

**NATIONAL JUVENILE COMMITTEE**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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## 1 The Committee and Duties

The Executive Committee shall determine the number of persons that will be ~~appointed as members of the Committee. The GFA shall provide a Secretary.~~

The duties of the National Juvenile Committee as constituted by The Ghana Football Association shall include:

- a. To be responsible for the orderly development, control, promotion, management, organization and administration of Juvenile Football in the country.
- b. To formulate Bye-Laws for juvenile football in the country.
- c. To assist in the formation and organization of the National Juvenile Teams.(U13, U15, & U17, both male and female)
- d. To instil high ideals of discipline, fair play, patriotism and sportsmanship in juvenile football in the country.

## 2 Scope

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1. The National Juvenile committee shall be responsible for the development of all categories of youth (male and female) football in the country. This shall be made up of:

- a. The Academies
- b. The Colts Clubs
- c. The groups linked to football:  
Schools, Colleges and Universities

2. All players who have not yet attained the age of 18 and are playing in any of the above groups shall be considered Amateur Players and eligible to participate in the various juvenile competitions of the GFA provided they have not played in any divisional league.

## 3 Regional and District Juvenile Committee

1. There shall be Regional Juvenile Committee (RJC) appointed by the Regional Football Associations (RFA) ~~which shall not be less than five (5) members of which must have Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.~~

2. The RJC shall be responsible for the supervision and organisation of Colts football in the region.

3. There shall be a District Juvenile Committee (DJC) appointed by the District Football Associations (DFA) the membership of which shall not be less than five (5) members who must have a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

4. The DJC shall be responsible for the organisation of the district colts league and shall declare district champion to compete in the inter district championship in the region.

5. The Regional Football Associations shall supervise the activities of the Regional Juvenile Committee and the District Juvenile Committee which shall operate on the lines of the NJC and GFA rules and regulations.

#### 4 National Football Academy Committee

1. There shall be a National Football Academy Committee (NFAC), constituted by the National Juvenile Committee of which membership shall not be less than five (5) of which must have Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

2. The NJC shall be responsible for the supervision and regulation of all football academies in the country.

## 5 Registration of Juvenile Clubs

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1. All Colts Clubs and Football Academies shall register and affiliate with NJC of the Ghana Football Association in order to be recognised as such.

2. The following criteria shall guide the registration of all juvenile clubs:

a. An application form shall be submitted to the RJC stating, proposed name of club, location, home ground, Founder(s) and Directors.

b. Submitted application forms shall be forwarded to the Regional Football Associations for approval and processing.

c. All juvenile club shall satisfy the under listed criteria before being recognised by the National Juvenile Committee:

- i. Objectives and youth development policy ;( education, football, leadership, discipline etc.)
- ii. Personnel (technical, medical and administrative. Access to Doctor, medical room etc.)
- iii. Infrastructure available for youth sector (Standard training and match pitches, changing room facilities, etc.);
- iv. Financial resources (available budget, contribution by licenced applicant, players or local community e.g. available annual budget for the football season, etc.);
- v. Mandatory and complementary school education for all players.

3. All clubs shall satisfy all the criteria specified in Article 5 Clause 2c before it can participate in any organised juvenile league.

4. Juvenile clubs shall only qualify for recognition and affiliation if it operates in two of the three categories, which are U13, & U15, or U15 U17.

5. No club participating in the National Juvenile Competitions shall use the word 'Academy' as part of its name. (e.g. the name should read " Manchester Colts Club")

6. The RFA and GFA National Secretariat shall keep relevant data of all recognised juvenile clubs in accordance with the GFA regulations.

7. The National Juvenile Committee shall have the power to exclude any juvenile club from its competitions for failing to conform to its licensing criteria.

## 6 Registration of Football Academies

1. An academy is an organisation or an independent legal entity whose primary, long-term objective is to provide players with long-term training through the provision of the necessary training facilities and infrastructure.

2. All Football Academies shall register and affiliate with Ghana Football Association in order to be recognised as such.

3. The following criteria shall guide the registration of all Football Academies:

An application form shall be submitted to the NJC stating, proposed name of club, location, home ground, Founder(s) and Directors.

4. All academies shall satisfy the underlisted criteria before being recommended by the National Juvenile Committee to the Ghana Football Association for Affiliation.

### **Sporting criteria**

- (a) Acceptable comprehensive youth developmental programs
- (b) Access to education,
- (c) Compulsory form of communication equipment on pitch side
- (d) Age category-U13, U15 & U17
- (d) One coach per max 20 players
- (e) Access to medical facilities and yearly medical examination

### **Infrastructure criteria**

- (a) Full size training pitch (preferably grass or artificial) with goal net.
- (b) Match pitch
- (c) Sanitary facilities
- (d) Access to gymnasium or weight training machines
- (e) Substitute bench
- (f) Bench for fourth official
- (g) Corner flag posts
- (h) Referees' dressing rooms
- (i) Sick bay/infirmarium
- (j) Physio facilities
- (k) Parking areas for teams and officials
- (l) Dormitory(*residential only*)
- (m) Kitchen(*residential only*)
- (n) Dining hall (*residential only*)

### **Personnel and administration criteria**

- (a) Access to at least two vehicles
- (b) Security officer (residential only)
- (c) Legal adviser
- (e) Two persons attached to the team aside from coaches
- (f) Trained First Aider
- (g) Academy Structure/organogram
- (h) IT person/person to be trained for system registration
- (i) Physiotherapist
- (j) Team Manager/Coach (holder of CAF license C or its European equivalent)
- (k) Technical Director/ Sports Director (holder of CAF license B or its European equivalent)
- (l) Certified Cooks (residential only)
- (m) Welfare Officer
- (n) Finance & Control Officer

### **Economic-financial & Insurance criteria**

(a) Provision of Audited Annual Financial Statement

(b) Prove of insurance package for the teams (Personal Accidents)

5. All clubs shall satisfy the criteria specified in Article 6 Clause 3 & 4 before being recognised by the GFA.

6. The RFA and GFA National Secretariat shall keep relevant data of recognised Academies in accordance with the GFA regulations.

7. Applications for Football Academy status shall be approved by the National Juvenile Committee of the GFA before issuance of the appropriate license.

8. The National Juvenile Committee shall have the power to exclude any Academy from its competitions for failing to conform to its licensing criteria.

### **7 Affiliation & Registration fees**

1. The one time registration fees for all youth juvenile clubs shall be fixed by the National Juvenile Committee each year.

2. All Affiliation fees shall be fixed annually by the Congress after consultations with NJC and RFA.

## **8 Registration of players**

1. A Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more than the expenses he effectively incurs in return for his footballing activity. All other players are considered as Amateurs. Only amateur players under the age of 18 years are eligible to play in any juvenile competition.

2. Registration of players shall be conducted by the National Registration Officers appointed or authorised by the National Juvenile Committee. Any registration not conducted by a National registration officer shall not be recognised by the NJC.

3. Any registered club desirous to participate in the National Juvenile Committee Programme shall register players in U13 and U15 or U15 and U17.

4. Registration of players shall be done on a date fixed by the National Juvenile Committee. Registration shall not go beyond dates fixed by the National Committee unless changes are approved by the NJC.

5. Being an age group competitions, the NJC shall annually issue directives on who is qualified to play juvenile football.

6. Any player who has ever registered and played for any divisional club at any time is not qualified to play in any juvenile competitions.

7. A player who graduates from one age group to another is not eligible to play in his former age category.

## 9 Movement of players

1. Movement of players shall be negotiated between the player, his releasing club, and engaging new club. During negotiations parents or guardians or siblings may represent juvenile players. The presence of a player manager shall not be allowed.
2. Transfer of players between clubs shall be processed through the Regional Football Association and/or the Ghana Football Association.

## 10 Eligibility of clubs and players

1. All affiliated and recognized juvenile Clubs and Academies must participate in any sanctioned competition of the relevant organizing body, Regional Football Association and National Football Academy Competitions (RFA and NFAC). Any club which fails to participate shall lose its affiliation status and all players of such club shall be deemed not to belong to any club.
2. Such players in Article 10 (1) shall be free to join any club of their choice upon declaration by the Player Status Committee (PSC) of the GFA as free agent.
3. Any juvenile club that withdraws from the league shall be deemed to have opted out of the league and the provision contained in Article 14, of the GFA Regulations shall apply.
4. A juvenile club shall only qualify for recognition and affiliation if it operates in two of the three categories, which are U13 and U15, U15 and U17.
5. Any player not registered in accordance with the GFA regulations shall be deemed to be unqualified to play in any NJC competition.

## 11 National Juvenile Competition

1. The National Juvenile competition will emanate from the district level to regional and national.
2. District Juvenile Committees shall organise the following competitions under the supervision of the Regional Football Associations:
  - a. Gala
  - b. Leagues
  - c. Knock Out
  - d. Champion of Champions and such others as may be determined by NJC.
3. The Juvenile Football Season shall start from September and end in June of the following year.
4. September and October shall be for registration. District Competitions shall be played from November to May. Inter-District Championship shall be played in June while National Championship shall be played in August.
5. No juvenile match shall be played during the week while school is in session, except with the approval from NJC.

6. Regional inter-district Championship shall be opened to only district champions with the aim of declaring a regional champion to participate in the national championship which shall be played in August.

## 12 National Football Academy Competitions (NFAC)

1. The NJC shall set modalities for Academy competition and shall draw the time table for such competitions

## 13 Duration of Matches and Match Balls

1. U-13 matches shall travel sixty minutes, which is two halves of thirty minutes each with at least fifteen minutes rest.
2. U-15 and 17 matches shall last seventy minutes and ninety minutes respectively. There shall be two halves of thirty-five and forty-five minutes respectively with at least fifteen minutes rest.
4. U13 and U15 shall use size 4 balls while the U17 plays with size five(5) balls.

## 14 Disciplinary Matters

1. All disciplinary matters shall be referred to the DFA and RFA Disciplinary Committee for adjudication.
2. Any, juvenile club, Official or Player who is aggrieved by a decision of a disciplinary committee shall be entitled to appeal as per GFA regulations
3. Such appeals shall be handled by the Appeals Committee and their decision shall be final.
4. In order to secure lives and properties, hooliganism, assault and fighting during and after matches are prohibited. Any club whose official, player or supporter indulges in these acts shall be fined and or suspended temporarily or expelled. The registration and affiliation of the club may be withdrawn permanently by the NJC/GFA

## 15 Interpretation

Interpretation of any provision of this by-laws or regulations shall be done by the National Juvenile Committee and the Ghana Football Association.

## 16 Silent clause

Matters not provided for in these regulations shall be determined by the GFA statutes rules and regulations.

## 17 Amendments to this rules and regulations

These regulations were adopted by the GFA Congress of 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 and came into force on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. Amendments to these rules and regulations can only be done by GFA Congress.



