
HAMILTON WILDCATS AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB PLAYER CONSTITUTION

Established: March 4th 2009

Revised: December 1st 2013

Article I – Name

The club will be called Hamilton Wildcats Australian Football Club, referred to hereafter as HWAFC, and will be affiliated to the Ontario Australian Football League, referred to hereafter as the OAFL.

Article II – Aims and Objectives

The HWAFC aims to create an environment that provides players the opportunity to experience and develop their understanding of Australian Rules Football in accordance with OAFL rules and guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Coordinating training, fitness and development sessions for all members
- Providing a safe and constructive environment for the above
- Providing a competent coaching staff
- Maintaining the HWAFC's financial stability
- Promoting the HWAFC within the local community
- Ensuring a duty of care to all members of the club.
- Communicating OAFL & HWAFC events, training dates and game schedules.

Article III – Membership

Membership should consist of officers and members of the club.

All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the club has adopted.

Members will be enrolled in one (1) of the three (3) categories:

1) Active Membership:

Active Members are those members who have paid their current memberships in full to the HWAFC by the deadlines established by the Board of Directors. Participation in matches scheduled by the OAFL requires Active Membership. All Active Members are required to carry out duties and requests assigned to them by the HWAFC, and are required to act in accordance with the best interests of the HWAFC in mind.

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2) Social Membership:

Social Members are those persons who are interested in supporting the HWAFC but who do not plan to take an active part in playing, coaching or running of the HWAFC. The Board of Directors shall establish fees for social memberships and accept applications where it is deemed in the best interests of the HWAFC.

3) Life Membership:

Life members are those persons who are nominated by the HWAFC Board of Directors and elected as such by a majority 2/3 vote at the AGM by all present Active Members. Nominees for Life Membership should be made out in writing and submitted to the Secretary no later than September 20th. Only three (3) nominees can be voted on at one AGM, with only one (1) Life Member being inducted each calendar year. The three (3) nominees to be presented before a vote will be decided on by the club executive based on the submitted nominations prior to the AGM. In any given year the club executive may wish to not present a Life Member nomination for voting on at the AGM, at their own discretion. Life Members shall enjoy all rights and privileges of Active Memberships.

Nominees for Life Membership must meet one (1) of the following requirements to be eligible for nomination:

- Have been an active member with the club for a minimum of 10+ years.
- Have been an active member of the club executive or subcommittee for a minimum of 6+ years.
- Have played a minimum of 100+ AFL Ontario games with the club.

Suspension and/or termination of memberships will take place if it is deemed that the best interests of the HWAFC and/or OAFL have been breached by said member. A two thirds majority vote will be required by the Board of Directors for any of the following reasons:

- Not acting in or representing the HWAFC's or OAFL's best interests.
- Inappropriate conduct that violates the objectives of the HWAFC or OAFL

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Article IV – Membership Fees

Membership fees will be set annually and determined at the Annual General Meeting.

Fees will be paid in full by: April 20th of every year unless otherwise advised by the Board of Directors.

Article V – Board of Directors

The management of the HWAFC affairs and property shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The number of Directors shall be five (5). Active Membership holders and non-member holders can be nominated and elected onto the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting held in November. All members of the Board will retire each year but will be eligible for re-appointment. Nominations for a position of the Board of Directors must be made in writing and submitted to the Secretary before October 31st.

The Directors, upon election, immediately enter the performance of their duties and shall continue in office until their successors have been duly elected.

Any member of the Board of Directors being absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the Secretary and President shall be removed from the Board of Directors at which point an emergency HWAFC meeting shall be called to elect a replacement.

The Board of Directors will be made of:

- General Manager
- President
- Vice – President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Board meetings are to be set by the President and Secretary.

For a Board meeting to take place there must be no less than four (4) Board of Directors present. If circumstances prevent fewer than four (4) Board of Directors

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being present for a scheduled meeting, the President and Secretary must reschedule the meeting to a date that's more convenient.

Article VI – Annual General Meeting

Notice of Annual General Meetings (AGM) will be given by the Club Secretary no less than 20 clear days notice to be given to all members. The agenda of the AGM shall be sent to all members no later than 10 days before set date.

The AGM shall take place no later than November 30th of every year. Voting at the AGM will be limited to Active Members and Life Members only.

There must be no fewer than ten (10) Active and Life Members present for an AGM to take place. If circumstances prevent fewer than ten (10) Active and Life Members being present for a scheduled meeting, the President and Secretary must reschedule the meeting to a date that's more convenient.

If fewer than ten (10) Active and Life Members are present on the reschedule date, the meeting shall still take place. Voting will still take place and will be assumed that absent members have declined to cast a vote.

The AGM agenda will consist of, but is not limited to the following:

- Nomination for a new Board of Directors
- Establishing Active and Social Membership fees
- Review the HWAFC's financial position
- Hear proposed amendments to the HWAFC's constitution
- Vote on Life Membership nominees

Article VII – Management Committee

Management Committee's will be called and formed when required. Instances that would require the establishment of a Management Committee include:

- Adopting new policy, code of conduct or rule that affect the organisation of the HWAFC.
- Disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the HWAFC and OAFL's rules / regulations / constitution.

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Article VIII – Finance

All HWAFC monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the HWAFC.

The appointed Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the HWAFC.

The financial year of the club will end on: December 31st

An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of the Treasurer plus up to two (2) other Board of Directors.

Article IX – Discipline and Appeals

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be submitted in writing to the Secretary.

The Management Committee will meet to hear complaints within 10 days of a complaint being lodged.

The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 5 days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Management Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 10 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

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Article X – Dissolution

A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM through a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership.

In the event of dissolution, any assets of the club that remain will become the property of the OAFL or alternative club identified by the HWAFC Board of Directors.

Article XI – Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by two-third (2/3) majority vote at an Annual General Meeting. All amendments to the constitution must be made in writing and submitted to the HWAFC Secretary no later than 10 days before the AGM agenda is sent out.

Article XII – Declaration

Hamilton Wildcats Australian Football Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Name: Tim Wilson
Position: HWAFC President

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: Steph Nicoll
Position: HWAFC Secretary

Signed: _____

Date: _____