

**CONSTITUTION OF THE MIDLAND SCHOOLBOYS/GIRLS LEAGUE  
(CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION WERE RATIFIED AT THE AGM 25-05-16)**

**Article 1 Title**

The name of the association shall be the Midland Schoolboys/Girls League (MSL), and it shall incorporate the clubs within its jurisdiction. It shall hereinafter in this constitution be referred to as "The League."

**Article 2 Affiliation**

The League shall be affiliated to The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) through the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland (SFAI) and the Women's Football Association of Ireland (WFAI).

**Article 3 Objects**

The purposes of the League shall be to promote, foster and develop the game of Association Football within its jurisdiction in accordance with the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland, the Women's Football Association of Ireland and the Football Association of Ireland, to take all steps necessary to prevent any infringements of the laws of the game and further, to prevent and eradicate any improper practices from within the game.

**(3.1)**

To provide opportunity for all Schoolboys/Girls within the Midlands to play Association Football in a disciplined safe and enjoyable environment and at the highest possible level.

**(3.2)**

The Motto of the Midland Schoolboys/Girls League shall be "Ni Nearth cur le cheile"  
(We all go forward together)

**(3.3)**

To foster and develop friendly relationships with all other youth and sport organisations.

**Article 4 Membership**

**(4.1)**

Membership of the League shall be open to any club that falls within its jurisdiction (subject to approval of Executive of League). It may from time to time, in conjunction with the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland or the Women's Football Association of Ireland, be deemed appropriate that a club situate outside but next to a geographical extremity of the League, be admitted to membership of the League.

**(4.2)**

Upon admission to the League a club, its officials, players, mentors and other representatives agree to be bound by this Constitution and by the Rules of the League, the application of which shall be deemed final subject to any avenue of Appeal which exists within the League or beyond in the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland, the Women's Football Association of Ireland and the Football Association of Ireland.

**(4.3)**

Applications for membership of the league shall be governed by the Rules of the League. Only the Executive Committee of the League is authorised to adjudicate upon the application of a club to join the League. Where the Committee accedes to an application from a club it may attach such conditions (e.g. the fixing of a bond), as it deems necessary to admission.

**(4.4)**

All Match Officials who wish to officiate at games in the MSL must participate in modular training as designed by the Referees Assessor in conjunction with the League failure on behalf of a match official to participate will result in not getting games. An application form will be provided and must be filled by match officials who wish to officiate in the MSL. A set of guidelines for match officials will be drawn up each season after consultation and will be printed and given to all match officials who wish to officiate in the MSL.

**Article 5 The League Structure**

**(5.1)**

The League shall comprise that number of divisions as are deemed appropriate so as to facilitate the orderly playing of association football throughout the entirety of the League's jurisdiction. The number of divisions and the make-up of those divisions may alter from time to time, as the Executive Committee deems best. Football will ordinarily be played on a Saturday.

**(5.2)**

Governance of the League shall lie with the member clubs exercised through an Executive Committee and a Management Committee.

**Article 6 The Executive Committee**

**(6.1)**

The day-to-day operation of the business of the League shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the League (hereinafter referred to as the Executive). The Executive shall consist of the officers. The officers shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, an Honorary Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, a Public Relations Officer (PRO), a Child Officer, a Fixtures Secretary and a Registrar all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall be known as the Officers of the League. For the purpose of continuity only Five (5) Officers of the League shall be deemed necessary to stand for election at the AGM, the remaining Officers will stand elected. This process of election will rotate alternately between the Five Officers at each AGM

**(6.2)**

There shall be a maximum of four ordinary members of the Executive, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meetings. Where there are elected less than four ordinary members, the Executive can co-opt any number of ordinary members to assist it throughout the course of a season, so long as the total number of ordinary members of the executive does not exceed four. Any member co-opted must go before the next Annual General Meeting of the League for election or must resign their position on the Executive. For the purpose of continuity only two (2) Ordinary members of the League shall be deemed necessary to stand for election at the AGM, the remaining Ordinary members will stand elected. This process of election will rotate alternately between the four Ordinary members at each AGM

**(6.3)**

The Executive may convene as often as its membership deems necessary, but shall meet on at least one occasion in each calendar month of the football season. Any Three of the Executive shall constitute a quorum. At each meeting of the Executive, the Honorary Treasurer shall present a report on the financial affairs of the League since the previous meeting.

**(6.4)**

Should any member of the Executive absent himself/herself from three successive meetings without special leave of absence or for such other reason deemed satisfactory to the Executive, he/she shall be deemed to have resigned and may be replaced in the manner set out in this Article or Article 8 as the case may be.

**(6.5)**

The Executive shall have authority to censure any Player, Mentor, Club Representative, Official or Club for an infringement of the provisions of this Constitution, the Rules of the League or the Laws of the Game. The sanctions available shall include a fine and/or a suspension and/or exclusion from a match, competition and/or League.

**(6.6)**

The Executive shall as it deems necessary, appoint a Manager/Selector and Selectors under the control of the Executive with the authority to select and manage representative teams of the League.

**(6.7)**

The Executive may establish sub-committees for the purpose of expediting its business, to include (but not be limited to) a finance committee and a disciplinary committee. Every sub-committee shall count amongst its members a member of the Executive. Each sub-committee shall appoint its own chairperson. No sub-committee may ordinarily exceed five in its number. Each sub-committee may convene as often as its membership deems necessary. A written report on each meeting of every sub-committee must be presented at the next meeting of the Executive by the chairperson of that sub-committee.

**(6.8)**

Each person sitting on the Executive shall absent himself or herself from every discussion of or vote upon any business relating to an affiliated Club with which they have or have had a direct or indirect connection.

**(6.9)**

Every member of the Executive shall be entitled to access to all documentation, books and records of the League within fourteen days of requesting same. Every member of the Executive shall be entitled to such information and explanation from any Honorary Officer or other member of the Executive as the case may be in connection with the foregoing documentation, books and records.

**(6.10)**

The Executive has sole responsibility to organise competitions (in both league, cup and shield format) within the jurisdiction of the League. Such competitions will be organised in accordance with the Rules of the League.

## **Article 7 The Management Committee**

### **(7.1)**

The Management Committee shall be comprised of the representatives of the member clubs and the Officers of the League. It shall convene on no less than four occasions throughout the course of the football season. It may be convened at any time by order of the Hon. Secretary of the League or in the Hon. Secretary's absence the Chairperson or by written request made by no less than one third plus one of the affiliated clubs, forwarded to the Honorary Secretary of the League by way of registered post. When convened by the latter method the written request shall include an agenda for the proposed meeting. The meeting shall be held within 21 days of the Honorary Secretary of the League receiving the request.

### **(7.2)**

Meetings of the Management Committee in their ordinary form will consist of a reading of minutes, a report from the League Chairman, a financial statement from the Honorary Treasurer and any other business, which may arise.

### **(7.3)**

Each affiliated club shall send its representative's two (2) to every meeting of the Management Committee. Only persons bearing the authorisation of an affiliated club are permitted to attend. No representative shall attend any meeting of the Management Committee on behalf of more than one club.

### **(7.4)**

The Executive Committee has the authority to recommend to the Management Committee the censuring of an Honorary Officer or an Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee. The Management Committee, having listened to the arguments of both sides shall make a determination upon the matter.

## **Article 8 Meetings**

### **(8.1)**

The Chairperson, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairperson or any Honorary Officer shall preside over all meetings of the League at which he/she is present and shall conduct the business in accordance with the ordinary rules of the League.

### **(8.2)**

Meetings shall be conducted in an orderly and businesslike fashion through the chair of the day. The chair of the day will be the final arbiter of all procedural matters arising by way of a vote if he/she deems necessary.

### **(8.3)**

Should the chair of any meeting within the League be unable to attend, the next available officer of the League shall assume the chair for the particular meeting in question in the following order: the Vice-Chairperson, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, the PRO, the Registrar or the Fixtures Secretary.

### **(8.4)**

Should a vacancy occur in the Office of Chairperson throughout the course of the season, the Vice-Chairperson shall fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting when he/she shall resign or face election.

**(8.5)**

Should a vacancy occur in the Office of Vice-Chairperson throughout the course of the season, the Executive shall fill the vacancy from amongst their number until the next Annual General Meeting when the person so elected shall resign or face election.

**(8.6)**

Should a vacancy occur in the Office of Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, PRO, Registrar or Fixtures Secretary throughout the course of the season, the Executive shall fill the vacancy from amongst their number until the next Annual General Meeting when the person(s) so elected shall resign or face election.

**(8.7)**

Should a vacancy occur in both the Office of Chairperson and that of Vice-Chairperson throughout the course of the season, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy of Chairperson from amongst its members. Such an appointment shall only be valid until the next Annual General Meeting when the individual(s) appointed shall resign or face election.

**(8.8)**

Where at any meeting of the League an equality of votes has been cast on a motion, the chair of the day shall have a casting vote, which shall be his/her second(2<sup>nd</sup>) vote.

**(8.9)**

Voting at meetings shall be by way of open show of hands other than voting for Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive at the Annual General Meetings and voting on Notice Motions at the Annual General Meeting and at Extraordinary General Meetings, which shall be by secret ballot.

**Article 9 The Annual General Meeting**

**(9.1)**

The Annual General Meeting of the League shall take place no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July each year.

**(9.2)**

Notification of the date of the Annual General Meeting, together with the Agenda for the meeting (to include details of all resolutions and any proposed alterations and/or additions to this Constitution and/or to the Rules of the League) must be forwarded to the Secretary of each Club by the Honorary Secretary of the League no later than fourteen days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

**(9.3)**

Each affiliated Club shall be entitled to representation at the Annual General Meeting in the form of three delegates, but no delegate may attend representing more than one Club. Each Club shall be entitled to vote pro rata as per number of affiliated teams.

1 team to 10 teams = 1 vote

11 team's to 20 teams = 2 votes

21 team's up = 3 votes

Maximum number of votes is three (3) per club.

**(9.4)**

Members of the outgoing Executive Committee shall be present at the Annual General Meeting and shall have full voting powers.

**(9.5)**

Any proposed alteration or addition to this Constitution or to the Rules of the League being deemed necessary must be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary of the League, by registered post no later than the 30th day of April of the year. It must be signed on behalf of the Club concerned by the secretary and the chairperson of that Club. The proposed alteration/addition shall not be made unless seconded from the floor of the Annual General Meeting and supported by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

**(9.6)**

The Honorary Secretary of the League shall furnish a notice of the names of all outgoing and retiring Honorary Officers of the Executive Committee to the secretary of each affiliated Club no later than the 1st day of April in each year.

**(9.7)**

Nominations for election or re-election as an Honorary Officer and/or as an Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee must be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary of the League no later than the 30th day of April in each year. Any such nomination must be endorsed by at least two officers of the nominating Club.

**(9.8)**

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (1) Read the Notice of the Meeting.
- (2) Apologies.
- (3) Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- (4) The adoption of those minutes and matters arising.
- (5) The Honorary Secretary's report.
- (6) The Fixtures Secretary's report.
- (7) The Chairperson's address.
- (8) The Honorary Treasurer's annual report to be taken and adopted.
- (9) Election of Executive positions due for election
- (10) Election of Ordinary Members due for election
- (11) Notice Motions.
- (12) Any other business.

**(9.9)**

All affiliation fees will be set at the AGM.

**Article 10 Extraordinary General Meetings**

**(10.1)**

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee of the League as it deems necessary. When convened in this manner Notice of the Meeting together with an Agenda shall be forwarded to the secretary of each affiliated club by the Honorary secretary of the League, postmarked no later than fourteen days prior to the date proposed for the Meeting.

**(10.2)**

An Extraordinary General Meeting may also be convened upon receipt by the Honorary Secretary of the League of a Requisition endorsed by the secretary of no less than one third plus one of the affiliated Clubs of the League together with a payment in the amount of € 300.00 to assist defray the costs of the proposed meeting. The Requisition must set out in unambiguous terms the business it is proposed shall be determined at the Meeting. The Meeting must take place within fourteen calendar days of the day upon which the Honorary Secretary receives the Requisition.

**(10.3)**

The business of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be:-

- (1) Read the Notice of the Meeting.
- (2) Apologies.
- (3) Discussion of and voting upon the Notice Motion(s).

**(10.4)**

Discussion and voting shall be confined to the Notice Motion(s). To be passed, a Notice Motion must have the support of two thirds of those present.

**Article 11 League Finances**

**(11.1)**

The Finances of the League shall be controlled by the Executive Committee through the good offices of the Honorary Treasurer.

**(11.2)**

The Financial year of the League shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May and end on the 30th day of April each year.

**(11.3)**

The Annual Affiliation fee shall be announced by the incoming Executive Committee and shall be defrayed by each Club with their League Application each year.

**(11.4)**

All penalties and fines incurred by Clubs, Players and/or Mentors shall be defrayed within 14 days of notification of same. In default of payment of the penalty or fine, the Club in question may forfeit fixtures. In exceptional cases only, default on such monies may lead to suspension or expulsion from the League.

**(11.5)**

The Honorary Treasurer is vested with control of the funds of the League. All monies received shall be immediately lodged to the credit of the League with its bankers.

**(11.6)**

All Bank accounts of the League shall be operated by the Chairperson, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary. Any two of the three signatories are required to operate the accounts.

**(11.7)**

The Executive Committee may operate both current and deposit accounts on behalf of the League. The day-to-day financial affairs of the League shall be operated through a current account.

**(11.8)**

All payments out must be by way of cheque countersigned by two of the three signatories referred to above after the details of the payment out have been entered onto the cheque. Exceptional items of expenditure may be paid out by way of a bank draft, but only with the prior consent of the Management Committee.

**(11.9)**

The Honorary Treasurer shall have sole responsibility for keeping a complete and accurate set of books and records, which at any given time reflect the reality of the financial position of the League. These books and records will form the basis for the Honorary Treasurers ongoing reports to the Executive Committee and the Management Committee and of the Honorary Treasurer's annual report.

**(11.10)**

The Honorary Treasurer is authorised to defray the ordinary and reasonable expenses, as determined by the Executive, incurred by members of the Executive Committee in carrying on the business of the League. Every claimant must submit to the Honorary Treasurer a record of expenditure as and when required but in any event no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June in any given year.

**Article 12 Club Records and Finances**

**(12.1)**

Every affiliated Club shall keep minutes of each meeting of its Executive Committee and of its Annual General Meeting and of any Extraordinary General Meeting. These minutes shall be retained for a minimum of three years.

**(12.2)**

The minutes will set out the date, time and venue of the meeting, the names of all who were in attendance, the agenda and shall briefly outline the business dealt with.

**(12.3)**

Every affiliated Club shall retain details of the election of its officers.

**(12.4)**

Every affiliated Club shall retain a complete set of books and records in which are noted the details of all income and expenditure of the Club throughout the course of each season.

**(12.5)**

The Financial year of every affiliated Club shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July and end on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June each year.

## **Article 13 Protests**

### **(13.1)**

All Protests shall be forwarded by registered post to the Hon. Secretary of the League and to all other interested parties no later than four days (excluding Saturday, Sunday, Bank or Public Holidays), after the date on which the fixture is played. The Notice of Protest shall be accompanied by a fee of €60 in the form of a crossed cheque, bank draft, postal or money order made payable to the M.S.L and crossed. The Notice of Protest shall set out in full the Grounds for the Protest. Should cash be submitted it would render the protest invalid.

### **(13.2)**

Counter Protests must be in writing by registered post to the League Hon. Secretary and to all other interested parties within four (4) days of receipt of protest (excluding Saturday, Sunday, Bank or Public Holiday) accompanied by a fee of €60 in the form of a crossed cheque, bank draft, postal or money order made payable to the M.S.L. Should cash be submitted it would render the counter protest invalid.

### **(13.3)**

The Honorary Secretary shall arrange for the convening of a Protest Board to hear the Protest, such hearing to take place no later than fourteen days (excluding Saturday, Sunday, Bank or Public Holidays) after receipt by the Honorary Secretary of the registered post.

### **(13.4)**

The Protest Board shall number three persons from the Executive Committee all of whom must have no direct or indirect connection with any interested party or the case in question.

### **(13.5)**

At the hearing the Protestor must produce the post office receipt for the registered letters and the details of the addresses mailed.

### **(13.6)**

Failure on the part of the Protestor to adhere to the procedure outlined above will render the Protest invalid.

### **(13.7)**

The Protest Board shall have power to grant personal hearings and to impose additional sanctions i.e. to deduct points or to award a fixture or to impose a fine where they are satisfied that a Protest is frivolous or vexatious or is lodged with the sole intention of seeking to gain an advantage on the playing pitch.

### **(13.8)**

The Honorary Secretary of the League shall notify all parties involved in a Protest of the outcome by registered post within four days of the completion of the Hearing. Where the Protest is upheld the appeal fee shall be refunded to the Protestor.

**(13.9)**

Any of the parties can appeal the decision of the League's Protest Board to the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland or the Women's Football Association of Ireland in accordance with the rules of the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland or the Women's Football Association of Ireland.

**(13.10)**

In the event of an Appeal being lodged against a decision of the League with the Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland or the Women's Football Association of Ireland, no points shall be awarded and no Cup fixtures shall be played, pending the outcome of such an Appeal.

**Article 14 Fixtures**

**(14.1)**

All fixtures played under the auspices of the League shall be played in accordance with the Rules of the League and the laws of the game.

**(14.2)**

Where a fixture, played under the auspices of the League is abandoned for whatever purpose, the Executive Committee shall have the discretion to award the fixture to either Club, direct that the fixture be replayed at a time and venue to be fixed by the Executive Committee or to direct that the result at the time of the abandonment shall stand.

**(14.3)**

When the winners of a competition run under the auspices of the League have been declared, the Executive Committee shall present them with the perpetual trophy. It is also open to the Executive Committee to present winners and runners up medals.

**(14.4)**

A winning Club shall sign a written receipt for each perpetual trophy in its possession.

**(14.5)**

An affiliated Club shall where requested so to do by the Executive Committee, place its home venue and facilities at the disposal of the League for the purpose of preparation for or the fulfilling of a representative fixture and such other fixture as to the Executive Committee shall be deemed necessary.

**(14.6)**

An affiliated Club shall when requested so to do by the Manager of a team representing the League, make available to the manager such of its players as are requested for preparation and participation in a representative fixture. Where a player so chosen (or his/her Club), without good and sufficient reason fails to comply with the arrangements of the Executive Committee in respect of representative fixtures, such failure may be adjudged by the Executive Committee to constitute misconduct or incitement to misconduct and both the player and the Club may be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of the League, as the Executive may determine.

## **Article 15 Miscellaneous**

### **(15.1)**

The Officers of the League shall for the period of their office hold all the property and income of the League in trust for the benefit of the League and its endeavours, and shall deal with same in accordance with the direction of the Management Committee.

### **(15.2)**

Where a Club wishes to leave the League for whatever reason and at whatever time, its resignation must be tendered in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the League setting out in full the grounds for the proposed resignation and enclosing full payment of any sums outstanding from that Club to the League.

### **(15.3)**

In such an event, the entire record of each team representing that Club in the League shall be expunged.

### **(15.4)**

Where a Club withdraws a team in the course of a season, the entire record of that team is expunged.

### **(15.5)**

Where a team representing the Club in question has an outstanding cup fixture, it shall be forfeit to the opposing team.

### **(15.6)**

All cup/shield and plate rules will be distributed to club's prior to commencement of said competitions.