to individual amateur players.
3. Any Club, Organisational Member or Associate Member or any combination of Clubs shall have the right to obtain the opinion of the Association, on any point connected with these Articles, the Challenge Cup Regulations, or the Laws of the Game on payment of such fee as the Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe.
4. All resolutions and decisions of the Executive Committee shall be binding upon all members of the Association until the same are rescinded or varied by the Executive Committee.
5. All Leagues, Alliances, and like organisations, must be composed of Clubs (who must be members of this Association) and the rules thereof must receive the approval of the Executive Committee annually. Such rules are to

be submitted before the 30th day of June in each year or such later date as the Executive Committee may approve, and if not so submitted the then existing rules shall be deemed to have continued until the Executive Committee shall otherwise direct, and any such Club taking part in a Competition not so sanctioned will be liable to be fined or suspended, or expelled, or otherwise dealt with as the Executive Committee shall think just, and the Executive Committee shall have the power at any time to make enquiries into the working of such Leagues, Alliance, and like organisations, and to deal with such Leagues, Alliances and like organisations as they may consider necessary. Each league shall pay to the Association an annual registration fee of £50. This fee to be paid no later than 1st September.

6. A member of a committee or sub-committee shall retire from any discussion of such committee or sub-committee if the matter to be dealt with involves benefits or concerns himself or his Club and he shall not be entitled to vote on the matter. At the commencement of each meeting any conflict of interest amongst members should be declared and recorded.

Article 13 – Committees

1. The Association shall have the following committees:-
 - (a) The Executive Committee;
 - (b) The Premier League Committee;
 - (c) The Intermediate Committee;
 - (d) The Interim Intermediate League / Premier Intermediate League Committee
 - (e) The Junior Committee;
 - (f) The Appeals Committee;
 - (g) The Disciplinary Committee;
 - (h) The Referees Committee;
 - (i) The Coaching and Development Committee; and
 - (j) Such other Committee as the Executive Committee shall from time to time appoint.

2. At each meeting of a committee of the Association there shall be a quorum when at least one-half of the members of the committee are present.

3. At each meeting of a committee of the Association every matter or question shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting on the question.

4. The chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote but otherwise no member shall give more than one vote. No proxy votes shall be allowed.
5. The members of a committee in each year shall elect one of their members to be the chairman and one of their members to be the vice chairman. Each chairman and vice chairman shall hold office for one year but shall be available for re-election.
6. If the chairman is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for holding a meeting or there is no chairman, the members present shall choose one of their number to be chairman of that meeting.
7. Each committee shall keep minutes in some permanent retrievable and verifiable format of their proceedings at their meetings. Without prejudice to the generality thereof such minutes shall include but shall not be limited to the date and venue of the meeting, the names of those attending, the result of any election held, the text of and result of all resolutions proposed and other relevant deliberations. The Chief Executive shall arrange for the provision of the secretariat of all Committees.
8. The Executive Committee (and any other committee with the prior written consent of the Executive Committee) may delegate power to a sub-committee of its members and such sub-committee shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to all regulations or directions that may be imposed on or given to it and the provisions of this article dealing with the conduct of

meetings of a committee shall apply to a meeting of a sub-committee (mutatis mutandis).

9. Where a vacancy arises in the membership of a committee, the members of that committee may co-opt someone to fill the vacancy.
10. For the purposes of the Order the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Article 14 - Executive Committee

1. The management of the business and the control of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee and it shall be responsible for all matters relating to the conduct and undertaking of the Association (including without prejudice to the generality thereof the playing of Association Football in Northern Ireland).

2. The Executive Committee may at any time amend, suspend or alter the functions of any committee, sub-committee or Commission of the Association including the removal of any of the functions or powers of such committee and allocating or delegating them to another committee or to itself or to another group of persons. The Executive shall be entitled to remove from membership any person who is a member of a committee.

3. The Executive Committee shall consist of no more than 18 persons as follows:-
 - (a) The Office Bearers:- namely the President, the Association Vice President, the Premier League Vice President and the Honorary Treasurer.
 - (b) 1 representative appointed by each of the 4 Divisional Associations who shall be a member of Council;
 - (c) 3 Representatives of the Premier League Committee;
 - (d) A Representative of the Junior Committee;
 - (e) A Representative of the Intermediate Committee;

(f) 1 Representative of the NI Women's Football Association who shall be a member of Council;

(g) 1 Representative of the NI Boys Football Association who shall be a member of Council;

(h) 1 Representative of the NI Schools Football Association who shall be a member of Council;

(i) The Executive Committee has the power to appoint, by public advertisement, up to 2 independent persons (not otherwise representatives of Members of the Association).

With the exception of those independent persons appointed by the Executive Committee, all members shall hold office for one year from the AGM and shall be eligible for re-appointment. Should a vacancy arise, that body which such members represent or are appointed by shall have the power to fill such vacancy. The persons who are appointed from time to time under sub-article 3(i) shall hold office for a period of up to two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment. The Association may during the term of office of such person determine that his appointment shall cease forthwith without assigning any reason and shall appoint another person to take that person's place for that period which shall be unexpired. All Divisional Associations and organisational members which appoint members of the Executive Committee should do so by 1st May relaying the name, address of the appointee to the Chief Executive.

4. Without prejudice to the generality of Article 14(1) above, the Executive Committee shall have full power to deal with the following matters:-

- (a) All matters relating to International Matches including but not limited to the appointment and remuneration of technical staff, arrangements for the playing of International Matches, their venues, prices of admission and the generation of revenue there from;
- (b) The determination of the venue, date and time of the Annual General Meeting;
- (c) The sanctioning of the format of any association, league, Commission, alliance, other organisation or Club;
- (d) The approval annually of the rules of any such association, league, Commission, other organisation or Club;
- (e) The appointment of the Referees Inspectorate;
- (f) The appointment of 6 members to the Appeals Committee, who shall not be a member of any Club;
- (g) The appointment of three of its members to the Disciplinary Committee;
- (h) The appointment of one of its members to the Referees Committee;
- (i) The appointment of two of its members to the Coaching and Development Committee;
- (j) The payment of fees and expenses to referees; and
- (k) The appointment of an Emergency Committee of 5 to act between regular meetings.
- (l) The appointment of a Company Secretary who may be an employee of the Association and need not be a member for the purposes of Article 291 of the Order.
- (m) All matters which do not fall within the functions allocated to any other committee.

All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be binding on all other Association Committees, sub-committees or panels.

- 5 The Executive Committee may exercise all powers given to the Association and carry out all objects of the Association, as are not by these Articles or by statute expressly directed or required to be exercised or done by the Association in general meeting, subject, nevertheless, to any regulations from time to time made by the Association in general meeting;
6. The Executive Committee shall not authorise the borrowing of money in excess of the sum of £500,000.00 in the aggregate or exercise any of the powers conferred on the Association by Clause 19 of the Memorandum of Association without having considered a report by the relevant Committee of the reasons for any borrowing, the projected costs of any borrowing and the security to be given for it.
7. In furtherance and not in limitation of, and without prejudice to, the general powers conferred by the last preceding sub-article and the other powers conferred by these Articles, it is hereby expressly declared that the Executive Committee shall have the following powers that is to say:
 - (i) To pay the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the registration of the Association.

- (ii) To borrow any sum or sums of money not exceeding in all the sum of £500,000, on such security and upon such terms as to interest or otherwise as it may deem fit.
- (iii) to sell, exchange, grant, convey or lease, for such consideration, upon such terms, and in such manner, as it deems appropriate, any real or personal property of the Association or any rights, estates, or interests therein or there over;
- (iv) to purchase, build, rent, lease, hire, or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, including lands, buildings, houses, or other property the possession, use, or occupation of which it may consider beneficial or advantageous to the Association, upon such terms, for such period or periods, and for such estates or interests therein as they deem appropriate;.
- (v) to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute, and issue respectively promissory notes, bills, cheques, or other negotiable instruments provided that every promissory note, bills, cheque or other negotiable instrument drawn, made accepted, endorsed, discounted, executed, or issued shall be signed by such person or persons as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide.
- (vi) to make, alter or revoke all such rules, bye-laws, and regulations relative to the use of the property of the Association and to the conduct or holding of the meetings, or for such other purpose as it may deem fit

and proper, provided that no rule, bye-law, or regulation shall be made under the foregoing which would amount to such an addition to or derogation from these Articles as could only be legally made by a special resolution passed and confirmed in accordance with Article 386 of the Companies (NI) Order 1986.

- (vii) To appoint and remove the Chief Executive, solicitors, bankers, agents, officials, and servants and agents, and confer on or delegate to them respectively such powers as it may think fit.
- (viii) To submit or refer claims by or against the Association to arbitration.
- (ix) To determine the device of and provide for the safe custody of the seal.
- (x) To affix the seal to and execute all agreement, dispositions, conveyances, mortgages, bonds, debenture stock, certificates, lease, and other deeds and documents which may be necessary or proper in connection with the business of the Association.
- (xi) To lend and invest such moneys of the Association not required for immediate use as it may from time to time be of opinion should be lent or invested on or in such securities in the United Kingdom or elsewhere as it may approve, and from time to time vary any such investments.

- (xii) To make such rules consistent with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and the Order for the proper conduct and management of the Association.
 - (xiii) To call extraordinary general meetings of the Association when and where it thinks fit.
 - (xiv) To consider and if thought appropriate, set up any wholly owned subsidiary or joint venture company as required
 - (xv) to be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of such systems and controls as are necessary and appropriate for the efficient conduct of the business and undertaking of the Association and may delegate these powers to sub committees in the areas, (amongst others) of finance, audit, risk and remuneration, commercial and nominations
 - (xvi) To delegate specific authority to the Chief Executive and to examine the arrangements made by him to ensure the proper operation of systems and controls.
8. No act done by the Executive Committee, whether *ultra vires* or not, which shall receive the express or implied sanction of the Association in general meeting, shall be afterwards impeached by any members of the Association on any grounds whatsoever, and shall be deemed to be a valid and binding act of the Association.

9. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint such committees or Commissions as it may consider necessary and to delegate appropriate powers to them.
10. All acts done by any committee or Commission of the Association shall be valid and binding notwithstanding that there is discovered subsequently a defect in the appointment of any person as a member of that committee or Commission.
11. The Executive Committee shall cause accounting records to be kept in accordance with the requirements of the Order.
12. The Executive Committee shall forward to any relevant sub-committees all reports which it receives which relate to the financial affairs of the Association.
13. The Executive Committee may from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the accounting records or other books or documents of the Association or any of them shall be open to the inspection of members and no member shall have any right of inspecting any accounting records or other books or documents of the Association except as conferred by statute or authorised by the Executive Committee or by the Association in general meeting.

Article 15 - Premier League Committee

1 Senior Football shall be Association Football organised by The Premier League Committee, which shall consist of 1 representative from each club playing in the Premier League (which will not exceed 16 clubs).

2 The Premier League Committee shall in each year deal with the following matters:

- (i) The election of the Premier League Vice-President;
- (ii) The organisation of the Irish Challenge Cup Competition;
- (iii) The organisation of the Premier League (including reserve and Youth Leagues);
- (iv) The consideration of all reports, protests, complaints and other matters relating to the playing and conduct of football in the Premier League and in all competitions which the Premier League has within its jurisdiction (but excluding Referees Reports)
- (v) The appointment of 3 members to serve on the Executive Committee;
- (vi) The appointment of 3 members to serve on the Disciplinary Committee;
- (vii) The appointment of 1 member to serve on the Referees Committee;
- (viii) The appointment of 1 member to serve on the Coaching and Development Committee;
- (ix) The appointment of 2 members to serve on the Appeals Committee.
- (x) To promote, oversee and regulate from time to time those competitions that fall within its jurisdiction.

- 3 No member of the Committee shall take part in or vote on any matter affecting himself or any club with which he is connected.

- 4 A written report from each meeting will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Article 16 - Intermediate Committee

1. The Intermediate Committee shall consist of two representatives from each league playing Intermediate Football.
2. League representatives shall be elected each year by their respective leagues. Their names and addresses together shall be sent by the Secretary of such Leagues to the Chief Executive by not later than 1st June in the same year.
3. The Intermediate Committee shall have the power to deal with all matters pertaining to Intermediate Football including the following:-
 - (a) The management of the 'Intermediate Challenge Cup Competition' including the selection of Clubs who shall be permitted to compete in the Competition;
 - (b) All reports, protests, complaints and other matters relating to the playing and conduct of Intermediate Football, (excluding Referee Reports.)
 - (c) Appoint annually a representative who shall sit on the Executive Committee;
 - (d) Appoint annually a representative who shall sit on the Council;
 - (e) Appoint annually 3 members to serve on the Disciplinary Committee;
 - (f) Appoint annually 1 member to serve on the Referees Committee; and
 - (g) Appoint 1 member to serve on the Coaching and Development Committee.

- (h) Appoint 2 members to serve on the Appeals Committee.

- 4. No member of the Committee shall take part in or vote in any matter affecting himself or any Club with which he is concerned.

- 5. A written report from each meeting will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Article 17 – Interim Intermediate League / Premier Intermediate League Committee

1. The Association will administer an Interim Intermediate League during season 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 comprised of those Intermediate Clubs previously in membership of the Irish Football League at the end of the 2003/2004 season and any other Intermediate Clubs subsequently admitted to fill vacancies within the Interim Intermediate League. A Committee to manage the affairs of this Interim Intermediate League will be formed of one representative from each Club in membership. The Committee shall have full powers to deal with all matters pertaining to this League. Five members present at any meeting shall form a quorum.

2. A Premier Intermediate League will be formed in season 2007/2008. All clubs will be eligible to apply for membership subject to meeting the required ground and facilities criteria as established by the Pyramid Committee.

The Pyramid committee ground and facilities criteria shall remain unchanged up to the commencement of season 2008/2009 and thereafter responsibility for ground and facilities criteria shall reside with the Association's Intermediate Committee. Ground and facilities inspections shall be carried out by the Association's Intermediate Committee.

Failure by clubs in the Premier intermediate League to sustain the required criteria will result in them being demoted from the Premier Intermediate League at the end of the current season unless in exceptional circumstances

which are deemed acceptable by the Premier Intermediate League Committee.

Clubs from the Interim Intermediate League failing to meet the required criteria for membership of the Premier Intermediate League in 2007/2008 will continue to be administered by the Association during seasons 2007/2008. Such clubs together with all other intermediate clubs in membership of the Association shall have until the commencement of the 2008/2009 season to attain the required criteria and, upon attaining the required criteria, shall then be accepted as members of the Premier Intermediate League.

From the commencement of the 2008/2009 season clubs having been members of the Interim Intermediate League and unsuccessful in attaining membership of the Premier Intermediate League, shall seek membership of another league or form a new league.

From the end of 2008/2009 membership of the Premier Intermediate League shall be governed by a system of promotion and relegation and promotion and relegation will apply between the lower division of the Premier Intermediate League and other Intermediate Leagues in the Membership of the Association. The structure of and organisation for such promotion and relegation will be determined by the Association's Intermediate Committee.

A committee to manage the affairs of the Premier Intermediate League will be formed of one representative from each club in membership. The committee shall have full powers to deal with all matters pertaining to this league other than those specified above. Five members present at any meeting shall form

a quorum. The Committee shall ensure that the Premier Intermediate League is financially self-sufficient.

Article 18 - Disciplinary Committee

1. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of 12 persons as follows:-
 - (a) 3 members of the Executive Committee (one of whom shall act as chairman);
 - (b) 3 members nominated from the Premier League Committee;
 - (c) 3 members nominated from the Intermediate Committee; and
 - (d) 3 members nominated from the Junior Committee.
2. The Disciplinary Committee will have full powers to deal with all reports from referees, relating to Association Football played within the jurisdiction of the Premier League, and all other Senior and Intermediate Football, the Junior Challenge Cup, the Youth Challenge Cup and any other matches involving teams from 2 different Divisional Associations.
3. A written report from each meeting of the Disciplinary Committee will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Article 19 - Appeals Committee

1. The Appeals Committee shall consist of a panel of twelve persons:

2 representatives appointed by the Premier League Committee

2 representatives appointed by the Intermediate Committee

2 representatives appointed by the Junior Committee

6 representatives appointed by the Executive Committee.

The Appeals Committee shall appoint a Chairman, who shall not be a member of any Club. The Chairman shall then appoint Appeals Boards as required.

2. Other than an appeal by a member against its expulsion, a player, official, referee, Club, Associate member, Commission or association has the right to appeal to the Appeals Committee against any decision of a Club or any committee of the Association or any other recognised football body which is imposed upon him provided that the appellant has exhausted such appeals procedures as were available to the appellant consequent upon the decision in question, unless satisfactory grounds are given for not having done so. For the avoidance of doubt, an appeal by a player must be submitted either:-

(i) By the player personally, in writing; or

(ii) By the player's Club, on the player's behalf, in writing with the reasons of appeal countersigned by the player.

3. There shall be no appeal against the decision of a referee who sends off any player other than where the player's only complaint is that the referee in question has mistaken his identity.
4. An appeal hearing shall not be conducted as a re-hearing of the case unless the Appeal Board hearing and determining the appeal decides to the contrary.
5. An appeal from a player, official, referee, Club, Associate member or association must be in writing despatched by special delivery letter to the Chief Executive within 4 days after the date of the meeting at which the decision appealed against was taken unless for any reason it was not made known to the appellant at such meeting, in which case it must be despatched by special delivery letter to the Chief Executive within 4 days after the date on which the decision was intimated in writing to the person or body concerned. A deposit of £100 shall be lodged with each appeal which shall be returnable only where the appeal is upheld
6. In lodging an appeal the appellant shall state fully in writing the grounds for the appeal.
7. The Chief Executive shall, upon receipt of an appeal, forward it to the chairman of the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee shall appoint from its members an Appeal Board consisting of a panel of three persons to hear and determine an appeal. No person shall sit on an appeal which involves himself or any Club in which he has an interest. All appeals should be heard, where possible, within 14 days of receipt of appeal.

8. The Appeal Board shall have the power to:-

- (i) affirm the decision of the body whose decision is appealed against;
- (ii) Uphold the appeal by setting aside the decision appealed against and quashing any penalty imposed;
- (iii) Uphold the appeal in part by setting aside part only of the decision appealed against;
- (iv) Substitute for the decision appealed against a decision to find the appellant guilty of a lesser offence and/or to impose a lesser penalty or penalties in respect thereof;
- (v) Refer the case, or any part of it, back to the body whose decision is appealed against;
- (vi) Take any step which, in the exercise of its discretion, the Appeal Board considers it would be appropriate to take in order to deal justly with the case in question.

If the appeal is unsuccessful, the appellant may still be held liable in all, or in part of, the expenses of the appeal procedure.

An appeal may be withdrawn by an appellant prior to the hearing of the case by notifying the Chief Executive of such withdrawal in writing. The appeal will, upon receipt of such notification by the Chief Executive, be deemed to be abandoned and the original decision against which the appellant appealed, will be regarded as final and binding. Upon the withdrawal of an appeal, the appeal deposit will be automatically forfeited. The appellant may be held liable in all or part for the expenses of the appeal procedure.

9. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all parties concerned and there shall be no further appeals from it.
10. The procedures for dealing with an appeal shall be as determined by the Appeal Board hearing that appeal.
11. Upon the conclusion of each appeal the Appeal Board shall submit a written report on the outcome of the appeal to the Appeal Committee and Executive Committee.
12. The Chief Executive shall arrange for the provision of the secretariat to the Appeal Board.

Article 20 - Referees Committee

1. The Referees Committee shall consist of 8 persons as follows:-
 - (a) A member of the Executive Committee; (who shall act as Chairman);
 - (b) A member of the Premier League Committee;
 - (c) A member of the Intermediate Committee;
 - (d) A member of the Junior Committee;
 - (e) The council representative of the Northern Ireland Referees Association; and
 - (f) The Referee Inspectorate.
2. The Referees Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to referees (other than the payment of fees and expenses to referees) including but not limited to referees grading, complaints, instruction, assessment, discipline.
3. The Referees Committee shall keep under review the tariff payable to referees and advise the Executive Committee thereof.
4. The Referees Committee shall maintain a register of registered referees.
5. No person below the age of 16 shall be registered as a referee.

6. The Referees Committee shall be entitled to remove a referee from the register of referees or suspend him.

7. A written report from each meeting will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Article 21 - Referee Inspectorate

1. The Referee Inspectorate shall sit as members of the Referees Committee.
2. The Referee Inspectorate shall be responsible for the training, instruction and all assessment of referees and such matters relating to the refereeing of Association Football as shall be assigned to them by the Executive Committee or the Referees Committee.
3. The Referee Inspectorate shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee.
4. The Referee Inspectorate shall meet from time to time throughout the year and at least on four occasions. Reports from these meetings will be submitted to the Referees Committee.
5. In the event that there shall be a vacancy in the membership of the Referee Inspectorate, the Executive Committee may appoint someone to fill that vacancy.
6. Notwithstanding the provision of sub-article 3, the Executive Committee may at any time determine that a member of the Referee Inspectorate shall cease to be a member thereof.

Article 22 - Junior Committee

The Junior Committee shall consist of 18 members comprised as follows:-

1. 4 members appointed by the Council;
2. 6 members appointed by the North East Ulster Football Association who are representatives of clubs playing Junior Football;
3. 3 members appointed by the Mid Ulster Football Association who are representatives of clubs playing Junior Football;
4. 3 members appointed by the North West of Ireland Football Association who are representatives of clubs playing Junior Football; and
5. 2 members appointed by the Fermanagh and Western Association who are representatives of clubs playing Junior Football.

The names and addresses of such representatives shall be sent to the Chief Executive by no later than 1st June in each year.

The Junior Committee shall deal with the following matters:-

1. To appoint a member who will act as chairman of the Junior Committee;

2. To appoint a Junior International Sub Committee to make all arrangement for Junior International Matches and the UEFA Regions cup matches, including selection of players and team officials. All sub-committees appointed by the Junior Committee shall act in accordance with the terms of reference and all regulations laid down by the Junior Committee.
3. To appoint a youth Sub Committee with full powers to deal with all matters pertaining to the Harry Cavan Youth Challenge Cup Competition.
4. To appoint a sub-committee from time to time as it deems necessary for the further promotion of Junior Football including Junior International football and Youth Cup football.
5. To deal with all matters arising from the Junior Challenge Cup and the Harry Cavan Youth Challenge Competitions, (excluding Referee Reports).
6. To review annually the Rules of all Junior Leagues and to give the same approval or otherwise.
7. To investigate the workings of any Junior League.
8. To deal with any matter regarding Junior or Youth Football not dealt with by the Executive Committee.
9. To appoint annually a representative to sit on the Executive Committee

10. To appoint 3 members to serve on the Disciplinary Committee.
11. To appoint 1 member to serve on the Referees Committee.
12. To appoint 1 member to serve on the Coaching & Development Committee.
13. To appoint 2 members to serve on the Appeals Committee.
14. To deal with any matter delegated to it by the Executive Committee.
15. To put before the AGM each year a report as to the state and position of Junior Football.
16. No member of the Junior Committee shall during his time in office be a professional player.

Article 23 - Coaching and Development Committee

1. The Coaching and Development Committee shall consist of 10 members as follows:-

- (a) Two representatives appointed from the Executive Committee (one of whom will act as chairman);
- (b) Two representatives appointed by Council
- (c) A representative of the Northern Ireland Boys Football Association who shall be a member of Council;
- (d) A representative of the Northern Ireland Schools Football Association who shall be a member of Council;
- (e) A representative of the Northern Ireland Women's Football Association who shall be a member of Council;
- (f) One representative appointed from each of the following committees:-
 - (i) Premier League Committee,
 - (ii) Intermediate Committee,
 - (iii) Junior Committee.

The Coaching and Development Committee be responsible for all coaching structures and development programmes of the Association including women's football.

2. A written report from each meeting will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Article 24 - Matches

1. Each Club shall, when required, place its players and ground at the disposal of the Association. Members of such Clubs will not be admitted without payment to International Matches, Cup Semi-Finals or Finals. Unless authorised to the contrary in writing by the Executive Committee:-
 - (i) Clubs must not arrange fixtures which commence less than **5** hours prior to the kick off of an 'A' International or U21 International match, where the same are played in Northern Ireland, or (in the town or city in which it is being played) an Irish Cup Semi-Final or Final, excepting with the express permission of the Executive Committee.

2. Any player selected to play in an International or other match arranged by the Association, and without good or sufficient cause refusing to comply with the arrangements of the Executive Committee or Junior Committee for the playing of the match, or failing to play in such match, may be adjudged by the Executive Committee or Junior Committee to be guilty of misconduct, and such player, and any Club which may be deemed to have caused, encouraged, aided or abetted such player to refuse to comply with the arrangements, may be dealt with as the Executive Committee or Junior Committee shall think just. The power of the Junior Committee under this Article shall extend only to Junior Clubs and players for Junior Clubs.

3. (a) All receipts in respect of International Matches shall be retained by the Association.

(b) All receipts for other matches shall be allocated between the Association and those Clubs engaged in the relevant matches, in such proportions as the Executive Committee shall decide.

4. (i) No football match shall be played between the 31st May and the Friday immediately prior to the 2nd Saturday in August of each year except by written permission of the Executive Committee.
- (ii) This sub-Article shall not apply to competitions limited to five or less players on each side.
- (iii) No match shall be played inside their area by this Association on a Sunday. This Sub-Article shall apply to clubs, Combinations of Clubs, and individual players.
- (iv) Any friendly matches involving a club from outside the jurisdiction of the Association must be sanctioned in advance by the Executive Committee.

Article 25 - Disqualification of Office Bearers and Committee Members

1. An Office Bearer or any member of any committee or Commission shall cease to be an Office Bearer or member of such committee.
 - (i) If he becomes bankrupt or compounds or makes an arrangement with his creditors, but he may notwithstanding any such event, be eligible for re-election if the Executive Committee so decide.
 - (ii) If he becomes incapable of managing his own affairs or physically incapable of performing the duties of an Office Bearer or member of a committee or Commission.
 - (iii) If, when not on Association business, he absents himself from three consecutive meetings of any committee or Commission without having sought prior special leave of absence from the committee of which he is a member or provided to that committee a reason for such absence which that committee finds acceptable.
 - (iv) The Club of which he is a representative ceases to be a member of the Association.
 - (vi) Other than a professional referee, if he holds any salaried or paid office under the Association, but then only during the period he holds such office.

- (vii) If he was a member of a team which has been suspended under Article 27 but only during the period that such team has been suspended. For the purposes of this sub-article, a person shall be a member of a team if his name is shown in the official team sheet or is paid for the match in respect of which the suspension is made.

- (viii) If an individual by his wilful actions puts the Association at legal or financial risk.

Article 26 - Players and Clubs

1.

- (i) The FIFA Statutes governing the status and transfer of players will have precedence over anything in these Articles in relation to, but not limited to, player registration, training compensation and contractual stability.

- (ii) Players are classified as either amateur or professional. Players who have never received any remuneration other than the reimbursement of their actual and vouched expenses incurred whilst participating in football activity are recorded as amateur. Clubs wishing to register amateur players must do so in accordance with the regulations in place with their relevant leagues.

Travel and hotel expenses incurred through involvement in a match and the costs of a player's equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed without jeopardising a player's amateur status.

Any player who has ever received remuneration in excess of the expenses and costs described in this Article in respect of participation in an activity connected with football shall be regarded as a professional unless his amateur status has been reinstated under the terms of the below.

Any player who has been registered as a professional may not be reinstated as amateur until a period of 30 days has elapsed from the day

the player competed in his last match with the Club with which he was registered as a professional.

2. A player's engagement cannot be terminated without the consent of the Association except by mutual consent of the Club and player. But a Club may terminate a player's engagement when the player fails to keep himself in good training and condition through intemperance or other misbehaviour, or otherwise fails to fulfil the terms of his contract. A player thus dismissed may appeal to the Association who shall appoint a committee or Commission to investigate the case, hear evidence if necessary, and adjudicate, and whose decision shall be final.

3.

(i) Professionals shall be registered on a form, or forms, to be supplied by the Association. Each form after all particulars have been filled in must be signed by the professional, and his signature, and that of a witness, attested. Each form shall be returned to the Association within two days from the date of signing via Special Delivery post. All agreements between Clubs and professional players must be in writing. For the purpose of this Article all forms and agreements shall be deemed to be in the hands of the Association as from the time they are posted, and the post-mark of the post office shall be conclusive evidence thereon. A player who has not reached 16 years of age shall not be registered as a professional.

(ii) Clubs may enter into agreement with and register professional players for a period not less than four weeks and not exceeding five years.

- (iii) When the agreement expires the professional player may negotiate a new agreement with his Club or if this is not possible he may negotiate an agreement with another club.
4. The Association shall subject to these Articles have power to cancel the registration of a professional at any time upon the application of the player or his club. Where the agreement between club and player does not set forth clearly and explicitly some monetary consideration per match as per week the Association will not consider the player to be a professional. A player cannot be registered as a professional until the transfer has been completed by the National Association and relevant league with which he is to be registered. A copy of the agreement between the Club and player must be given to the player when he signs the agreement.
 5. The word “play” shall be understood to mean, engage in match or competition in which the number of players a-side is more than five.
 6. A professional whose engagement has terminated, cannot play until he is registered again or has his amateur status reinstated. A Club wishing to engage the services of a professional player who is at present under contract with another Club is obliged to inform the Club and the player in writing before commencing negotiations with either of them and this may not take place more than six months prior to the expiry of the existing contract with his current club.

7. A professional shall not be allowed to serve on the Council or any other Association Committee or Commission or on the Council or Committee of any association or Club or represent his own or any other Club or any Divisional Council at any meeting of the Association or Divisional Association. The Association may however grant exemption from the operation of this Article where a professional has reacquired amateur status in accordance with Article 26.1 (ii).

8.

- (i) A professional shall only play for the club with which he is registered and shall not play for any other Club without permission of the Association, but he may play for any team in connection with the Club by which he is registered.
- (ii) A professional shall not be allowed to take part in Irish Junior Cup Competition.

9.

- (i) An amateur or professional whose last registration was held outside Northern Ireland and who has become eligible to play for a Club in Northern Ireland may not be registered with the Club unless the Association has received an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) issued by the National Association which the player wishes to leave.
- (ii) A player shall not, under any circumstances, be authorised to play in official matches for his new Club until an ITC has been received by the Association.
- (iii) Only the Association is entitled to request an ITC to enable a player to be registered in Northern Ireland.

- (iv) The ITC may not be made subject to any conditions. In particular, the validity of an ITC shall not be restricted to a certain period and any clauses to this effect appended to the certificate shall be considered null and void.
- (v) The loan of a player by one Club in one national Association to another Club in another national association is dealt with administratively like a transfer. An ITC shall therefore be issued:
 - (a) Whenever a player leaves a National Association to join another National Association to which he has been released on loan.
 - (b) Whenever, on expiry of the period of loan, a player rejoins the National Association of the Club which released him on loan.

10. Players who are nationals of a country not in membership of the European Economic Area require a work permit in order to obtain employment as a professional player within the United Kingdom.

It is the responsibility of the Club, as the employer, to determine and prove the nationality of a player in relation to this matter.

A player cannot be registered with the Association, league or club until such a work permit has been received by the club. A copy of which must be forwarded to the Association.

11. Any player having signed a professional form cannot sign another unless as provided in these Articles.

12. Any professional who considers himself in any way aggrieved by his Club may appeal to the Association, who shall act in the matter as it thinks fit.

13. Benefit matches may, under special circumstances, be sanctioned by the Executive Committee for amateur players. Benefit matches shall not be provided for amateur players unless sanctioned in writing by the Executive Committee prior to the match taking place.

Article 27 - Suspension

1. (i) In the event that a team, has been suspended from playing football then that team shall be disqualified from playing matches or fixtures under the Association during the period of suspension;
- (ii) The suspension of a team shall not of itself disqualify any player in such team from playing in other fixtures promoted by or on behalf of the Association;
- (iii) Where a person has been disqualified under Article 25 the Committee of which he was a member may appoint someone to act in his place but only during such period of disqualification, and not in any case beyond the time the member of Committee would have acted under these Articles;
- (iv) The suspension of an Organisational Member shall disqualify all its members from acting in any capacity under the Association, during the period of suspension;
- (v) A member or any honorary or paid official or employee of a Club or Organisational Member shall not, during the period of his suspension, play or take part in any match or fixture under the Association, hold any office in any Club or Organisational Member or in any capacity under the Association or attend any meeting of the Association, any Organisational Meeting or any committee of the Association;

- (vi) A player shall not during the period of his suspension, play or take part in any match or fixture under the Association, hold any office in any Club or Organisational Member, or act in any capacity under the Association.

- (vii) A Club or Organisational Member shall not during the period of its suspension have any representation at any General Meeting of the Association, or at any meetings of any Organisational Member.

- (viii) Suspensions unless automatic shall date from the Monday next following the time at which they have been imposed.

Article 28 - Records

- (i) All members of the Association must produce their books, records and documents for inspection at any time the Executive Committee may desire and if requested by the Executive Committee provide copies thereof to the Committee of the Association as the Executive Committee shall direct. The Junior Committee shall also have the same power in the case of a Junior Club. The financial transactions of a Club or Organisational Member shall be entered in their books in detail, particularly as to payments to players.

- (ii) Clubs and Organisational Members shall keep minutes of their meetings, showing names and dates of election of members and particulars of all decisions reached.

Article 29 - General Discipline

- (i) Where any person or body has breached or caused or contributed to the breach of any of the Articles of Association or brings the game of Associated Football into disrepute, the person or body so doing shall be liable to expulsion, suspension, fine and/or such other penalty or sanction as the Executive Committee may think fit.

- (ii) The Executive Committee shall be the sole judge (and shall be unfettered in its judgment) as to what brings the game of Association Football into disrepute.

Article 30 - Referees

1. Referees who wish to referee Association Football in Northern Ireland shall apply annually via the Divisional Association (as referred to in Article 4) in which they reside. Each referee shall pay an annual subscription of £10, 50% of which shall be retained by the Divisional Association registering such referee and the balance shall be forwarded by such Divisional Association to the Association. Subscriptions shall be paid to the Association no later than 1st September in each year. Referees may not be permitted to officiate in any football match played under the jurisdiction of the Association until such times as subscriptions are received by the Association.

2. Referees shall be required to satisfy the Referees Committee as to their qualifications for the post, and professional referees shall be remunerated as determined by the Executive Committee. Amateur referees shall only receive their travelling expenses. No official of any League or like organisation shall, during his term of office, be a professional referee. Professional referees shall not be eligible as players in any team during the playing season in which they have registered and shall not be eligible to represent any member at any meeting of the Association or of any Organisational Member.

- 3 In respect of breaches of the laws of Association Football, the referee shall deal with any player or players as specified within those laws and shall report such players or players to the relevant Disciplinary Authority

Article 31 - Audit

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Order at least once in every year the accounts of the Association shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure account and balance sheet ascertained by one or more properly qualified auditor or auditors;
2. Auditors shall be appointed and their duties regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Order, the Executive Committee being treated for all purposes as the directors mentioned in those provisions.
3. The accounting records of the Association shall be kept at the registered office of the Association or subject to the provisions of the Order at such other place or places as the Association shall think fit; the books of the Association shall be brought to a balance as on 31st March each year.
4. No member shall have any right of inspecting any accounting records or other books or documents of the Association except as conferred by statute or authorised by the Executive Committee or by the Association in general meeting;
5. At the Annual General Meeting in every year the Association shall in accordance with the provisions of the Order lay before such meeting an income and expenditure account for the period since the last preceding accounting reference date of the Association together with a proper balance sheet as at the same date as such account. In cases where any item of expenditure which may in fairness be distributed over several years has been incurred in any one year, the amount of any such item may be so distributed. Every such balance sheet shall be signed by the President, and the Treasurer and shall be accompanied by proper reports of the Association and of the

Association's auditors and copies of such account, balance sheet and reports all of which shall be stated in accordance with any statutory requirements for the time being in force and of any other documents required by law to be annexed or attached thereto or to accompany the same shall, not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting at which they are to be laid, be delivered or sent by post to all persons entitled to receive notices of general meetings in accordance with the Order in the manner in which notices are in terms of the Articles directed to be served.

Article 32 - Common Seal

The Association shall have a Common Seal, which shall be under the charge of the Executive Committee, and all documents bearing the seal shall be countersigned by one member of the Executive Committee and the Chief Executive.

Article 33 - Notices

1. Notices of the Association requiring authentication may be authenticated by the signature of the Chief Executive or by any other person appointed by the Executive Committee to do so.

Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to these Articles shall be in writing, except that a notice calling a meeting of any committee need not be in writing.

The signature on any notice required to be given by the Association may be typed or printed or otherwise written.

2. A notice may be served by the Association by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to the person who is to be served at its or his registered address.
3. Any notice sent by post shall be deemed to have been served on the day following that in which the envelope containing the same was posted, and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to produce a certificate by the person posting the envelope that the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed, stamped and duly posted.
4. Where a number of days' notice or notice extending over any period is required to be given, the day for which notice is given shall be included in such number of days or other period, but the day of service, i.e. the day

following that upon which the envelope containing same was posted, shall not be so included.

5. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice for any meeting of the Association by any member or any member of a Council or any committee, co-opted person or any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at such meeting.
6. A member present at any meeting of the Association shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which it was called.
7. If at any time by reason of the suspension or curtailment of postal services within the United Kingdom the Association is unable effectively to convene a general meeting by notices sent through the post, a general meeting may be convened by a notice advertised on the same date in at least one daily newspaper with circulation in Northern Ireland and such notice shall be deemed to have been duly served on all members, entitled thereto by noon on the day when the advertisement appears. In any such case the Association shall send confirmatory copies of the notice by post if at least seven days prior to the meeting the posting of notices to addresses through the United Kingdom again becomes practicable.

Article 34 - Communications

In order that the affairs of the Association may be conducted without unreasonable hindrance, any Club, member, committee member, official, player, referee or other person under the jurisdiction of the Association is required to answer a written communication from the Association promptly. Any such body or person failing to comply with the foregoing shall be liable to censure, fine or suspension, or a combination of such penalties.

Article 35 - Alteration to Articles

Any proposed Additions or Alterations to the Articles of the Association must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive of the Association, not later than March 31st in each year by the membership desiring such Additions or Alterations to be made.

Article 36 - Indemnity

1. Every Office Bearer, member of the Council or committee, co-opted person, Chief Executive or other officer or employee of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and expenses incurred by him in or about the discharge of his duties, except such as happen from his own respective wilful neglects, dishonesty or fraud.

2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any persons who are or were at any time Office Bearers, ordinary members of the Council or a Committee of the Association or Commission, co-opted person, Chief Executive or other officer or employee of the Association, or of any other company in which the Association or any of the predecessors of the Association has any interest whether direct or indirect or which is in any way allied to or associated with the Association, or of any subsidiary undertaking of the Association or of any such other company, or who are or were at any time trustees of any pension fund in which any employees of the Association or of any such other company or subsidiary undertaking are interested, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) insurance against any liability incurred by such persons in respect of any act or omission in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties and/or in the exercise or purported exercise of their powers and/or otherwise in relation to their duties, powers or offices in relation to the Association or any such other company, subsidiary undertaking or pension fund.

**NAMES & ADDRESSES AND DESCRIPTIONS
OF SUBSCRIBERS**

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ALEXANDER H. THOMPSON, of North – East Association,
27 Melrose Street, Belfast – Upholsterer

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18 University Street, Belfast – Baker

PERCY H. STEWART, of Leinster Association.
26 Gilford Avenue, Sandymount, Co. Dublin – Civil Engineer

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Dated the Fourteenth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Eight.

Witness to the above signatures:

THOMAS J CAMPBELL
of 74 Cromwell Road, Belfast – Barrister-at-law