



GFA GENERAL REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

These Regulations were originally adopted by the Ordinary Congress of the Ghana Football Association on 12th May, 2006.

Subsequently, amendments to the Regulations have been made and adopted by the GFA Congress on 11th October, 2007, 6th May, 2008, 28th October, 2008, 19th January, 2009, 27th August, 2009, 18th August, 2010, December 2011, September 2012 and August 2013.

Further revisions have been made to these Regulations in conformity with the applicable Rules of FIFA.

ARTICLE 1: TITLE

These Regulations shall be known as the Ghana Football Association (GFA) General Regulations, and shall be applicable to all domestic football matches.

ARTICLE 2: CONTROL OF FOOTBALL

The control and management of football in the country shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the GFA.

ARTICLE 3: LAWS OF THE GAME

Each Member of FIFA shall play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game as issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB). Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the laws of the Game.

ARTICLE 4: APPROVED COMPETITIONS AND MATCHES

All affiliated clubs in the various leagues are obliged by the Statutes of the Association to take part in competitions organized by the GFA.

The approved competitions and matches in which clubs must participate include:

- a. Premier and Reserve League
- b. Division One League
- c. GHALCA Top 4 Tournament
- d. F. A. Cup Competition
- e. Regional Leagues – Second Division
- f. 3rd and 4th Division Leagues – Lower Division
- g. Juvenile Leagues
- h. Women’s Football Leagues
- i. Friendly Matches (Domestic and International)
- j. Gala
- k. The Super Cup
- l. Zonal and other Middle Leagues
- m. Football Academies’ League
- n. Any other competition and matches organised or approved

ARTICLE 5: FORBIDDEN MATCHES

Each member has an obligation not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with non-recognized entities such as non-affiliated clubs, third parties or with members that have been suspended or expelled.

ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

1. Anybody or persons interested in the organization of a football league or competition in Ghana shall apply to the GFA to become an affiliate member. The present affiliated members are:
 - (a) Security Services Sports Association

- (b) Tertiary Institutions Sports Association
 - (c) Schools and Colleges Sports Association
2. For the avoidance of doubt no match shall be played nor shall a competition be organized by an affiliated member unless such a match or competition has been sanctioned by the GFA and the appropriate fee paid.
 3. Clubs registered with the GFA directly or as affiliate members shall not organize any competition nor play matches against any other Ghanaian club or clubs registered with any other National Football Associations without the prior approval and consent of the GFA. No individual or organization shall organise a match or tournament involving Ghanaian clubs without prior approval by the GFA.
 4. A club wishing to play against a club registered with the GFA or another National Association shall apply for approval at least seven (7) days before the match, except where the Emergency Committee of the GFA otherwise decides.
 5. The GFA, may, at its discretion, sanction a match arranged at shorter notice.

ARTICLE 7: FOOTBALL SEASON

1. The football season shall cover a period of ten (10) months starting from August to May. The GFA Executive Committee may for good cause extend or shorten the period. It shall have the power to suspend the league temporarily or abridge it.
2. There shall be a close season, which shall be defined as the period between 1st - 31st June, inclusive each year, save where the GFA makes an order to the contrary, or in competitions organised by FIFA, CAF, WAFU or the Ghana League Clubs Association.

3. Any club that engages in an off-season match without written permission of the Association shall be liable to a fine of not less than One Hundred Ghana Cedis (Gh¢100.00) for the first offence. A repetition shall attract a suspension of the club from GFA organised matches.
4. The Premier League Board (PLB), Division One League Board (DOLB) and the Regional Football Associations shall each, within the limit laid down by the Ghana Football Association determine the length of its own playing calendar.

ARTICLE 8: PREMIER AND RESERVE LEAGUE

- 1.a) The Premier Division League shall be opened to a maximum of 16 Clubs which have registered with the Premier League Board (PLB) to participate in that league. All Premier League Clubs shall be incorporated as companies limited by either shares or guarantee and licensed in accordance with the GFA Club Licensing Regulations.
- (b) Every Premier League Club shall register not more than fifty (50) players at least twenty (20) of whom shall be below the age of 20 years who will participate in a separate Reserve League but can also participate in the Premier League.
- (c) A Reserve League Player shall not be more than twenty (20) years old by 1st January in the year of the respective competition.
- (d) A Premier League Club may use a maximum of three (3) players who are more than 20 years for any reserve league match.
- (e) Notwithstanding any provision in these Regulations on the Reserve League, the Executive committee of the GFA shall have power to determine in which football seasons the Reserve league shall be played and the maximum age limit of the players to play in the Reserve League.**
- (f) Articles 8(1)(b) and 8(1)(c) above notwithstanding, in the football season in which the Reserve League is not played, all Premier League Clubs shall register not more than thirty(30) players of any ages who will participate in the Premier League.**

2. Premier League Clubs shall submit audited accounts and documents on incorporation of clubs as companies either limited by shares or guarantee to the Association. The audited accounts for the year preceding the just ended league season shall be submitted before the commencement of the new league season.
- 3.a) At the end of the competition the last three clubs on the League table shall be automatically demoted to the Division One League. The Champion club from each of the three Zones shall be promoted to replace the demoted clubs in the Premier League.
- (b) The rankings of the Reserve League shall not affect demotions and promotions with respect to the Premier League table.
- (c) The participation of the Reserve Team in subsequent Premier League Competitions shall depend on the position and status of the club on the Premier League table.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, a Reserve Team is automatically relegated or demoted together with its Premier team.
- (e) Any goals scored by a Club and its players in the Reserve League shall not be applicable to the Premier League.
4. There shall be first and second rounds of all leagues on Home and Away basis except for special leagues which may have their own regulations.
5. The Club which has scored the highest number of points at the end of the league or other competition (s) of the Football Association shall be declared the champion. If two or more teams obtain the same number of points at the end of the competition, their ranking shall be determined as follows and in the stated order:
 - (a) Greater number of points obtained in matches between the clubs concerned during the competition.
 - (b) Goal difference resulting from the match (es) between the teams

concerned.

(c) Greater number of goals scored in the match (es) between the teams concerned.

(d) Greater number of goals scored away from home in matches between the teams concerned.

In the event there is still a tie after the application of all the above, the GFA shall organize a play-off between / or amongst the teams concerned at a neutral ground.

6. The GFA shall present the championship cup to the League Champion which shall keep it for one football season. The club shall be responsible for the upkeep and return of the cup to the Association not later than 30 days or 4 matches to the end of the season.

7. The Premier League Cup shall always remain the property of the GFA. However, a replica cup shall be provided to any club which wins that particular cup three times.

8. The rule on determination of the Champion of the league applies to all rankings including relegation.

9. This rule applies to all league competitions organised by the Ghana Football Association.

10. All cautions received in the Zonal League which did not result to an automatic suspension shall not be carried into the Middle League.

ARTICLE 9: THE F. A. CUP

1. **The F. A. Cup Competition shall be controlled, managed and governed by the FA Cup Regulations approved and adopted by the GFA Congress and the articles of general application of the GFA Regulations, the Statutes of the GFA, the GFA Disciplinary Code and any other Regulation of the Ghana Football Association.**

ARTICLE 10: THE SUPER CUP

1. The Super Cup match shall be played at the beginning of the next football season and shall be between the League and F. A. Cup Champions.
2. The Champion of the Premier Division League and the Champion of the FA Cup competition, if not one and the same club, shall play a straight knockout match and the winner shall be declared the Super Champion. In the event of the League Champion being the same as the FA Cup Champion, that club shall be declared the automatic Champion of Champions. The GFA Executive Committee may, however, organise a ceremonial match between the club and either the runners-up in the league or F. A. Cup for the purpose of awarding the Trophy.

ARTICLE 11: TROPHIES

1. The holder of any of the Association's trophies shall be responsible for its up-keep and return to the GFA in good condition.
2. Where the trophy is lost or damaged from any cause, the club shall in addition to any penalty, which the GFA may impose, pay to the Association, the replacement value of the cup.

ARTICLE 12: FIXTURES

1. Fixtures for the Premier, Reserve and Division One Leagues shall be arranged by the Premier League Board (PLB) and Division One League Board (DOLB)

respectively whilst those for the Regional and District Leagues shall be done by the Regional and District Football Associations respectively.

ARTICLE 13: POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

1. Request for the postponement of a match (es) shall not be granted by the GFA except on the ground of force majeure or some other sufficient cause.
2. Where a match is postponed or abandoned on the grounds of bad weather or other sufficient cause, it shall be replayed within 24 hours of the scheduled date, unless the GFA determines otherwise.
3. Where the GFA sanctions the postponement of a match for a club engaged in an international match outside Ghana, the postponed match shall be played within 72 hours not being earlier than 24 hours after the return of the Club to Ghana or on a date to be determined by the GFA.
4. Where a club has contributed three (3) players or more to the National Team "A" or 5 or more players in any combination of the National Team 'A', U-23, U-20 or U-17 the club may request for postponement of its match and the postponed match shall be rescheduled by the GFA.

ARTICLE 14: WITHDRAWAL OF CLUBS FROM COMPETITIONS/MATCHES

1. It shall be misconduct for a club to withdraw from a competition after the competition has started without just cause.
2. Any club intending to withdraw from any competition must give notice of its intention to do so to the GFA not later than eight (8) days before the commencement of the competition. Should a club fail to comply with this rule the Association shall have the power to compel such offending club to refund any expenses incurred and take such further action as it may deem fit.
3. **Without prejudice to any provision in these Regulations, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to take appropriate disciplinary decision, including but not limited to an imposition of a ban or a demotion against**

any club which withdraws from a competition or fails to honour any match without just cause and may also impose a ban on its officials from taking part in football activities for a specified period.

4. A club failing to give satisfactory reason for scratching or withdrawing without first obtaining the consent of the Association, shall not be allowed to enter the competition the following season.
5. The GFA shall expunge from the competition any points and / or goals build-up in respect of matches played with a club that withdraws from the competition after the competition has started.
6. A club that fails to honour a sanctioned friendly match shall be fined Gh¢500.00, Gh¢250.00 and Gh¢125.00 for Premier, First and Second/ Lower Division Clubs respectively and in addition, be banned from playing friendly matches (both local and international) for a period of six (6) months commencing from the date of the match the club failed to honour. Fifty percent (50%) of the fine shall be paid to the opposing team. In addition where the defaulting club is playing home, it shall pay the cost of transportation of the opposing club.
7. If a club makes preparations towards a match and the match is cancelled by the organizers, the latter shall pay to the club (s) GH¢125.00 as compensation. Where the club proves to the GFA that the money expended is more than GH¢125.00, the GFA shall order the organizers to pay the difference. In this sub paragraph, friendly match includes GALA and other promotional matches.

ARTICLE 15: VENUE

- 1.(a) A place shall not be used as venue for league matches unless it has been approved by the GFA to be used as such.

 - (b) The GFA shall not approve a venue to be used for the Division One League matches unless the venue has metal inner perimeter fencing. (which has been erected to prevent the fans from either attacking the match officials, the players or disrupting the game).

 - (c) The GFA shall transfer a club from its home venue to another venue to play its matches where the GFA is satisfied that the home venue has no metal inner perimeter fencing, (to protect the match officials, players etc. and to prevent supporters from invading the field of play).
2. The GFA may order the closure of any league centre where the safety of clubs, match officials or spectators cannot be guaranteed.

 3. In all other cases, where it becomes necessary for a club to play away from its registered home centre, the GFA shall have the discretion to decide where any such match (es) shall be played.

ARTICLE 16: PLAYER LICENCE

1. Team managers or captains of the clubs participating in any official match sanctioned by the association shall always take with them to the football field player license of participating players duly issued by the Ghana Football Association.
2. The Referee, the Assistant Referees and the Captains of the two clubs shall inspect the player licenses before the commencement of each match.
3. A match shall be played even if the player(s) license (s) is/are not available for inspection. In such a case a group photograph of the Referee, the Captain of the opposing side and the player(s) concerned shall be taken and submitted to the GFA Secretariat within three (3) days of the match either by the Match Commissioner or the affected club(s).
4. Where the taking of a photograph is not possible, the finger prints or signature of the player(s) the captain of the opposing club and the referee shall be taken and attached to the Match Commissioner's Report and submitted to the GFA Secretariat within 72 hours of the match either by the Match Commissioner or the affected club(s).
- 5(a) Failure to produce player(s) license (s) for inspection before the commencement of the match except where the GFA itself retains the player(s) license for a specific purpose shall attract a fine of Gh¢250.00, Gh¢125.00 and Gh¢75.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively.
- (b) Where the defaulting team fails to produce the license of the player(s) concerned within the stipulated three (3) days, the defaulting team shall be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee of the GFA.**
- (c) At the inspection of player(s), licence(s) where there is a protest concerning the

regularity of the registration of any player, the Match Commissioner shall take control of the Player(s) Licence(s) and submit it / them to the GFA with his official report. Any club that fails to submit the card to the Match Commissioner shall be fined as follows:

- (i) Premier - GH¢2000.00
- (ii) Division One - GH¢1000.00
- (iii) Lower Division Clubs - GH¢500.00

ARTICLE 17: STRIP

- 1(a) Each club shall register with the GFA OFFICIAL and RESERVE strips in distinct colours on forms prescribed by the GFA before the commencement of each season. In addition the club shall submit to the FA an exact pictorial replica of the registered strips, showing the front and back. Clubs shall appear in their official strip in all official matches.
- b. In the event of a clash between the visiting team's official strip and the home team's official strip the former shall change to its Reserve Strip or combination of the official and Reserve strips.
 - c. Every visiting team shall carry in addition to the official strip for every away match its Reserve strip.
 - d. Where the clash affects the goalkeeper's strip and the outfield players' strip the goalkeeper shall change to an alternative strip. Any clash occurring between the two goalkeepers the away team goalkeeper shall change.
 - e. The changing of strips within the season shall not be allowed.
 - f. The logo of the title sponsor (if any) of the leagues shall appear on each sleeve of the shirts of both official and Reserve strips.
 - g. The Regular and Reserve teams shall appear in the same strip in all official matches.
 - h. The PLB/DOLB or the Regional Leagues as the case may be shall publish a register of all club strips for circulation to all stakeholders before the commencement of the leagues.
 - i. The Referees and Assistant Referees shall appear in strips quite distinct from those of the teams.

2. Any Club which contravenes clause (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this article shall be liable to a fine of Gh¢500.00, Gh¢250.00 and Gh¢125.00 for Premier, First and Second/Lower Division Clubs respectively.
3. **Any team delaying the kick-off due to its reluctance to change its strip in the event of clash of strip shall be fined GH¢10,000.00 GH¢7,500.00 and GH¢5,000.00 for Premier, First and Second/Lower Division Clubs respectively.**
4. Any club that fails to present its duly registered strip at pre-match meeting shall be liable to a fine of Gh¢1,250.00, Gh¢750,000 and Gh¢250.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively.
5. The player's number must be displayed on the back of each shirt. The number must be between 25 (twenty-five) centimeters in height, clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. Additionally, the number must be entirely visible when the player's shirt is tucked in to the shorts. The player's number must also appear on the front of the shorts, positioned on either leg. The number must be between 10 (ten) centimeters and 15 (fifteen) centimeters in height and clearly legible. In the case of the Premier League the numbering shall begin from 1 and end at 50. The number 1 shall be exclusively reserved for a goalkeeper.
6. A club that fails to comply with the dimensions stated in Clause 5 above shall be fined as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|
| (i) Premier | - | Gh¢2000.00 |
| (ii) Division One | - | Gh¢1000.00 |
| (iii) Second and Lower Divisions | - | Gh¢ 500.00 |

ARTICLE 18: FOOTBALLS

Footballs used in all official matches must conform to the laws of the game. They shall be provided by the GFA. In the case of lower

Division Leagues, any ball that conforms nearly to the laws of the game may be used with the consent of the officiating referee.

ARTICLE 19: REFEREE / MATCH COMMISSIONER

1. No person shall officiate as Referee, Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner in any competition or match under the jurisdiction of the Association, unless appointed by the Association or by a person or body duly authorized by the GFA.
2. The GFA shall be responsible for selecting those who shall act as Referee, Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner in all competitions under its jurisdiction.
3. At the commencement of the football season, the GFA shall make up a list of Referees and Match Commissioners as the Association shall deem fit. In order to ensure that there are enough qualified persons to be appointed to officiate in all matches under its jurisdiction, the Association may co-operate with such bodies as the Referees Association of Ghana in the recruitment, training and qualification of Referees.
4. No person against whom disciplinary action has been taken or is pending shall be appointed to officiate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the Association. Where the disciplinary action results in sanctions, the disqualification herein contained shall cease to apply as soon as the sanction has been served.
5. For the avoidance of doubt the power to suspend or remove a person from the list of persons qualified to officiate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the association is reserved exclusively to the Association.
6. **A Referee or Match Commissioner may appeal to the GFA against a decision that imposes upon him a penalty, punishment or other disciplinary action (including removal from the GFA's list of registered referees). Such an appeal must be lodged with the GFA within three (3) days from the date of the communication of the decision.**

The appeal shall be accompanied by a fee of GH¢150.00. It shall be heard by the GFA's Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

7. Referees and Match Commissioners shall attend disciplinary hearings when called upon to do so. Disciplinary action shall be taken against those who fail to attend hearings without just cause.

8. A qualified Referee, other than the officiating Referee and Assistants, shall be appointed in each match as fourth referee.

His duties shall be:-

To take the place of the officiating referee or any of the assistant referees who either through absence, indisposition or other cause, may retire in the course of the game.

9. A Match Commissioner designated by the GFA shall be present at each match.

His duties shall be:

(a) To chair the Pre-match Technical meeting.

(b) To observe the match in all its aspects: performance of the Referee, behaviour of the spectators, control and organization, etc.

(c) To attend the pre-match formalities in the dressing room and note any protests made. He may, if he deems it necessary, go back to the dressing room during half-time or after the match.

(d) To submit a detailed report within 48 hours after the match to the GFA Secretariat. This report may later be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee, if it becomes necessary.

(e) The Match Commissioner may, if he deems it necessary for the security of the Referee or the visiting team decide not to have the match played until his instructions are carried out, but once the match is started, it is exclusively the

prerogative of the Referee to suspend or end the match for any of the reasons in Law 5 of the Laws of the Game.

10. The GFA may appoint a Match Observer or Referees Assessor to observe any match and report on it. This report shall be considered together with other match reports by the appropriate sanctioning bodies.

ARTICLE 20: ABSENCE OF A MATCH COMMISSIONER/REFEREE

1. In the absence of the appointed Match Commissioner, the referee acts.
- 2(a) Where the Referee and/or one or both of the Assistant Referees do not show up, the Regional Football Association shall arrange for alternative officials from the GFA-approved list. Such officials shall be appointed from outside the home team's base.
- (b) Where it is not possible to appoint such alternative officials on the match day,
the match shall be postponed and played the next day.
3. Any official (s) who fails to report for a match without reasonable notice, shall be liable to serve sanctions which may include striking of his/their name(s) from the referee's list.

ARTICLE 21: MATCH REPORT FORM

1. The GFA shall provide Match Report forms for Match Observers, Referees
and the Match Commissioners and Match Substitution forms for the Referees.
2. Before the start of any official game, the names of seven (7) officials and eleven
(11) players, in addition to the 7 reserve players (3 of whom may be called upon to play as substitutes), shall be registered on the match forms. In friendly matches, the number of substitutes shall be negotiated between the two teams. The Referee must be made aware of the number agreed upon before the start of the game.

ARTICLE 22: MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORT

- 1(a) Referees and Match Commissioners shall complete and send reports to the GFA within forty-eight (48) hours from the end of the match.**

 - (b) In the case of the Premier League, the Division One League, the FA Cup and the Elite Cup, the Referee and the Match Commissioners shall transmit their reports by e-mail or through any approved electronic medium and in any approved electronic format where possible to the GFA Secretariat within two (2) hours from the end of the match.**
2. The original report should in all cases be submitted to the GFA Secretariat within 48 hours of the end of the match. Failure to do so shall lead to the Match Official forfeiting his/her allowance in the first instance. If a match official repeatedly submits his report late he shall be banned for one (1) year.

ARTICLE 23: KICK-OFF

1. Unless otherwise directed by the GFA:

- (a) Matches of the Premier Division and Division One Clubs shall kick-off at times to be decided by the Premier League Board or the Division One League Board and teams shall report to the Match Officials in the dressing rooms or such places as may be determined by the Match Officials at least Sixty (60) minutes before kick-off time.

The match day countdown shall be as follows:

MATCH DAY COUNTDOWN

- (1a) i. Arrival of the Commissioner and Cameramen - 1hr.30mins.
- ii. Arrival of the Referees/Assistant Referees, teams meet up with officials to co-ordinate release of line up forms - 1 hour
- iii. Line up forms to be handed out to teams - 55mins.
- iv. Collection of completed line up forms - 45mins.
- v. Team's warm-up on the pitch - 40 to 20mins.
- vi. Final inspection of the pitch - 18mins.
- vii. Welcome announcement of the team line up by the announcer - 15mins.
- viii. Teams wait at the tunnel ready to come unto the pitch - 10mins.
- ix. Check on players' equipment - 10mins.
- x. Entry of the teams onto the pitch - 8mins.
- xi. Team photographs - 5mins.
- xii. Toss of coin - 2mins.

(b) A breach of any of 1(a) shall attract a fine of Gh¢1,250.00, Gh¢750.00 and

Gh¢500.00 for Premier, First Division and Lower Division Clubs respectively.

(c) Where no dressing rooms are available the Match Commissioner shall decide the place where the pre-match formalities shall be conducted.

(d) The kick-off time for the Reserve League match shall be 12:30 pm. with a duration of 40 minutes for each half. Any match preceding the Premier Division shall end by 2:15 pm. prompt.

2. Regional and District Associations shall determine when matches organised by them shall start.

3(a) The Pre-match technical meeting shall start at 10:00am and end at 11:00am. For the avoidance of doubt, any club that reports after 10:00am. shall be considered late. A club shall be deemed to be absent if it reports later than 11:00am when the meeting had ended.

A club that reports late for a pre-match technical meeting shall be liable to a fine of Gh¢125.00, Gh¢50.00 and Gh¢25.00 for Premier, First Division and Lower Divisions Clubs respectively.

(b) A club that fails to attend a pre-match technical meeting without reasonable excuse shall be liable to a fine of Gh¢250.00, Gh¢125.00 and Gh¢50.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively.

(c) Without prejudice to the authority of the Association to invoke any of the disciplinary measures provided under these regulations against the offending team (s);

(i) A referee shall declare the end of a match if one or both clubs fail to appear on the pitch after 30 minutes of kick-off time.

(ii) Where both teams fail to appear, the match shall be deemed to have been played with neither side earning any point. In addition, both teams shall lose 3 points from their accumulated points. Further, the GFA shall impose a fine of Gh¢125.00, Gh¢75.00, Gh¢25.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively.

4 (a) The players accompanied by not more than seven (7) officials of each club,

whose names shall be registered on the match sheet, shall come out of the dressing rooms preceded by the match officials. The referee, the assistant referees, and the 22 competing players shall then proceed directly on to the pitch for the commencement of the game while the Match Commissioner, club officials and the substitute players proceed to their respective sitting places.

(b) It shall be misconduct for a club, player or club official to use an unauthorized entrance to get to the stadium or playing field. It is also misconduct when the home team prevents the away team from using the approved entrance into the stadium.

(c) A club, player or official who contravenes clause 4 (b) shall pay a fine of Gh¢750.00, Gh¢250.00 and Gh¢125.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively. A repetition of this offence during a league season shall attract a fine of Gh¢2,000.00, Gh¢1,000.00 and Gh¢500.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively.

5. Any extra personnel on a club's bench shall be removed and the offending club shall pay a fine of Gh¢250.00, Gh¢125.00 and Gh¢75.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively.

ARTICLE 24: DURATION OF MATCHES

1. Each match shall last 90 minutes, two (2) periods of 45 minutes each with an

interval of not more than 15 minutes. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other sufficient cause.

2. The Referee is the sole judge of time including time lost through accident or other sufficient cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to protest or appeal.
3. At the end of the first half, the referee and the assistant referees shall follow all the players off the field.
4. In the case of juvenile matches, the National Juvenile Committee shall determine the duration of the match, size and dimension of the field and size and weight of the ball.

ARTICLE 25: AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

1. Players participating in Organised Football are either Amateurs or Professionals.
2. A Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other players are considered as Amateurs.
3. A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an Amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.
4. No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of Amateur Status. If a player re-registers as a professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an Amateur, his new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with Article 20 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
5. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and Amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the Association of their last club for a period of 30 months.
6. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an official match.

ARTICLE 26: REGISTRATION - GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1.(a) The National Secretariat shall keep registers and data bases in which the names

and birth dates and other particulars of all players for each club shall be recorded.

- (b) A player must be registered with a club as either a Professional or an Amateur in accordance with the provision of Article 2 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA, CAF and the GFA.
- (c) All clubs shall ensure that their total number of registered players does not exceed a number to be determined by the GFA in consultation with the clubs from time to time.
- (d) Each Regional Association shall determine the number of players to be registered by the clubs for its competitions.
- (e) In registering players, full names (Surnames and Other names) shall be given. Incomplete or nick names shall not be accepted. After registration the association shall be notified of any changes, and in any event not later than fourteen (14) days from the date the license was issued.**

2a. Each club shall be given an online account by the IT Department of the GFA for online registration for each player and official for the Premier, Division One, Division Two, Division Three, Women and Juvenile League Clubs.

- (b) Clubs registering players shall pay processing fees as determined by the GFA.
 - (c) The application for registration of a Professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract. It shall be at the discretion of the relevant decision-making body to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.
- 3.(a) If a player who has not been registered with the Association appears for a club in any official match, that player will be considered as having played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and / or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in

principle with the Association or the organizer of the competition concerned.

- (b) A player shall only be registered for one club at a time.
- (c) The Ghana Football Association is obliged to provide the club for which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club (s) for which the player has been registered since the season of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player shall be listed in the player passport for the club for which he was registered in the season following his birthday.
- (d) Players may be registered with a maximum of three (3) clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to association with overlapping seasons (i.e. Start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods (Article 6 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players) as well as to the minimum length of a contract (Article 18, paragraph 2, of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players) must be respected.
- (e) A club shall be deemed to be the bona fide holder of the registration of a player only upon receipt of his registration license duly issued by the GFA. The player license is the property of the Association being held in trust by the clubs. The GFA shall have the right to withdraw or recall the license when the need arises.**
- (f) Players may only be registered subject to the exception provided for in Article 6 paragraph 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Article 28 (1) of the GFA General Regulations) if an application from the club is validly submitted during a registration period.

- (g) The provision concerning Registration Periods do not apply to competitions in which only Amateurs participate. For such competition (s), the GFA shall specify the periods when players may be registered, provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.
- 4. Under all circumstances due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.

ARTICLE 27: REGISTRATION, DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PLAYERS

1. Registration of players (s) for different categories shall be in accordance with the requirement of Art. 26 (2) (a) and (b). Additionally the following procedures shall apply.

(a) Old/Renewal of Players (Amateur or Professionals)

(i) Player's license (old registration card) after the expiration of contract.

(ii) Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.

(iii) Contract where applicable

(iv) Medical Certificate

(b) New players (on transfer - Amateur or Professional):

(i) Players license from the releasing club

(ii) A transfer agreement between the old and the new clubs duly signed by authorized officials.

(iii) Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.

(iv) A contract between the player and the club duly signed by both parties where applicable.

(v) Medical Certificate

(c) New players (players who have never previously registered for any club or those from a nursery club of the registering club).

(i) Players license where applicable.

(ii) A letter of release addressed to the GFA where applicable with explicit instructions as stated in 1(b) (ii) above.

(iii) Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.

- (iv) Contract (Professionals only)
- (v) Medical Certificate
- (vi) A legal document indicating that he has never before registered for any other club.**

(d) **Loan players (Professional):**

A club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer the player to a third club without the written authorization of the club that released the player on loan and of the player concerned.

- (i) Player's License from the transferor.
- (ii) Loan agreement between the old and new clubs duly signed by authorized officials of the two clubs and the player

(iii) Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.

(e) Juvenile Clubs cannot loan their players to higher division clubs.

(f) **Foreign Players**

- (i) International Transfer Certificate
- (ii) Photocopy of passport showing work permit
- (iii) Photocopy of passport showing resident permit
- (iv) Contract (where applicable)
- (v) Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.**
- (vi) Medical Certificate

(g) **Refugee Players**

(i) Letter from the Refugee Board indicating that the said player is a refugee from a particular country.

(ii) The player shall apply to the Players' Status Committee for issuance of Provisional International Transfer Certificate for his registration.

(iii) **Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.**

(iv) Refugee Players shall not be registered as Professionals.

(h) **Free Agent Players**

(i) Letter from the GFA Players Status Committee indicating that the said player is a free agent.

(ii) A contract between the player and the club duly signed by both parties (where applicable)

(iii) **Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.**

(iv) Medical Certificate.

(v) **Proof of last contract end date signed by the former club of the player with the name and title and designation of the official and/or a Free Agent letter from the Players' Status Committee.**

(i) **Ghana Player from Outside Ghana**

(i). International Transfer Certificate
(ii). Contract between the player and the club duly signed by both parties (where applicable)

(iii). Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.

(iv). Medical Certificate

2. (a). Under the provisions of these Regulations, the loan of a player by one club to another constitutes a transfer. Clubs may loan a player(s) during the football season based on the following conditions:

(i) Club shall register a maximum of five (5) loaned players.

(ii) A club may loan a player (s) to another club by mutual agreement for minimum period between two registration periods provided that not more than five (5) players had been loaned to a club within the two registration periods.

(iii) A professional may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between him and the club concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as apply to the transfer of Professional Players, including the provisions on training compensation and solidarity mechanism.

(iv) On the expiry of the loan period, the player reverts automatically to its mother club and the GFA is obliged to issue a new registration card upon receipt of the original loan agreement.

(v) Subject to Article 26 (3) (d), the minimum loan period shall be the time between two registration periods.

(b) Lost License:

The following shall be required for a new license to be issued:

(i) Police Extract.

(ii) Legal document

(iii) Written application on the club's letter head addressed to the General Secretary.

(iv) Payment of a fee of GH¢100.00

(c) Damaged License:

The following shall be required for a new license to be issued:

(i) Return of the damaged license.

(ii) Written application on the club's letter head addressed to the General Secretary.

(iii) Payment of a fee of GH¢100.00

(3) A non-Ghanaian player shall only be registered after satisfying the requirements of paragraph (1f) of this Article.

(4a) An amateur player's registration with a club shall be valid for one (1) football season whilst that of a professional player shall be valid for the duration of the contract which shall be for a minimum period of one (1) season and a maximum period of Five (5) years.

b. A player who has not attained his 18th birthday can only register as a professional for a maximum of 3 years.

c. All players shall be registered anew every season.

d. A player shall not be registered anew or issued with a new license where a Club renews or extends the term of a player whose contract has expired in the course of a league season. For the avoidance of doubt, a player so affected shall continue to use his or her player license for the remainder of the season.

(5) Clubs may register a maximum of five (5) non-Ghanaian nationals but not more than three (3) can participate in any one match.

(6) Responsibility for the truthfulness of information on player's license lies on the clubs and not on the GFA.

- (7) Clubs that operate an academy with legal, financial or de facto links to the clubs are obliged to report all minors, who attend the academy to the association upon whose territory the academy operates.
- (8) Each Association is obliged to ensure that all academies without legal, financial or de facto links to a club;
 - (a) run a club that participates in the relevant national championship, all players shall be reported to the association upon whose territory the academy operates, or registered with the club itself, or
 - (b) report all minors who attend the academy, for the purpose of training to the association upon whose territory the academy operates.
- (9) Each association shall keep a register comprising the names and dates of birth of the minors that have been reported to it by the clubs or academies.
- (10) Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practice football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organized football.
- (11) Any violation of the above-mentioned clause will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- (12) Subject to Article 26 (3) (d), the minimum loan period shall be the time between two registration periods.
- (13) Article 33(8), (9) and (11) shall also apply to the reporting of all minor players who are not a national of the country in which they wish to be reported.

ARTICLE 28: REGISTRATION PERIODS

1. Players may only be registered during one of the two annual Registration

Periods fixed by the Association. As an exception to this rule, a Professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside that registration period. Associations are authorized to register such professionals provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. Where a contract has been terminated with just cause, FIFA may take provisional measures in order to avoid abuse, subject to Article 22 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

(a) The first registration period shall begin after the completion of the season and shall normally end before the new season starts. This period may not

exceed twelve weeks. The second registration period shall normally occur in the middle of the season and may not exceed four weeks.

The two

registration periods for the season shall be entered into the Transfer

Matching System (TMS) at least 12 months before they come into force

(CF Annex 3, article 5 (1) paragraph 1 of the FIFA Regulation on the

Status and Transfer of Players). FIFA shall determine the dates for any

association that fails to communicate them on time.

(b) The GFA shall publish the list of all players registered by all clubs.

(c) All clubs have five (5) days after the close of registration to challenge the registration of a player suspected to have been registered illegally, where illegal registration means a player who has a running contract with a club and has registered for another club without the knowledge of the mother club. A complaint about any player concerning a change in identity or data may be challenged at any time by any club by sending the complaint and evidence to

the GFA Prosecutor for investigation and prosecution before the GFA Disciplinary Committee.

- (d) The Second Registration Period shall begin four (4) weeks to the end of the 1st round.–
- (e) In respect of the second registration period, three (3) days shall be allowed for publication of the list of players registered and additional three (3) days for verification after which every player shall be deemed to have been duly registered unless such registration of any player has been validly challenged within the period stated above.
- (2) Players may only be registered subject to the exception provided for in article 6 paragraph 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players upon submission of a valid application from the club to the relevant association during a registration period.
- (3) The provisions concerning registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate. The relevant association shall specify the period when players may be registered for such competitions provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

ARTICLE 29: UNQUALIFIED PLAYER

1. An unqualified player is:
- (a) Any player not registered at an association who appears for a club in any official match. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the Club. The right to

impose such sanctions lies in principle with the association
or the
organizer of the competition concerned.

(b) A player suspended by the GFA from participating in football
competitions
indefinitely or for a specific period.

**(c) A player banned from participating in GFA
competitions by GFA, WAFU, CAF or FIFA.**

(d) A player who has registered for more than one club or with
any club
registered with another National Association.

**(e) A player who has received a caution in three
separate official matches of the GFA and has not
missed the next official match (i.e. a match in the
League, the FA Cup or the Elite Cup competitions).**

**(f) A player who has received a direct red card in a
match and has not missed the required number of
matches and/or paid the related fine.**

**(g) A player who has received two cautions in the
same match and has not missed the next match
and/or paid the related fine.**

2.(a) An unqualified player shall not take part in any competition
organised by the Association.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt, a player shall not be deemed to have
been fielded in a match unless he actually played in the match.

(c) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision of
this Article, the Association shall in all cases locate and punish
the guilty party/parties. In the event of the player being the sole
guilty party, the results of the match which he played shall stand.

- (d) A player guilty of double or multiple registrations shall be suspended from participating in matches and competitions organised by the GFA for a period of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 30: CONTRACTS

1. Every player designated as a Professional player under these regulations shall have a written contract with the club employing him.
2. Every club shall, on registering a player with the Association, deposit with the Association any Contract Agreement it has entered into with the player.
3. No contract to play for a club shall be recognized by the Association, unless

a copy of such a contract has been duly deposited with the Association in compliance with this Article.
4. The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years.
Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognized.
5. Copies of all documents of employment exchanged between the club on the one part, and any player, official or other employee of the club on the other part shall be deposited with the Association and all such document shall specify that, that person is directly under the disciplinary control of the club and of the Association.
6. Any dispute arising out of any contract shall as far as possible, be resolved by the Players' Status Committee of the GFA.

7. Any club which fails to comply with clause (2) of this Article shall be liable to a fine of GH¢125.00 per player.
8. If an agent is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he shall be named in that contract.
9. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to successful medical examination and/or the granting of a work permit.
10. If a Professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Chapter IV of FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players shall apply.
11. No club shall enter into a contract which enables any other party to that contract or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer related matters, its independence, its policies or the performance of its terms.
12. The GFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe that obligations set out in this Article.

ARTICLE 31: RESIGNATIONS, WITHDRAWALS, SUSPENSIONS AND DISMISSAL

- 1.(a) Any amateur player may leave his club after one (1) football season. The new club which subsequently engages the services of the player shall pay a development fee as determined by the GFA
- (b) A player under contract shall not leave his club without fulfilling his obligation to his club under the terms of his contract, unless the player is discharged from further performance of his obligations by consent of the player and his club or the contract is rescinded by one party or the other for valid reasons.
- 2.(a) A club may release or withdraw any of its players during one of the registration periods.
- (b) A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during the course of a season.
- 3.(a) For good reasons, a player may be suspended or dismissed by his club. The club shall not suspend a player for more than six (6) months at a time. A dismissed player shall be free to register for

any club in the next registration period without the payment of transfer fee.

- (b) A player suspended shall not be eligible for transfer within the period of suspension.
- 4. A club shall at any time during the season notify the Association of the suspension, release, resignation, withdrawal or dismissal of any of its players.

ARTICLE 32: **FREE AGENT**

A player shall be deemed to be a free agent if he has been so declared by the Player Status Committee (PSC) on any of the following grounds:

- 1.(a) If he is suspended by his club for a continuous period of more than six (6) months; or
 - (b) If, he has for a full league season not been registered by any club; or
 - (c) At the end of his contract with his present club the contract has not been renewed by his club.
 - d) In the case of amateur players who have served their one (1) season and have not been re-registered by their clubs.
 - (e) Any other ground which in the opinion of PSC justifies such declaration.
- 2. A player wishing to apply for a free agent status shall in addition to the application duly signed by him/her, pay a processing fee of Gh¢200.00, Gh¢150.00 and Gh¢100.00 for Premier, First and Second/Lower Division Clubs respectively. For the avoidance of doubt no other matter (s) regarding the Status or eligibility of a player shall be entertained unless the appropriate processing fee has been paid.
 - 3. Without prejudice to the right of his club to training compensation, a free agent shall be eligible for registration without the payment of compensation for breach of contract.
 - 4. Juvenile players do not float until after three (3) seasons after graduating from their juvenile clubs.

5. The GFA Players' Status Committee, the Disciplinary Committee or the Dispute Resolution Committee (as the case may be) shall not address any dispute under these Regulations if more than two (2) years have elapsed from the event giving rise to the dispute.
6. For the purpose of service, the proper address of a club/player(s) on whom a document of invitation is to be served by the GFA shall be the address provided by the Petitioner.

ARTICLE 33: TRANSFERS

1. Transfer negotiations shall, in accordance with FIFA Regulations, involve three(3) parties, the player, the club he wishes to leave and the new club he intends to join.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, movement of players shall be in accordance with prevailing FIFA regulations, which include the following:
 - (i) A club intending to conclude a contract with a professional must inform his current club in writing before entering into negotiations with that professional. A Professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or will expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions. Any violation shall attract a fine of not less than Gh¢5,000.00 and not more than Gh ¢30,000.00.
 - (ii) If a professional player concludes a contract with a new club his former club shall be entitled to compensation for his training and/or development.
 - (iii) If a professional player concludes a contract with a new club which he joins as a professional player his former club shall be entitled to compensation for his development.
 - (iv) If an amateur player is transferred to another club and maintains the same amateur status there, his former club shall be entitled to compensation for his training.

- (v) If the player's former club considers it is entitled to compensation for development under the terms of (iii) above, it shall file its claim with the GFA within three (3) months from the date of the player turning professional. In the event that the new club defaults its payment at that point the player shall be considered ineligible to participate in any official match of the GFA.
 - (vi) Where there is a dispute between a player and his club or between two clubs over the player's intention to leave his current club, the new registration of such a player shall be suspended until the dispute is resolved by the Players' Status Committee of the GFA.
3. Payment of training and player development fees shall be negotiated by the parties. Where the parties are unable to reach any agreement as to the training / development fees the matter shall be referred to the GFA Dispute Resolution Committee. The Committee's decision shall be final.
 4. A club may make a valid agreement with any of its players waiving its right to compensation for training and development due it under the terms of these regulations, such a waiver, must be in writing to be valid.
 - 5.(a) Negotiations for the transfer of a player registered with the GFA to a club belonging to another National Association shall be conducted between the Ghanaian club, the Foreign club and the player. The GFA should be notified of the result of the negotiation to enable the Association to comply with the FIFA regulations.
 - (b) The GFA shall not interfere with negotiation and the process of transferring a player from a member club to a club belonging to another National Association provided that:-

- (i) The player has met his contractual obligations to his mother or current club whichever is applicable: clubs may transfer any number of players within the season.
 - (ii) The contract with the player contains a clause which obliges his new club to release the player to honour, a call by the GFA to play for a national team in accordance with FIFA's Regulations with respect to the number of releases per year and time allowed for training.
- (c) Ten (10) percent of all training and transfer fees in respect of external transfers, shall be paid into a Football Development Fund as follows:
 - (i) Five (5) percent shall be paid to the GFA
 - (ii) Five (5) percent shall be paid to the Ghana League Clubs Association (GHALCA). Where the player involved is a Juvenile, GHALCA's 5 percent share shall be paid to the National Juvenile Committee.
- 6. An International Transfer Certificate shall be issued whenever an amateur player leaves to join another National Association to which he has been released or loaned.
- 7. The outright transfer of a player(s) currently registered with any club or clubs under the jurisdiction of the GFA to a club of another Association, shall follow the under-mentioned procedure:
 - (a) The player and his club shall complete and sign a GFA "cancelled by mutual consent" form to annul the player's registration with the club and the GFA.
 - (b) The Player(s) License shall be sent to the GFA.
 - (c) The player (s) must complete and sign a GFA questionnaire requesting the issuance of an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) in his name to the national association to which his prospective club belongs.

- (d) A copy of the transfer agreement duly signed by the two (2) clubs, must be submitted together with the afore-mentioned document to the GFA General Secretary or through the TMS.
 - (e) The transfer agreement must contain indications as to when the payment of the agreed transfer compensation is due
 - (f) The issuance of an International Transfer Certificate shall be contingent upon the satisfaction of the conditions stated above, except where the GFA has a good reason to vary them.
8. International transfer of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.
9. The following three exceptions to this rule apply;
- (a) The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football.
 - (b) The transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) and the player is aged between 18. In this case, the new club must fulfill the following minimum obligations.
 - (i) It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards.
 - (ii) It shall guarantee the player an academic and / or school and / or vocational education and / or training which will allow the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease playing professional football.
 - (iii) It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standard with a host family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club, etc.)

- (iv) It shall on registration of such a player, provide the relevant association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations.
 - (c) The player lives no further than 50 km. from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighboring association is also within 50 km. of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100 km. in such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.
10. The conditions of this Article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club and is not a national of the country in which he wished to be registered for the first time.
 11. Every international transfer according to paragraph 9 and every first registration according to paragraph 10 of this article is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wished to register the player. The former association shall be given the opportunity to submit its position. The sub-committee's approval shall be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate, and / or a first registration. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code in addition to the association that failed to apply to the sub-committee, sanction may also be imposed on the former association for issuing an International Transfer Certificate without the approval of the sub-committee, as well as on the clubs that reached an agreement for the transfer of a minor.
 12. The procedures for applying to the sub-committee for a first registration and an international transfer of a minor are contained in Annex 2 of the FIFA Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players.

ARTICLE 34: FORFEITURE OF MATCHES

1. A team commits an offence punishable by forfeiture of a match where:

(a) that team walks off the field of play; or refuses to continue play

(b) that team positions itself in such a way as to render the progress of the game impossible; or the player (s) or supporter (s) of the team initiates an act responsible for the abrupt end of the match: or

(c) the team's lateness without just cause, renders continuation of the match impossible or renders it impossible for the match to travel the full 90 minutes; or

(d) it fields more than five (5) loaned players in a match; or

(e) it fields an unqualified player(s); or

(f) it fails to report for or fails to honour a match without just cause; or

(g) it plays with another team a match which has been declared non competitive or the results have been found to be pre-determined or fixed ;
or

(h) as a premier league club it fails to submit its audited accounts for the year preceding the just ended league season before the commencement of the new league season; or

(i) it plays in a strip that is not registered with the Association in an official match; or

(j) it plays in a strip that is not presented to the match officials before the start of the match; or

(k) as a premier league club, it fails to put up a functional office in place and inform the Association of the location, telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address of the said office before the commencement of the league season.

2. In respect of offences (a) to (e), no matter what the scores shall be at the time
Of the offence or at the end of the match, the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly 3 points and 3 goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team, unless the innocent team is leading by a margin of more than 3 goals at the time of the offence or when the match comes to an end, in which case the scores will stand.
3. In respect of offence (f) the offending team shall be considered as having lost the
match and accordingly 3 points and 3 goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team.
- 4.(a) In respect of offence (h) the offending team shall be considered as having lost
the match and accordingly three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team. In addition the defaulting club shall lose three (3) points and three (3) goals from the club's accumulated points, notwithstanding whether or not a has accumulated points. For the avoidance of doubt it is possible for a club to have a negative points build up. The team shall lose its subsequent matches if it fails to comply with the provision stated therein.
- (b) In respect of offence (i) and (j) the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team. In addition the offending club shall lose three (3) points and three (3) goals from the clubs accumulated points, notwithstanding whether or not a club has accumulated points. For the avoidance of doubt it is possible for a club to have a negative points build up.
- 5.(a) In addition to the sanctions provided in paragraphs 2 and 3 above in respect of offences (a) to (e) and (f) respectively, the following sanctions shall apply;

In the case of a league match the defaulting club shall lose 3 points from the club's accumulated points from other previous matches. In respect of Premier League, the club shall be fined Gh ₵5,000.00, 50% of which shall go to the opposing club. And where

the defaulting club is playing at home the transportation expenses of the opposing club shall also be paid by the defaulting club. For DOL the fine shall be Gh¢2,500.00 and in case of Second Division and Lower Division Clubs Gh¢1,250.00 and Gh¢625.00 respectively. 50% of which shall go to the opposing club.

(b) In the F.A. Competition, the defaulting club shall pay a fine of Gh¢1000.00, Gh¢500.00 and Gh¢250.00 for Premier, First and Second / Lower Division Clubs respectively. 50% of which shall go to the opposing club. The F.A. shall determine the cost of transportation. The opposing club shall qualify to play in the subsequent round of the competition.

6. In addition to the sanctions under paragraph 4 (b) above the following sanctions shall also apply.

(a) In respect of 34 (1) (i), the offending club shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Gh¢2000.00, Gh¢1000.00, Gh¢500.00 and Gh¢250.00 for Premier, Division One, Division Two and Third Division club respectively.

(b) In respect of 34 (1) (j), the offending club shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Gh¢3000.00, Gh¢1,500.00, Gh¢750.00 and Gh¢350.00 for Premier, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively.

7. For the avoidance of doubt, a team shall forfeit a match under this Article 37(1) in consequence of a protest duly filed within the time limited for filing of protests under these regulations.

8. In respect of offence 34(g) the match shall be declared null and void and

Three (3) points shall be deducted from the accumulated points of the offending club(s).

9. Where each of the two clubs commits an offence that is punishable by the forfeiture of the match, the match shall be considered as having been played but with neither side being credited with any point, no matter what the score shall be at the end of the match.

10. Unless otherwise stated, on the forfeiture of a match by club, the innocent team shall be awarded 3 points and 3 goals.
11. Notwithstanding any provision in this Article or in any other Article in these Regulations and notwithstanding whether or not a club shall have accumulated points the GFA shall deduct three points against the offending club. For the avoidance of doubt, it shall be possible for a club to have a negative points build-up.
12. In respect of offences 34 (l) (a), (b) and (c) the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match.
13. **BURDEN OF PROOF**
 - a. **The burden of proof regarding protest between clubs rest on the protesting club and in the case of a charge by the Prosecutor, the burden rest with the Prosecution.**
 - b. In the case of unqualified player in the sense of Article 29(1a) the burden of proof shall be incumbent on the protesting club.
 - c. In the case of an anti-doping rule violation, it is incumbent upon the suspect to produce the proof necessary to reduce or cancel a sanction. For sanctions to be reduced, the suspect must also prove how the prohibited substance entered his body.

ARTICLE 35: OFFENCES BY GFA, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, MEMBERS AND PLAYERS

1. A club official, player or member of a club who:-
 - (a) Interferes with the progress of a match; or-
 - (b) Incites players against other players or match officials against their ruling
or encourages an unhealthy demonstration in whatever form commits an offence and shall be liable to a fine to be determined by the GFA
Disciplinary Committee or banned from attending matches played under the jurisdiction of the GFA for such period as the GFA Disciplinary

Committee may determine.

- (c) a club or club official, player(s) or supporter (s) of a club who prevents the video coverage of a match by accredited F. A. officials shall be liable to a fine not below Gh¢1,250.00, Gh¢750.00 and Gh¢500.00 for Premier, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively.
2. Misconduct towards a match official away from the field of play where that misconduct can be related or traced to a match shall be dealt with as if it has been committed on the field of play.
 - 3.a. The sprinkling of water, powder or other concoctions in liquid or solid form in or around the field of play, including the dressing room, is forbidden and shall be punishable by a fine of Gh¢500.00, Gh¢250.00 and Gh¢125.00 for Premier, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively.
 - b. Throwing of sachet water, plastic bottles and other object onto the field of play shall attract the sanctions in paragraph 3(a) above.
 - c. Using abusive language against match officials before and after matches which did not attract expulsion shall be sanctioned as in paragraph 3(a) above.
 4. The Association shall hold clubs responsible for the misconduct of their supporters before, during and after a match.
 5. (a) Any GFA/Club official, or member, player who instigates, commands counsels, solicits, procures, or in any manner purposely aids, facilitates, encourages or promotes the playing of a fixed match or a match of convenience, involving his club, or involving other clubs, the result of which may in one way or the other, affect his club, commits a grievous offence and the offender shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions.

- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, it shall be a misconduct for any GFA Member, Club official or a player to offer or attempt to offer either directly or indirectly any consideration whatsoever to another club, or player or to any match official with a view to influencing the result of any match or for any club to play a match in a non-competitive spirit. For the purpose of this rule, the determination of the competitiveness or otherwise of a match shall be for the GFA Disciplinary Committee.
 - (c) A fixed match or a match of convenience means a match the result of which has been pre-determined by two clubs/teams and therefore in the view of the GFA Disciplinary Committee is devoid of its competitiveness.
 - (d) Whenever the GFA or its Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that a fixed match or match of convenience has taken place between two clubs, the Committee shall in addition to the sanctions provided under Article 34 (9) of these regulations, impose any of or a combination of any of the following sanctions on any club, official, member or player involving in the arrangement, preparation and/or playing of the fixed match, or match of convenience:
 - (i) A ban, either indefinitely or for a specific period.
 - (ii) A fine to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
6. The fate of any member of the Executive Committee of the GFA who is adjudged to have misconducted himself under this Article shall be subject to discussion and decision by the Executive Committee.
7. In addition to matters referred to in any other rule, it shall be misconduct if a club, Director, official, Referee, Assistant Referee, or Player or member is proved to have done or permitted or assisted any of the following to be done.
- (a) Violation of the Laws of the Game or rules and regulations of the Association or any other Association affiliated to FIFA.
 - (b) Play with or against any suspended player or appoint as a Director, Official, Referee or any disqualified or suspended person.
 - (c) Continue in office as a Director, official, referee while under

disqualification or suspension.

- (d) Commit any offensive act not provided for in above or made any offensive statement either verbally or in writing or is responsible for any conduct or any matter which is in the opinion of the Association ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.
8. Any club, Director, Official, Referee, Assistant Referee, Player or Member charged with any act of violence or misconduct under this Article shall be furnished with details in writing of such act of violence or misconduct at least three (3) days before the date the Club, Director, Officials, Referee, Assistant Referee, Player or member is requested to appear before the Disciplinary Committee or any special Committee set up for that purpose of answering charges(s) relating to the act of violence or misconduct. A letter delivered to the accredited representative of a club or any official of the club shall be deemed to have been served on the club or official or player thereof.
9. Misconduct and violence shall be defined in accordance with Article 39 (7a).
10. In case a group of people are involved in violence, and it is not possible to identify the instigator(s), the Disciplinary Committee will sanction the captain and the club to which the aggressors belong. The person sanctioned may be reprieved by naming the guilty person(s) to the Disciplinary Committee.
11. An official of a club, a player, Referee, Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin will be subject to match suspension for at least five matches. The Disciplinary Committee shall also pronounce a ban on his entering the confines of any stadium and also impose a fine of at least Gh¢250.00.
12. Anyone who during football related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a suspension of at least six matches.

- (a) If the perpetrator is an official, the Disciplinary Committee will pronounce a ban on him performing any football related activity for a period of at least twelve (12) months.
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee may also pronounce a fine of at least Gh¢1,250.00.
13. Anyone who offers promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of the Ghana Football Association a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate GFA Regulations shall be sanctioned:
- (a) With a fine of at least Gh¢1,250.00
- (b) With a ban of performing any football related activity and
- (b) With a ban on entering any stadium.
14. Anyone who conspires to distort the result of a match in a manner incompatible with sporting ethics will be sanctioned with a match suspension and a minimum of GH¢1,250.00 fine. The Disciplinary Committee will also pronounce a ban on performing any football related activity, in serious cases the person shall be fined at least GH¢2,500.00.
15. Without prejudice to Article 68 (4.6) and 69(3.6) of the Statutes, the GFA through its appropriate bodies, shall have the authority to apply pecuniary sanctions as provided for under these Regulations without reference to the Disciplinary Committee.

ARTICLE 36: DOPING

Doping is strictly prohibited. The use of doping substances shall be severely punished and the FA shall have the right to carry out anti-doping control/test at any time, before, during recess and after a match and those found positive shall receive not less than one (1) year ban in the first instance. A repetition shall attract a ban for life.

ARTICLE 37: PROTESTS, APPEALS AND REVIEWS

- 1. All Protests in respect of inter-club matches shall be forwarded in writing directly to the General Secretary of the GFA not later than three (3) days from the end of the match concerned.**

2. For the purpose of computation of time in these Regulations, Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays shall not be counted.
3. Such protest shall be accompanied by a protest fee of GH ₵250.00, GH₵125.00 and GH₵62.50 for Premier, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively.
- 4. It shall be the responsibility of the GFA to serve all disciplinary processes, protests and statements of defence on the appropriate parties either by hand or electronically through the official email of the parties and/or through fax on the same day the process is received by the GFA Secretariat.**
5. Any protest not accompanied by the appropriate protest fee shall not be entertained.
- 6. A protest on the Match Report Form shall be confirmed by a Protest Form sent directly to the GFA within the stipulated time, namely three (3) days from the end of the match. The Protest Form shall be accompanied by evidence of payment of the appropriate protest fee.**
- 7.a) All protests shall be filed on appropriate forms to be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Association and District Football Association.
- (b) Any club(s), official(s) or player(s) who file(s) a protest in accordance with Article 37 (1) of the Regulations within the time stipulated for such protest and pays the appropriate fee in accordance with Article 37 (3) of the Regulation shall be required to provide to the General Secretary of the Ghana Football Association, the grounds of the protest and Statement of Case together with all documentary evidence relevant to the case, citing the relevant provision in the Regulations and/or Statutes. A copy of the said Statement of Case shall be served on the Club(s), official(s) or player(s) against whom the protest is lodged.

- 8.a) The Club(s), official(s) or player(s) against whom a protest is lodged and who wishes to defend the said protest shall within three (3) days excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays of being notified or served with a copy of the Written grounds and Statement of Case file a Statement of Defence with the General Secretary of the Ghana Football Association and copies to the protesting club(s), official(s) or player(s).
- (b) Filing of Statement of Defence shall be made on appropriate forms to be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
- 9.a) Upon receipt of a Statement of Defence the protesting Club(s), Official(s) or Player(s), may within three (3) working days thereof file a Reply with the General Secretary of GFA with copies of the same served on the Club(s), Official(s) or Player(s) against whom the protest is lodged.
- (b) Filing of a Reply to a Statement of Defence shall be made on appropriate forms to be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
- 10.a After the periods set for filing of the Statement of Case, Statement of Defence and for cases where a reply is filed, the Disciplinary Committee shall consider all the Statements of the parties and deliver its judgement within five (5) days after the last day for filing a Statement of Defence or Reply as the case may be.**
- (b) The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based on the statement and/or evidence filed by the parties. However, if in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee further evidence is required to assist in the determination of the case, the Disciplinary Committee may take such**

evidence before delivery of its decision. In such cases, the Disciplinary Committee will be required to deliver its judgement within five (5) days after taking any such further evidence.

- (c) The Disciplinary Committee shall consider the merits of a case and deliver its decision in any given case, even if a party fails, neglects or refuses to file a Statement of Defence or Reply within the stipulated time.**
- (d) All Club(s), official(s) and player(s) agree that their right to a hearing before the judicial organs and Players Status Committee of the Ghana Football Association are expressed by filing of a Statement of Case, Statement of Defence, a Reply and any further evidence given before the said bodies. Accordingly, representations made through their Statements shall be deemed final and conclusive of the factual and legal basis of their cases.
- (e) The procedures laid down for cases before the Disciplinary Committee shall where appropriate apply to the Appeals Committee, Ethics Committee and Players' Status Committee.
- (f) Appropriate forms for filing of Appeal shall be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
- (g) Appropriate forms for filing Statement of Defence on an appeal shall be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
- (h) Appropriate forms for filling of a Reply to a Statement of Defence on an appeal shall be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
- (i) Appropriate forms for filing of an Application for Review shall be purchased at the offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
- (j) Appropriate forms for filing Statement of Defence on an Application for Review shall be purchased at the offices of the

Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.

- (k) Appropriate forms for filing of a Reply to a Statement of Defence on an Application for Review shall be purchased at the Offices of the Ghana Football Association, Regional Football Associations and District Football Associations.
11. Any club, official or player who is dissatisfied or aggrieved by a decision of the Disciplinary Committee, Ethics Committee or the Players' Status Committee of the GFA may appeal against such decision within three (3) days of being notified in writing.
12. Appeals from the Disciplinary Committee and Ethics Committee shall attract a fee of Gh¢500.00, Gh¢200.00 and Gh¢100.00 for Premier/Licensed Player Agent, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively. The fee shall be paid at the time of filing the appeal. Appeals from the Player's Status Committee shall attract a fee of Gh¢300.00, Gh¢200.00, and Gh¢150.00 in the case of Premier, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively.
13. a. The decision of the Appeals Committee in any matter shall be final provided that the Appeals Committee shall have power to review its own decision either suo moto or on application by an aggrieved club, official or player.
- (b) An application for review shall be accompanied by a fee of Gh¢750.00 and Gh¢500.00 for Premier and First Division Clubs respectively.
- 14. The Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Players' Status Committee and the Ethics Committee may communicate their decision directly to the clubs, officials or players concerned at their sitting. The GFA shall immediately communicate in writing the Committee's decision to the parties involved when ready.**
15. The Appeals Committee shall have no power to entertain an application for review unless such application is lodged with the GFA Secretariat not later than three (3) days after the decision

has been communicated in writing to the club, official or player. The Appeals Committee shall have no power to review its own decision after three (3) days.

16. Where the Disciplinary Committee/Appeals Committee is satisfied that a protest/appeal is frivolous the Committee shall dismiss it and may impose the necessary fine and/or costs.

17.(a) An appeal to the GFA Appeals Committee does not operate as Stay of Execution.

17(b) An application for a Stay of Execution shall be filed within three (3) days after being notified in writing of the decision being appealed against and shall be filed by an Application Letter addressed to the General Secretary indicating the reasons in support of the application.

17(c) An application for a Stay of Execution shall operate as a stay of the decision being appealed against until or unless the Committee whose decision is being appealed against may otherwise order.

17(d) Any application for a Stay of Execution shall be heard by the Committee after the aggrieved party had paid the appropriate fee of GH¢250.00, GH¢150.00 and GH¢75.00 in the case of Premier, First and Second/Lower Division clubs respectively.

17(e) A repeat of an application for a Stay of Execution on appeal shall be heard by the Appeals Committee after the aggrieved party had paid the appropriate fee of GH¢300.00 GH¢200.00 and GH¢150.00 in the case of Premier, First and Lower Division Clubs respectively.

18. The decisions of the Regional Football Associations Disciplinary Committee shall be communicated to the clubs, club officials or players concerned and where a club official or player feels aggrieved by the decision of the RFA, it may appeal to the National Association, which shall refer the appeal to its Disciplinary Committee whose decision shall be final.

19. All official correspondence including but not limited to daily and weekly information updates, fines, debts, costs, notices, invitations, decisions, communiqués and any other information of the Association, its bodies, its Organs, its committees or the Secretariat shall be deemed to have been duly served on a club, its officers, players, supporters, agents, representatives or whoever described, if the service of the said correspondence is communicated to the Club or the Club Secretary or the Club owner, or the Club Representatives submitted to the GFA through its fax, e-mail address, postal address, or delivery of a hard copy thereof or is made or published through the GFA newspaper or newsletter or other national newspapers, the GFA website or announced through any radio station or television station or posted on the GFA notice board.

ARTICLE 38: JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRMEN OF JUDICIAL BODIES

SITTING ALONE

- 1a. If an infringement appears to have been committed and a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough, the Chairman of the judicial body may, in emergencies, provisionally pronounce, alter or revoke a sanction.
- b. In similar circumstances, he may take other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.
- c. He will take action upon request or ex-officio
2. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:
 - a. suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to two months;
 - b. pronounce a fine to be determined by the GFA;
 - c. rule on extending a sanction;
 - d. settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee;
 - e. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures under the Article 39 (1).
3. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee may take the following decisions alone:

- a. decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction;
- b. resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeals Committee;
- c. rule an appeal against provisional decisions passed by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee;
- d. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures under Article 39(1).

ARTICLE 39: PUNISHMENT

1. Where the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that there has been misconduct by a Player, a club official, a Referee, an Assistant Referee or a Match Commissioner, the Committee may order such person:
 - (a) To be suspended from all or any specific football matches or competitions either indefinitely or for a stated period.
 - (b) To be fined, either with or without suspension and any such fine shall be paid within 14 days.
 - (c) To be reprimanded or cautioned.
 - (d) To close the venue of the club either permanently or for a stated period.
2. An indefinite suspension ordered by the Committee may be reviewed after a period of six (6) months. An application for such review shall be made to the General Secretary of the Association.
3. The Disciplinary Committee may:
 - (a) Order a guilty club to pay such part or percentage of its net gate proceeds to the GFA as it deems fit.
 - (b) Order the forfeiture of part or whole of the officiating match official's remuneration for indecision, incompetence or misconduct; or
 - (c) Recommend the removal of the name of a Referee or Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner from the Association's list of Match Officials.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the punishment recommended herein are the minimum that may be ordered for a first offence and that the punishment may be increased in accordance with the gravity of the offence. Where, however the same player is guilty of repeated acts of misconduct,

whether at one and the same time or at different times, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose a severer sanction.

5. (a) Without prejudice to the powers of the Disciplinary Committee, a player cautioned by a referee for:
- (i) foul play; or
 - (ii) criticism of the referee's decision; or
 - (iii) making derogatory remarks concerning other players; or
 - (iv) temporarily leaving the field of play without the express permission of the referee; or
 - (v) any other offence on the field of play,

shall be informed in writing by the GFA for a first and second offence; he shall be automatically suspended from taking part in the next official match for any other subsequent offence.

(b)(i) In this section "next official match" means a match in either the league or the FA Cup or the Elite Cup competitions. It is hereby declared, for the avoidance of doubt, that cautions received in the three (3) competitions shall be counted as though they were received in one (1) competition and a player who receives caution as in sub-paragraph (5)(a)(i-v) above either in one (1) competition or two (2) or all three (3) competitions (the League, the FA Cup or the Elite Cup) shall be liable to a suspension of one (1) match.

- (ii) Cautions given in special competition shall be applicable to those competitions only.
- (iii) In the case of the Division One and Regional Leagues, cautions given in the Zonal Leagues shall not be carried over to the Middle Leagues.

6.(a) A player sent off the field of play for:

(i) insulting other players or spectators, or match officials; or

(ii) serious foul play; or

(iii) repeated complaints against the referee's decision

(iv) Repeated unsporting conduct despite previous cautions shall attract suspension from two consecutive matches including the match in which he was sent off the field and shall in addition pay a fine of Gh¢125.00 for Premier Division, Gh¢100.00 for Division One and Gh¢62.50 for Division Two and other Lower Division Clubs.

- (b) A player expelled by the referee for molesting a match official, violence against another player or spectator shall be suspended from taking part in four consecutive matches including the match in which the player was sent off and in addition pay a fine of Gh¢250.00, Gh¢200.00 and Gh¢100.00 for Premier Division, Division One and Lower Division Clubs respectively. For a repetition of the same offence he shall be suspended for the rest of the football season and shall in addition be fined Gh¢375.00, Gh¢300.00 and Gh¢150.00 for Premier Division, Division One and Lower Division, respectively.
- (c) A player expelled by the referee for violence against a match official or against whom a charge of violence has been established shall be suspended for a period of twelve (12) months beginning from the date of expulsion, or from the date when the charge of violence was established and for repetition of the same offence the player shall forever not be qualified for registration as a player. In this connection, spitting at the referee is regarded as an assault.
- (d) Expulsion received in special competitions shall be carried over to the league and FA cup competitions as though the expulsion was suffered in either the league or FA Cup Competition, provided that the suspension for four (4) matches shall not have been fully served in the special competition.

(e) Any yellow card received by a player(s) during match(es) of the Reserve League shall not apply to the Premier League matches played by the same player(s). However, red cards received in the Reserve League shall apply to the Premier League and vice-versa.

7. (a) Misconduct shall mean threat of death or harm or improper or ungentlemanly behaviour or any act that has the effect of putting the game of football into disrepute.

(b) Violence includes assault and battery but shall not include assault without battery which for purpose of these regulations shall constitute misconduct.

8.(a) All fines applicable to the Premier League shall apply to the FA Cup and the Elite Club Cup for the same offence but shall apply to the Reserve League at 50% for the same offences.

(b) Without prejudice to any provision in these Regulations to the contrary, a club shall pay all fines, costs, debts imposed on it by the GFA or the Judiciary bodies of the GFA not later than 14 days excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays after such fines or costs have been communicated to it in writing by the Association on the GFA website, the GFA notice board, GFA newspaper, GFA newsletter, National Newspaper and/or through the GFA email to the official emails of the Club.

(c) All Clubs shall furnish the GFA or the competitions organising Bodies and Committees with their official representatives or officials and their official contact details before the commencement of each season including but not limited to the Club's official email address, telephone numbers, fax number and postal address.

(c) A Club that fails to pay its fines, costs and debts on or before the stipulated due date shall automatically forfeit its subsequent matches until such time the fines and/or costs are fully paid.

(e) Mode of payment of costs, fines and other debts orders from statutory bodies of the GFA shall be by cash or by Bankers Draft. Accordingly, Clubs shall not be allowed to tie such payment to sponsors funds or any other source.

(f) The Association through the Premier League Board, the F.A Cup Committee, the Division One League Board, the Regional Football Association or any match organising body shall automatically implement the sanction herein; however any Club dissatisfied with the sanction may appeal the decision within three(3) days to the Appeals Committee of the Association.

9.a. Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions are stored in the central computer system of the GFA. The General Secretary or his representative confirms them in writing to the club concerned.

b. This communication serves only as confirmation: sanctions (caution, expulsions, automatic suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the club concerned later or not.

ARTICLE 40: ASSOCIATION'S CONTROL OVER CLUBS, FOOTBALL INSTITUTION/JURISDICTION OVER OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS

1.(a) Subject to these regulation, the Association shall have among others financial, disciplinary and constitutional control over its members.

(b) Every club shall keep proper books of account in which shall be entered all receipts and payment. Every club shall file a copy of duly audited accounts with the Association as stipulated in Article 8 (2).

(c) All books and vouchers for at least two (2) financial years preceding the current season shall be retained by the club and be ready for production whenever required by the Association.

(d) The Association reserves the right to cause an investigation into the financial management of any club or at the invitation of a recognized authority or body within the club.

- (e) The Association reserves the right to suspend, disqualify, expel, impose a fine, a ban or otherwise punish or deal with any club management, body or member on grounds of mismanagement of clubs finances.
 - (f) Where the Association deems that matters have arisen which, if not investigated are likely to bring the game of football into disrepute or which are likely to cause the collapse of a club, shall take such steps (including suspension) as necessary to restore order in the affairs of the club.
- 2.(a) Every club shall deposit a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and/or constitution and other constitutional documents with the Association. Once deposited, the Association shall be notified of changes or amendments within fourteen (14) days of their having been effected. Such documents shall clearly specify the officers of the club and their powers. Where there are different levels of authority, the document shall specify the ranking and the powers of respective levels of authority.
- (b) Before the commencement of each football season, each club shall register all the names of its shareholders, directors, management members, other office holders, staff members and all other persons associated with the club in any capacity whatsoever (as well as their terms of office if available) with the league and the GFA. A club shall inform the GFA within three (3) days of any changes to the list of personnel or the role of the registered person. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to sanction any club which fails to comply with this regulation.**
 - (c) Each club shall designate an Accra Representative as its primary link with the organising body i.e. PLB, DOLB, FACC etc; and the Secretariat and act as the first line agent of communication between the Secretariat and the club. The Accra Representative shall accordingly check on mails at the Secretariat regularly. No excuse shall be accepted for non-receipt of authentically issued communication for the non-fulfillment of obligations.

- (d) The Association reserves the right to refuse to register a club or suspend any registration unless the club complies with these regulations.
- 3. (a) Any club, person or organization that seeks to establish a football academy, or any such football institution must obtain the prior approval of the GFA.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, nobody shall be allowed to establish football academy or any such institution unless it enters into partnership with local club(s).
- (c) Where there is foreign involvement, the National Association of the foreign partner must provide appropriate reference on the foreign partner.
- 4. The Association shall have power to disqualify any competing club, or player(s) it proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association.

ARTICLE 41: GATE PROCEEDS

- 1. The disbursement of Gate proceeds shall be approved by Congress upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the GFA.
- 2. Juvenile clubs which play curtain-raiser matches shall be paid such amount as the GFA will determine from time to time which must be charged against expenses of the matches.

ARTICLE 42: ATTENDANCE OF QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL

- 1. The host club of any competitive match shall ensure that a qualified medical practitioner or a paramedic is in attendance throughout the game. It is mandatory for host club to keep an ambulance and a crew or a standby vehicle at the match venue for the duration of the match.
- 2. Premier League Clubs shall ensure that their medical officers keep detailed up to date medical records on all players.

3. When a player is about to be transferred, the transferor club must make such records available to the medical officer of signing club.
4. Premier League Clubs which breach Article 42(1) above shall be liable to a fine not less than Gh¢1,000.00.

ARTICLE 43: STATISTICS REGISTER

The Secretariat shall keep a register of the Statistics of the number of registrations they have effected of players coming from other national associations as well as of the number of International Registration Transfer Certificates they have issued for players transferring their registration to other National Associations. This register shall also mention the age and nationality of the player, the country which he is leaving or joining.

ARTICLE 44: ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

These regulations were adopted at the GFA Congress of 28th August, 2013 and came into force on the day after.