



GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

STATUTES

2025

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DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

Arbitration Tribunal: an independent and duly constituted private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

Association: a football association recognised as such by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context.

Association football: the game controlled by FIFA and organised by FIFA, the Confederations and/or the Associations in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

CAF: Confederation of African Football.

CAS: Court of Arbitration for Sport based in Lausanne (Switzerland).NB: Terms referring to natural persons include both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Club: a member of an Association (that is a member of FIFA) or a member of a League recognised by an Association that enters at least one team in a competition.

Confederation: a group of Associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).

Congress: the supreme and legislative body of GFA.

Delegate: a natural person validly representing a Member at the Congress of GFA.

District Association: an organisation that is subordinate to a Regional Association

Executive Council: the executive body of GFA.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Futsal: Five aside Indoor Football

General Secretary: Chief Executive Officer of GFA.

GFA: Ghana Football Association.

GHALCA: Ghana League Clubs Association

Juvenile football: refers to football competitions for players who have not attained the age of 18

Laws of the Game: the laws of Association football issued by the IFAB in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.

League: An internal organization subordinate to the national association in which clubs of the same standing play against each other in an organized competition. For the time being, this includes PLB, DOL, Women's Leagues and other Leagues

Member: a legal person that has been admitted into membership of GFA by the Congress.

Middle League: a competition played among qualified clubs from zonal leagues to determine a champion

Ordinary Courts: State courts which hear public and private legal disputes.

Official: any board member (including the members of the Executive Council), committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, a Confederation, an Association, a League or a Club as well as any other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes (except players and intermediaries).

PFAG: Professional Footballers Association of Ghana

Player: a football player licensed by an Association.

RAG: Referees Association of Ghana

Regional Association: an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

SESSA: The Security Services Sports Association

The IFAB: The International Football Association Board (IFAB).

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Legal form, headquarters and trademarks

- ¹ GFA is a private organisation incorporated under the laws of Ghana and limited by guarantee. It is formed for an unlimited period.
 - ² The headquarters of GFA is in Accra and may only be transferred to another location following a resolution passed by Congress.
 - ³ GFA is a member of FIFA and of CAF.
 - ⁴ The logo of the GFA is a black and white coloured football with the National Colours of red, yellow, green and the black star around it.
 - ⁵ The flag is white with the logo in the middle.
 - ⁶ The abbreviation of Ghana Football Association is GFA.
 - ⁷ The flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation are legally registered with the Registrar-Generals Department of Ghana.
 - ⁸ The GFA shall have the power to constitute regional and district football Associations.
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Article 2 Objectives & Powers of the GFA

A. The objectives of GFA are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of GFA in the light of Fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) To develop and promote the sport of Association Football as a means of fostering football integration and moulding the character of the youth in Ghana in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the spirit of Fair play
- c) To develop and promote the game of football among juveniles and the youth and to cooperate with the educational authorities in the promotion of football in the educational institutions.
- d) To formulate policies for the control, training, development and accreditation of Referees, Coaches, Medics and other football support staff;
- e) To organise competitions in Association Football, Futsal, Persons with Disability football and Beach Soccer at the national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various Leagues of which it is composed;

- f) To draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement and settle disputes between/ among members or bodies /persons connected either directly or indirectly with the GFA;
- g) To protect the interests of its Members;
- h) To respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of CAF and of GFA as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- i) To promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and members or give rise to abuse of Association football, futsal or beach soccer;
- j) To promote the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance;
- k) To control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of Ghana;
- l) To control and supervise Association football, futsal and beach soccer at national level and to control and supervise all forms of international football matches played throughout the territory of Ghana, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and of the Confederations;
- m) To manage international sporting relations connected with Association football, futsal and beach soccer;
- n) To host competitions at international and other levels;
- o) To establish cordial and cooperative relationship with the Government of Ghana and work together with the sole aim of developing football, futsal and beach soccer in Ghana

B. The Powers of the GFA are:

The Association shall have the full power and authority to do any act, matter or thing as may be required to give effect to the objects of the Association as described herein, and in addition to the general powers and authority herein conferred on the Association, and without in any way limiting such powers and authority, the Association may have the power to carry on any business, including, inter alia, ordinary trading operations in the commercial sense. The Association shall have the following powers:

- 1. To engage staff based on a policy of fair employment and equal opportunities, acquire assets and enter into commitments for the promotion of its aims and objectives.
- 2. To grant practical and financial assistance to individuals and organizations in order to enable them to promote ideas and concepts consistent with the objects of the Association.
- 3. To lease, purchase or otherwise acquire premises, equipment, vehicles, furniture and other property or assets, whether movable or immovable which may be deemed necessary or convenient for any of the purposes of the Association, and in order to provide suitable equipment, accommodation and facilities.

4. To improve, manage, develop, exchange or lease, mortgage, sell, dispose or turn to account and grant options, rights and privileges in respect of, or otherwise deal with, all or any part of the property and rights of the Association.
5. To deposit or invest the monies and assets of the Association not immediately required in such securities and in such a manner as may from time to time be determined, if cash resources and investments will only be made with Financial Institutions licensed by the relevant state agency.
6. To borrow, or raise money in such a manner as the Association shall deem fit and in particular to secure payment of any money borrowed by means of mortgage, pledge, charge or lien to secure and guarantee the due performance by the Association of any obligation or liability it may undertake.
7. To open and operate banking accounts and to draw, make, accept, endorse, sign, discount, execute, issue cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, bills of lading, warrants, debentures and other negotiable documents.
8. To make rules and regulations which shall not be inconsistent with the terms of these Statutes.

Article **3 Human rights**

GFA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

Article **4 Non-discrimination and equality**

Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, or for any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion and/or disciplinary measures.

Article **5 Neutrality and institutional independence**

- ¹ GFA is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- ² The Members of GFA shall also be neutral in matters of politics and religion and shall ensure that their own members remain neutral.

³ GFA shall remain independent and shall avoid any form of political interference. GFA shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.

Article **6 Promoting friendly relations**

¹ GFA shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.

² GFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between the Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of GFA.

³ GFA may organise friendly match or matches to raise money to support humanitarian cause.

Article **7 Players**

¹ The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the GFA in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as revised by FIFA from time to time and GFA Regulations on Domestic transfer and status of Players.

² Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of GFA.

Article **8 Laws of the Game**

¹ GFA and each of its Members shall play Association football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

² GFA and each of its Members shall play futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game.

³ GFA and each of its Members shall play beach soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

Article **9 Conduct of bodies, Officials and others**

¹ All bodies and Officials of GFA must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of CAF and of GFA in their activities.

² Every person and organisation involved in the game of Association football, futsal and beach soccer in the territory of GFA is obliged to observe the relevant Statutes, regulations and the principles of Fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

Article **10 Official languages**

¹ The official language of GFA shall be English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language.

² The official language at the Congress shall be English.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Article **11 Admission, Suspension and Expulsion of Members**

¹ The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.

² Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of GFA in accordance with the Statutes of GFA.

³ Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards GFA or other Members of GFA but leads to the loss of all rights in relation to GFA.

⁴ GFA shall ensure that all relevant stakeholders are represented within its Congress. The interests of women's football shall also be adequately represented in the Congress.

Article **12 Members**

Members of GFA shall be the following legal entities duly registered under the Companies Act 2019, (Act 992).

1. Premier League Clubs
2. Women's Premier League Competition Clubs
3. Division One League Clubs
4. Regional Football Associations (RFAs)
5. Schools and Colleges
6. Professional Footballers Association of Ghana (PFAAG)
7. Referees Association of Ghana (RAG)
8. Coaches Association of Ghana
9. Beach Soccer Association
10. Futsal Association
11. The Security Services Sports Association (SESSA)
12. Juvenile Clubs Association

1. Any legal person wishing to become a Member of GFA shall apply in writing only to the General Secretary.
2. The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory documents:
 - a) a copy of its incorporation documents duly filed with the Companies Registry and the names of its shareholders and percentage ownership of each shareholder
 - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of GFA, FIFA and CAF and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, Clubs, Officials and Players;
 - c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by IFAB in force as well as the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA;
 - d) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, CAF and GFA Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA Statutes or regulations, CAF Statutes or the GFA regulations, or binding national law, provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;
 - e) a declaration that it recognises the judicial bodies of GFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes.
 - f) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of GFA;
 - g) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of GFA unless otherwise officially sanctioned by GFA in writing;
 - h) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
 - i) a declaration to the effect that the members of its own bodies were elected or appointed as a result of a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
 - j) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties. Any changes of officials and authorized signatories shall be communicated in writing to the General Secretary within thirty (30) days of the said change;

- k) A declaration that it undertakes to ensure these Statutes, Regulations and General Regulations and the Disciplinary Code of GFA are respected by its members and by any other person (player or official) with whom it has a contract;
- l) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior notice of GFA in writing.
- m) a declaration that it recognises the authority of the Dispute Resolution Committee set up under these Statutes in respect of disputes which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Appeals Committee, or the Player's Status Committee of the GFA;
- n) a declaration that it will abide by GFA, CAF and FIFA club licensing regulations completely and without fail at all times;
- o) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting and the previous year's audited accounts, where appropriate.

Article 14 Request and procedure for application

1. The General Secretary on behalf of and upon approval by the Executive Council, shall recommend the admission of an Applicant to Congress.
2. The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

Article 15 Members' rights

- ¹ The Members of GFA shall have the following rights:
 - a) to take part in the Congress of GFA, to receive its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their rights to participate in the debates and discussions and to exercise their voting rights;
 - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
 - c) to nominate candidates for elections to all bodies of GFA;
 - d) to be informed of the affairs of GFA through the official bodies of GFA;
 - e) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and/or other sporting activities organised by GFA;
 - f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of GFA
- ² The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

- ¹ The Members of GFA shall have the following obligations:
- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, Regulations, directives and decisions of CAS, FIFA, CAF and GFA always and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
 - b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies at least every four years;
 - c) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and other sporting activities organised by GFA;
 - d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
 - e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
 - f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, GFA or the League(s) shall only be referred to an Arbitration Tribunal or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, both as specified in the FIFA Statutes and in these Statutes, and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
 - g) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with art. 20 of these Statutes;
 - h) to ensure that their bodies, delegates to the Congress of GFA, and representatives on the Executive Council are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
 - i) to communicate to GFA any amendment of its Statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties within seven days of such a change taking place;
 - j) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
 - k) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
 - l) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 13 paragraph 2 for the duration of their affiliation;
 - m) to administer a register of members which shall be regularly updated;
 - n) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of GFA;

- o) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CAF and GFA.

² Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

³ Violation of par. 1 (g) may also lead to sanctions, even if the third-party influence was not the fault of the Member concerned. Each Member of GFA is responsible towards GFA for any and all acts of the members of their bodies caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such members.

Article 17 Suspension

1. The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Council may, however, temporarily suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension approved by the Executive Council shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Council has lifted it in the meantime.
2. A suspension of a Member by the Congress requires more than 50 percent of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote and three quarters voting for the suspension. A suspension of a Member by the Executive Council shall be confirmed at the next Congress. If it is not confirmed, the suspension shall be automatically lifted.
3. A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
4. Members that do not participate in the sporting activities of GFA for one (1) year shall be suspended from voting at Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

Article 18 Expulsion

1. Congress shall expel a Member if:
 - a) It fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards GFA for two (2) consecutive years despite two written reminders to that effect;
 - b) It seriously and repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, CAF and GFA.
2. The presence of more than 75% of delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

Article 19 Resignation

1. A Member may resign from GFA with effect from the end a football season. Notice of resignation must reach the GFA Secretariat no later than six months before the end of the football season.
2. The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards GFA and the other Members of GFA.
3. Members who have resigned may apply for (re-)admission in accordance with these Statutes only if they have fulfilled all their outstanding financial commitments to the GFA.

Article 20 Independence of Members and their bodies

1. Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no undue influence from third parties.
2. The Members' bodies shall be either elected or appointed. The Members' statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
3. Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 2 above, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by GFA.
4. Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 above shall not be recognised by GFA.

Article 21 Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and other groups of Clubs

1. Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to GFA shall be subordinate to and recognised by GFA. There shall only be one top-tier national league of the GFA.
2. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of the entities mentioned in par. 1 above. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by GFA. GFA shall have the primary responsibility to regulate matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and measures required to protect the integrity of competitions.
3. The entities mentioned in par. 1 above shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group of Clubs whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

III. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

Article 22 Honorary President and honorary member

- ¹ The Congress may bestow the title of honorary President or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to football.
- ² The Executive Council shall make these nominations.
- ³ Such an honorary member may take part in the deliberations of Congress but is not entitled to vote.

IV. ORGANISATION

Article 23 Bodies of GFA

The Bodies of GFA shall be:

1. Congress
 2. The Executive Council
 3. The GFA Secretariat
 4. The Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees
 5. The Independent Committees
- a. Congress shall be the supreme and legislative body of the GFA. It shall enact rules and regulations and take the necessary decisions for implementation in relation to all football matters.
 - b. The Executive Council is the executive body. The Executive Council shall supervise and assess the work of the GFA Secretariat. It shall define the Association's general policies, enact rules and regulations and take the necessary decisions for implementation.
 - c. The GFA Secretariat is the operational and administrative body of GFA and shall be headed by its General Secretary.
 - d. Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Council and the GFA Secretariat in fulfilment of their respective duties.
 - e. The Club licensing bodies oversee the club licensing system within GFA.
 - f. The Independent Committees fulfil their functions in accordance with these Statutes and applicable regulations. The Independent Committees shall consist of the Elections Committee and the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeals Committee.

6. The bodies of GFA shall be either elected or appointed by GFA itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes. The members of these bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.
7. Any member of the bodies of GFA must withdraw from relevant discussions and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest. Members of the bodies of GFA shall always be aware of, and comply with, the relevant provisions of the FIFA Code of Ethics on conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary (e.g. abstain from performing their duties, notify the chairperson in cases of potential conflicts of interest).

Article **24 Dismissal of a member of any Body**

1. The Congress may dismiss a member of a body of GFA. The Executive Council may place the dismissal of a member of a body on the agenda for Congress. The Executive Council may also dismiss a member of a body provisionally, except for the members of the independent committees. Any member of the Executive Council may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Council or Congress.
2. A member of a body shall be automatically provisionally dismissed if that member is found guilty of an offence which prejudices the objectives or activities of GFA and has had the effect of bringing the name of GFA into disrepute. Such dismissal shall be subject to the decision of the Congress.
3. If a member of a body is the subject of a decision of WAFU, CAF or FIFA that bans that member from taking part in any football-related activity pursuant to the applicable statutes and/or disciplinary regulations of FIFA, CAF, or WAFU, that decision will be upheld and enforced against that member.
4. The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of the Executive Council and/or to the Members of GFA along with the respective agenda.
5. The member of the body in question has the right to defend himself.
6. The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of three-quarters of the valid votes is required.
7. The member dismissed (provisionally or not) is relieved of his functions with immediate effect.

A. CONGRESS

Article 25 Definition

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all the Members of GFA regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of GFA. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.
 2. The Congress shall be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and shall consider the importance of gender equality in football.
 3. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.
 4. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.
 5. The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.
-

Article 26 Composition of Congress

The Congress shall be composed of one hundred and twenty-four (124) delegates.

The number of delegates is allocated as follows:

- For each of the eighteen (18) Premier League Clubs, two (2) delegates;
- For the Women's Premier League Competition Clubs, eight(8) delegates of which at least five (5) shall be women;
- For the Division One League Clubs, forty eight (48) delegates
- For each of the ten Regional Football Associations, two (2) delegates
- For the Schools & Colleges, one (1) delegate
- For the Beach Soccer Association, one (1) delegate
- For the Futsal Association, one (1) delegate
- For the Security Services Sports Association (SESSA), one (1) delegate
- For the Professional Footballers Association of Ghana (PFAG), two (2) delegates
- For the Coaches Association of Ghana, two (2) delegates
- For the Referees Association of Ghana (RAG), two (2) delegates
- For the Juvenile Clubs Association, two (2) delegates

Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member in accordance with art. 20 of these Statutes. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

Each delegate has one vote in the Congress. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter shall not be permitted.

The Executive Council and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Council may not be appointed as delegates to the Congress.

Article **27 Areas of authority**

Congress shall have the following areas of authority:

- a) Adoption or amendment of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of Congress;
- b) Appointment of three Members to check the minutes;
- c) Approval of the minutes of the last meeting;
- d) Election of the President of the Executive Council who shall also sit as the President of Congress.
- e) Appointment of the chairmen, Vice chairmen and members of the Independent Committees upon the proposal of the Executive Council;
- f) Appointment of the scrutineers to count the votes and to assist the Election Committee in the distribution and counting of voting papers issued for the elections;
- g) Approval of the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report;
- h) Approval of the Budget;
- i) Approval of the activity report (containing the activities of GFA since the previous Congress);
- j) Appointment of the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Council;
- k) Fixing the membership subscription upon the recommendation of the Executive Council;
- l) The confirmation of honorary membership on qualified persons;
- m) The admittance, suspension or expulsion of a Member;
- n) The revocation of the mandate of one or several members of a body of GFA;
- o) The dissolution of GFA;
- p) The passage of decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with the GFA Statutes or the passage of any decision entrusted to Congress in accordance with the Statutes of GFA;

Article **28 Quorum of the Congress**

1. Decisions passed by Congress shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present.
2. In the absence of a quorum for a scheduled meeting of Congress, a second meeting shall be convened twenty-four (24) hours after the first, with the same Agenda.

3. A quorum is not required for the second meeting of Congress unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of GFA, the election of the President, the election of the chairmen, Vice chairmen and members of the independent committees, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of GFA, the expulsion of a Member of GFA or the dissolution of GFA.
4. Any quorum achieved at the start of a meeting shall not be influenced by departing delegates.

Article **29 Decisions of the Congress**

1. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.
2. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

Article **30 Elections or Appointments**

1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
2. Elections within GFA shall be conducted in accordance with the Statutes and the GFA Regulations on Elections.
3. The election for the position of the President shall take place by position. Each candidate for position of President shall be proposed by one member and supported by five members.
4. For the election of the Constituent Bodies onto the Executive Council each candidate shall be proposed by one member and supported by one other member. Each member shall propose or support one candidate for each given position only.
5. A majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary for the election of the President of GFA. If there are more than two candidates for the office of President, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated after each ballot until only two candidates are left.
6. For the election of the other available positions of the Executive Council, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.
7. For the appointment of the chairmen, Vice chairmen and members of the Independent Committees of GFA, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be appointed. These appointments may be conducted en bloc.

8. In case of a tied vote in any elections of any body of GFA, two new ballots shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure set forth by the present provision. If the tied vote remains, the relevant position shall remain vacant until a new elective Congress convenes to proceed with new elections according to these Statutes with the same candidates.
9. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.
10. Candidatures for any of the available positions of the Executive Council shall be sent to the GFA Secretariat at least 30 days before the relevant elective Congress. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of GFA at least 10 days before the Congress at which the Executive Council will be elected. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply when elections take place during an Extraordinary Congress.
11. Candidates for any of the positions of the independent committees of GFA must be passed to the Members of GFA at least 14 days before the Congress at which the members in question will be appointed.

Article **31 Ordinary Congress**

1. Congress shall meet in ordinary session once every Football Season, usually before the commencement of said season.
2. The Executive Council shall fix the date and venue for a meeting of Congress. The Members shall be notified in writing at least ten(10) days in advance.
3. The formal convocation of Congress shall be made in writing and circulated to the Members of GFA at least seven (7) days before the stipulated date of the meeting of Congress. This convocation shall contain the Agenda, the Activity Report, the Financial Statements and the Auditors' Report and any other relevant documents.

Article **32 Ordinary Congress agenda**

1. The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Council and the Members of GFA. Any proposal emanating from a Member of GFA shall be made in writing, addressed to the Executive Council and sent to the GFA Secretariat at least thirty (30) days before the stipulated date of the meeting of Congress. The proposal shall include a brief explanation of the basis of said proposal.
2. The Agenda for a meeting of Congress shall include the following mandatory items in chronological order:
 - a) Roll Call;
 - b) A declaration that Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of GFA;
 - c) Approval of the Agenda;
 - d) An address by the President;
 - e) Appointment of Members to check the minutes;

- f) Appointment of scrutineers;
- g) Suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
- h) Approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
- i) Activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress by the General Secretary);
- j) Presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement (by the Auditors);
- k) Approval of the financial statements of the previous financial period.
- l) Approval of the work programme and budget for the coming year;
- m) Votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress (if applicable);
- n) Discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Council in accordance with the procedure stipulated under paragraph 1 above;
- o) Appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Council;
- p) Dismissal of a member of a body (if applicable);
- q) **Election of the President;**
- r) Appointment of the members of the independent committees (if applicable);
- s) Admission for membership (if applicable).

3. Congress shall not take a decision on any point not included on the Agenda.
4. The Agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

Article **33 Extraordinary Congress**

1. The Executive Council may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
2. The Executive Council shall convene an Extraordinary Congress by a Resolution of the Executive Council or upon the request of not less than 50% of the Members of GFA. Such a request shall be made in writing. The request shall specify the items to be included on the Agenda for the meeting.
3. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the delegates representing the Members who requested the Extraordinary Congress may convene the meeting.
4. **The Members shall be notified of the date, venue and Agenda of the Extraordinary Congress at least five (5) days before the date of said meeting.**
5. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Council, it must draw up the Agenda.
6. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Members, the Agenda shall contain the points raised by those Members.
7. The Agenda of an Extraordinary Congress shall not be altered.

Article **34 Amendments to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress**

1. The GFA Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress shall only be amended by Congress.
2. Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of Congress shall be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretary by a Member.
3. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least one third of the Members.
4. For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes and to the Standing Orders of the Congress to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present.
5. A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes and to the Standing Orders of the Congress shall be adopted by a three-quarters approval of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote.

Article **35 Minutes**

The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the Minutes at the Congress. The Minutes shall be checked by those Members designated, and finally approved at the next Congress.

Article **36 Effective dates of decisions**

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members immediately after the close of the Congress, unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes or unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Article 37 Composition of the Executive Council

1. The Executive Council consists of 12 members constituted as follows:
 - The President to be elected by Congress
 - Five (5) representatives elected by the Premier League Clubs
 - Three (3) representatives elected by the Division One League Clubs
 - One (1) woman elected by the Women's Premier League Clubs who shall be the 2nd Vice President of the Association.
 - Two (2) RFA Chairmen elected by the ten Regional Chairmen
2. The President shall be elected by the Congress in accordance with art. 30 of these Statutes. However, all candidates shall undergo an integrity check, to be conducted by the Elections Committee, as per Annexe B of these Statutes prior to their election or re-election.
3. The 1st Vice President of the Association shall be elected from amongst the Members of the Executive Council at its maiden sitting. He shall act in the absence of the President and in his absence, the 2nd Vice President shall act.
4. The mandate of the President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Executive Council shall be for four years. Their term of office shall follow the same electoral cycle. Their mandates shall immediately begin after the end of the Congress which has elected them and expire at the end of the Congress at which their successors are elected. No person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). All other members (including any Vice-Presidents) of the Executive Council may serve for no more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Any partial term of office exceeding 24 months shall count as one full term. Previous terms served as a Vice President or as a Member of the Executive Council shall not be considered in determining the term limits of a President.
5. A member of the Executive Council may not at the same time be a member of an independent body of GFA. A member of the Executive Council shall not be appointed/elected as delegate representing a Member at the Congress of GFA.
6. In case any of the positions of the members of the Executive Council representing the Premier League, the Division 1, Women's Premier League and the Regional Football Associations become(s) vacant, the respective entity shall promptly elect a replacement.
7. A position will be considered vacant in case of death, resignation or if said member is incapable of discharging the functions of his office by reason of infirmity of mind or body as certified by a certified medical practitioner or if he absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Executive Council.

Article **38 Meetings**

1. The Executive Council shall meet at least six times a year.
2. The President shall convene meetings of the Executive Council. If at least a third of the members of the Executive Council request a meeting in writing to the President of the Executive Council, the President shall convene a meeting within ten (10) days from date of receipt of the requisition. If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the deadline, the members of the Executive Council shall convene the meeting.
3. The President, assisted by the General Secretary, shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Council is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Council must submit the items they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the General Secretary at least five (5) days before the meeting. The agenda and accompanying documents shall be circulated to the members of the Executive Council at least two (2) days before the meeting.
4. The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Council in a consultative role and without voting rights. If the General Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, he may nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
5. The meetings of the Executive Council shall not be held in public. The Executive Council may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Council.
6. For the deliberations to be valid, a quorum of more than 50% of the members of the Executive Council shall be required.

Article **39 Powers of the Executive Council**

The Executive Council shall have the following powers:

- a) Pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) Prepare, with the assistance of the General Secretary, and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of GFA;
- c) Appoint the chairmen, vice-chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- d) Decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary, at any time;
- e) Appoint or dismiss the chairman, the vice chairman and members of the standing committees, upon the proposal of the President of the Executive Council;

- f) Propose to Congress the membership subscriptions on the recommendation of the General Secretary;
- g) Approve and issue the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- h) Appoint the General Secretary and his deputies through a competitive selection process. The General Secretary and his deputies may be dismissed by the Executive Council;
- i) Propose the independent auditors to the Congress;
- j) Appoint replacements for vacancies in the independent committees until the next Congress;
- k) Approve and issue regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by GFA;
- l) Approve and issue the Policies and Strategies of GFA;
- m) Ensure that these Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- n) Dismiss a member of a body of GFA provisionally or suspend a Member of GFA provisionally until the next Congress;
- o) Delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of GFA;
- p) Appoint observers who may take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.

Article 40 Decisions

1. The Executive Council shall not engage in valid debate unless at least six (6) of its members are present.
2. The Executive Council shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the deciding vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. A majority (more than 50%) of the members of the Executive Council may request a secret ballot for a certain decision.
3. Any member of the Executive Council must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.
4. The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
5. The decisions taken by the Executive Council shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Council decides otherwise.
6. The Executive Council shall have the power to review its own decisions.

Article **41 President of the Executive Council**

- ¹ The President represents GFA legally.
- ² He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Council through the GFA Secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of GFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the GFA Secretariat;
 - d) the relations between GFA and its Members, FIFA, CAF, political bodies and other organisations.
- ³ The President shall preside over the Congress, the Executive Council meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
- ⁴ The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Council and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- ⁵ If the President is absent or unavailable, the vice president shall deputise.
- ⁶ If the position of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall deputise until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President for the remaining period of office if the unexpired term is twenty-four (24) months or more. However, if the unexpired term is less than twenty four (24) months, the Vice President shall serve as Acting President for the period.
- ⁷ Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the GFA Regulations.

Article **42 Representation and signature**

1. The Executive Council may adopt special provisions in the GFA Regulations regarding bank signatures and other financial matters. All contracts must be signed by the General Secretary upon a Resolution of the Executive Council and witnessed by the President.
2. The remuneration of members of the Executive Council shall be proposed by an ad-hoc compensation committee and approved by Congress.

C. GFA SECRETARIAT

Article 43 GFA Secretariat

The GFA Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative and operational work of GFA under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the GFA Secretariat are bound by the GFA Regulations and shall fulfil the given tasks in good faith.

Article 44 The General Secretary

1. The General Secretary shall be the executive representative of GFA and shall manage the day to day affairs of GFA.
 - a) He shall be appointed by the Executive Council. He shall discharge his duties based on a contract of employment.
 - b) He shall be responsible for the implementation of all the decisions of Congress and of the Executive Council.
 - c) He shall take part in the meetings of Congress but shall have no voting rights.
 - d) He shall attend and participate in the deliberations of the Executive Council without a right to vote.
 - e) He shall play a consultative role during the meetings of any of the Standing Committees. If he is unable to attend, he shall designate one of his deputies to attend.
 - f) He shall arrange secretarial support for the Standing Committees.
 - g) He shall prepare the agenda of meetings of Congress, the Executive Council and the Standing Committees.
 - h) He shall be responsible for compiling the minutes of the meetings of Congress, the Executive Council and the Standing Committees.
 - i) He shall be responsible for GFA correspondence, public relations and archiving of all-important documents, contracts and minutes.
 - j) He shall be responsible for managing the finances of GFA and keeping proper accounts.
 - k) He will propose to the Executive Council for approval, the appointment of Vice General Secretaries. All other appointments may be made by the General Secretary subject to the approval of the Executive Council.
 - l) He shall be responsible for preparing the budget for approval by the Executive Council.
 - m) He shall be responsible for the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements of GFA and ensure the auditing of the Financial Statement as prescribed by law.
 - n) He shall be responsible for the certification of all documents relating to expenses and income.
 - o) He shall be responsible for the recruitment and dismissal of all staff subject to the approval of the Executive Council where necessary.

- p) He shall be responsible for maintaining good relations between GFA and other National Associations, WAFU, CAF, and FIFA as well as the relevant State Agencies and international organisations.
- q) The General Secretary shall ensure that all bodies of GFA function effectively to achieve the objectives specified by these statutes.
- r) The General Secretary and any other person mandated by the Executive Council shall represent the GFA in negotiations with third parties.
- s) The General Secretary shall sign all documents and letters binding on GFA except in cases that require approval of the Executive Council and the President's signature.
- t) In the absence of the General Secretary, the Executive Council shall nominate one of the deputies, usually the senior most, to act in his stead.
- u) He shall preside over all management meetings.

45 Technical Directorate

1. The Technical Directorate shall primarily focus on formulating guidelines, strategies and policies for training and technical development of personnel in Ghana football. It shall also oversee GFA's development programmes, devising and proposing appropriate strategies, checking these strategies and analysing the support and programmes provided to the Members of GFA and providing advice to the Executive Council on development matters in general.
2. The Technical Directorate shall be headed by a Technical Director appointed by the Executive Council on the advice of the General Secretary.
3. Duties of a Technical Director:
 - a. To be responsible for the welfare of the technical handlers and players of the National Teams.
 - b. To organise coaching courses for Coaches in order to improve the techniques of coaching.
 - c. To educate Coaches, Players, Clubs and the spectating public on the Laws of the Game and the Regulations of GFA and the International Bodies to which GFA is affiliated.
 - d. To arrange Courses and Conferences for Match Officials, Team Officials, Instructors, Trainers and Administrators;
 - e. To assess the training programme of the National Teams, examine Reports on Players made by the Handlers (Team Managers, Coaches and the Welfare Officers), analyse International Matches and advise GFA.
 - f. To organise refresher courses for Referees to enable them to update their techniques and knowledge in refereeing.
 - g. To study the reports of match officials and make recommendations to the Executive Council.
 - h. To stay current on emerging football technologies and recommend its use to GFA.
 - i. To be responsible for the classification and grading of coaches.

CLUB LICENSING BODY

Article 46 Club licensing bodies

The Club licensing bodies oversee the club licensing system within GFA in accordance with the Club licensing regulations of GFA and the regulations on club licensing of CAF and FIFA.

REGIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

Article 47 Regional Football Associations

1. There shall be ten (10) Regional Football Associations which shall organize football in the regions on behalf of the GFA.
2. The organization, administration and activities of the RFA shall be in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and other guidelines approved from time to time by the Executive Council of the GFA.
3. The Regional Football Association Congress shall consist of the following members:
 - a) The registered 2nd Division Clubs – one (1) delegate from each club
 - b) The registered Juvenile Football Clubs – two (2) delegates
 - c) Schools & Colleges – one (1) delegate
 - d) The registered women's football Clubs in the region– two (2) delegates
 - e) The referees in the region – two (2) delegates
 - f) Coaches in the region – two (2) delegates
 - g) Players in the region – two (2) delegates
 - h) District Football Associations – two (2) delegates each
4. The structure of the RFA shall, as far as possible, conform to the structure of the GFA.
5. It shall hold an annual Congress of representatives of its constituent members to receive and consider among other matters, reports of the Executive Council of the RFA including audited financial statements.
6. Areas of Authority of the RFAs shall be:
 - a) It shall organize the Regional 2nd Division League;
 - b) It shall supervise the activities of the Regional women's Football Competition and Regional Football Juvenile Competition;
 - c) Liaise with the GFA Secretariat to declare Regional champions;
 - d) It shall implement the decisions of the GFA at the Regional and District levels in furtherance of the objectives of the GFA.

7. The Limitation of Powers of the RFA are:
 - a) An obligation not to enact or operate under Statutes and Regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of the GFA Statutes;
 - b) The RFAs shall not have the power to print or sell player registration licences;
 - c) The RFAs and the DFAs shall not have the power to take decisions in any of the following except with the prior approval in writing to the Executive Council of the GFA, namely:
 - i) Abridgement of the 2nd Division Leagues;
 - ii) Expulsion of Clubs from the League;
 - iii) Formation or Admission of football Clubs to participate in the Regional Leagues;
 - iv) Re-registration of players for a chosen club to represent the Region in the Regional Second Division League;
 - d) Any such decision taken in contravention of these Statutes shall be null and void.

8. There shall be an Executive Council of the RFAs which shall consist of:
 - a) The Chairman elected by the regional Congress. The Vice Chairman of the Executive Council shall be elected from amongst the Executive Council at its maiden sitting. The Vice-Chairman shall act in the absence of the Chairman.
 - b) Three (3) persons elected by the registered Second Division Football Clubs in the region**
 - c) Two (2) persons elected by the DFA Chairpersons in the region
 - d) Two (2) persons elected by the Juvenile Football Clubs in the region
 - e) One (1) person elected by the Women Football Clubs in the region
 - f) One (1) person elected by the Referees in the region
 - g) One (1) person elected by the Coaches in the region

Article 48 District Football Associations

1. There shall be District Football Associations (DFAs) which shall organize the 3rd Division and any other lower Division Leagues in the District.
2. The organization, administration and activities of the DFAs shall be in accordance with the provision of these Statutes and other guidelines approved from time to time by the Executive Council of the GFA.
3. The DFA Congress shall consist of the following members:
 - a) The registered 3rd Division Clubs – One (1) delegate from each club
 - b) The registered Juvenile Football Clubs – Two (2) delegates**
 - c) Schools and Colleges – One (1) delegate
 - d) The registered women's football Clubs in the district – Two (2) delegates

- e) The Referees in the DFA – Two (2) delegates
 - f) The Coaches in the DFA – Two (2) delegates
 - g) Players in the district – Two (2) delegates
4. The Structure of the DFA shall, as far as possible, conform to the structure of the RFA
 5. It shall hold an annual Congress of representatives as in Article 48 (3) above to receive and consider among other matters, reports of the Executive Council of the DFA including audited financial statements.
 6. Areas of Authority of the DFAs shall be:
 - a) To organize the 3rd Division and Juvenile Leagues
 - b) To supervise the District Women's Football Competition and District Juvenile Football Competitions
 - c) To liaise with the RFA for the organization of Middle League for promotion to 2nd Division
 - d) To implement the decisions of the RFA at the District level in furtherance of the objectives of the GFA.
 7. The Limitation of Powers of The District Football Association are:
 - a. An obligation not to enact or operate under Statutes and Regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of the GFA Statutes.
 - b. The DFA shall not have the power to print or sell player registration license.
 - c. The DFA shall not have the power to take any of the following decisions except with the prior approval in writing of the Executive Council of the GFA namely:
 - i) Abridgement of the 3rd Division League.
 - ii) Expulsion of clubs from the league.
 - iii) Formation or Admission of Football Clubs to participate in the District Leagues.
 - iv) Re-registration of players for a chosen club to represent the District in the Middle League Competition.
 - d. Any such decision taken in contravention of these Statutes shall be null and void.
 8. There shall be a Executive Council of the District Football Association which shall consist of:
 - a) The Chairman elected by the District Congress. The Vice Chairman of the Executive Council of the DFA shall be elected from amongst the Members of

the Executive Council at its maiden sitting. He shall act in the absence of the Chairman.

- b) Three (3) persons elected by the registered 3rd Division Clubs in the DFA.
- c) Two (2) persons elected by the registered Juvenile Football Clubs in the DFA.
- d) Two (2) person elected by the registered Women Football Clubs in the DFA.
- e) Two (2) person elected by the Referees in the DFA
- f) One (1) person elected by the Players in the DFA.

D. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 49 Standing Committees

1 The standing committees of GFA are:

- a) Referees Committee;
- b) Player Status Committee

2 The chairmen and Vice chairmen of the standing committees may be members of the Executive Council. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Council on the proposal of the Members of GFA or the President of GFA. The Executive Council shall ensure appropriate female representation on standing committees. The chairmen, Vice chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of two (2) years.

3 Each chairman shall represent his standing committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant provisions of the GFA Regulations approved by the Executive Council.

4 Each chairman shall fix the dates of meetings in collaboration with the General Secretary, ensure that all tasks are carried out and reported back to the Executive Council.

5 The Executive Council and each standing committee, the latter with the approval of the Executive Council, may, if necessary, set up a bureau and/or sub-committee to settle urgent matters. Any discussions and decisions of the bureau and/or sub-committee shall be reported to the relevant standing committee as soon as it is practicable to do so.

6 Each standing committee may propose to the Executive Council amendments to the relevant provisions of the GFA Regulations that concern its committee.

Article **50 Referees Committee**

1. The Referees Committee shall be made up of five (5) Members headed by a Chairman who must a member of the Executive Council. The Vice Chairman and the other Independent members of the Committee consisting of one (1)woman, two(2) retired FIFA Referees and one independent member to be appointed by the Executive Council. The Independent members shall not be affiliated with any football Club or Football Association. The Referees Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game and shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organised or sanctioned by the GFA.
2. The duties of the Referees Committee are:
 - a. To appoint referees for matches sanctioned by the GFA;
 - b. To study the reports of match officials and make recommendations to the Executive Council;
 - c. To nominate candidates for the international list who are eligible to officiate at international matches according to FIFA regulations governing the registration of international referees, assistant referees, futsal referees and beach soccer referees on FIFA's list.
 - d. To comply with standard refereeing methods as established by FIFA to ensure uniform implementation of the Laws of the Game.
 - e. To approve the referee instructor and assessor panels.
 - f. To recommend the suspension or removal from the referees list, those found to be incompetent or guilty of serious misconduct
 - g. To classify the Referees in each category on the basis of their performance in selected matches and propose promotions or demotions.
 - h. To recommend fees and commissions paid to referees as well as the appropriate sanctions.

Article **51 Players Status Committee**

1. The Players Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the GFA Regulations in respect of the Status and Domestic Transfer of Players and Rules governing the Procedure of the GFA Players' Status Committee.
2. The Player Status Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and 3 other members which shall include a Lawyer and a woman.
3. Players status disputes involving GFA, its Members, Players, Officials, intermediaries and licensed match agents shall be settled in accordance with these Statutes and subject to any applicable national law.
4. The Executive Council may approve special regulations governing the Players Status Committee's powers and jurisdiction.

Article **52 Ad-hoc committees**

The Executive Council may, if necessary, create ad-hoc committees for special duties and a limited period. The Executive Council shall appoint a chairman, a Vice chairman and the appropriate number of members. The duties and functions are defined in special regulations approved by the Executive Council. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Executive Council.

E. INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES

Article **53 Institutional independence**

1. The independent committees as well as their individual members shall conduct their activities and perform their duties entirely independently but always in the interests of GFA and in accordance with these Statutes and the regulations of GFA.
 2. The chairmen and Vice chairmen of the independent committees and judicial bodies as well as any of their immediate family members may not exercise or have exercised during the four years preceding their initial terms any executive function at GFA, one of GFA's Members, a League or a Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations), nor have or have had in the four years preceding their initial term any material business relationship with GFA, one of GFA's Members, a League or a Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations). "Immediate family member" shall mean, with respect to a person, such person's spouse or domestic partner, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, children (including any stepchild or adopted child), grandchildren, son-, daughter-, father- or mother-in-law, and including anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, with whom the individual has a relationship akin to a family relationship for which such person provides financial support.
 3. The independent committees are the Elections committee and the Judicial Bodies.
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Article **54 Elections Committee**

- ¹ The Elections committee is the body in charge of organising and supervising the election process in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and the Elections Regulations of GFA. The Elections committee shall be made up of five (5) members, including at least one woman and a Lawyer who shall be the Chairperson.
- ² Parties affected by the decisions of the Elections Committee shall have the right to appeal.
- ³ The appeal shall be heard by the Appeals Committee.

- 1 The judicial bodies of GFA are:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Ethics Committee;
 - c) the Appeals Committee
- 2 The judicial bodies shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman and a specific number of other members.
- 3 The judicial bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The chairmen of the judicial bodies shall be qualified to practise law.
- 4 The term of office of all members shall be four years. The members may be re-elected or relieved of their duties at any time, although they may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.
- 5 The chairmen, Vice chairmen and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the Congress upon proposal of the Executive Council and shall not be members of any other body of GFA.
- 6 If the chairman, the Vice chairman or a member of a judicial body permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Council shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress, in which the Congress shall appoint a new member of the respective judicial body for the remaining period.
- 7 The responsibilities and function of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of GFA and the Code of Ethics of GFA.

Article **56 Disciplinary Committee**

1. There shall be a Disciplinary Committee made up of the chairman, vice chairman and 8 other members. Three (3) members may be empanelled to hear a given case. The chairman shall be a member of the Ghana Bar Association of not less than ten (10) years at the Bar. The Vice Chairman shall be a member of the Ghana Bar Association of not less than ten (10) years at the Bar.
2. The functions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of GFA. The Disciplinary Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the Disciplinary Code, the chairman may rule alone.
3. The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of GFA on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs, licensed match agents and intermediaries.

4. These provisions do not affect the powers of the Congress and the Executive Council about the suspension and expulsion of Members.
5. The Executive Council shall issue the Disciplinary Code of GFA, which shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Article 57 Ethics Committee

1. There shall be 5 Members of the Ethics Committee to be headed by the chairman and 4 other members. At least one member of the Committee shall have a background in criminal law and another shall have a background in investigative work.
2. The function of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the Code of Ethics of GFA. The Ethics Committee shall pass decisions only when, at least, three (3) members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the Code of Ethics, the chairman may rule alone.
3. The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the Code of Ethics of GFA and the Disciplinary Code of GFA on Officials, Players licensed match agents and intermediaries.
4. The Executive Council shall issue the Code of Ethics of GFA, which shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in the valid FIFA Code of Ethics.

Article 58 Appeals Committee

1. The Appeals Committee shall be constituted by ten (10) members, five (5) of whom shall be empanelled to hear a given case.
2. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee shall be a Justice of the Superior Court of judicature or a Legal Practitioner of not less than twelve (12) years standing at the Bar. The vice-chairman shall be a lawyer of at least twelve (12) years standing.
3. The function of the Appeals Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of GFA, the Code of Ethics of GFA, and the Elections Regulations of GFA. The Appeals Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three of the members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the relevant regulations, the chairman may rule alone.
4. The Appeals Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final by the relevant regulations of GFA, as well as appeals against decisions of the Elections Committee.
5. Decisions pronounced by the Appeals Committee may only be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, or to a national, independent Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with the provisions in these Statutes.

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint as many Prosecutors as necessary for the smooth and effective prosecution of cases. A Prosecutor may be a lawyer of at least five (5) years standing at the bar, a retired police officer from the rank of ASP onwards who has done prosecution in the court whilst in active service or any other persons the GFA may deem fit.
2. The Prosecutors shall fulfil the same independence criteria as the chairmen and Vice chairmen of the independent committees and judicial bodies as stipulated in art. 53 par. 2 of these Statutes.
3. The duties of the Prosecutors are, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. To investigate and prefer charges;
 - b. To present charges to the Disciplinary Committee and to the Ethics Committee;
 - c. To adduce evidence to support the charge;
 - d. To make submissions in support of the charge;
 - e. To prosecute matters before the Appeals Committee.

V. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

- ¹ for natural and legal persons:
 - a) a warning;
 - b) a reprimand;
 - c) a fine;
 - d) the return of awards.
- ² for natural persons:
 - a) a caution;
 - b) an expulsion;
 - c) a match suspension;
 - d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - e) a ban from entering a stadium;
 - f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
 - g) social work;
 - h) compliance training.
- ³ for legal persons:
 - a) a transfer ban;
 - b) playing a match without spectators;
 - c) playing a match on neutral territory;

- d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium or venue;
- e) annulment of the result of the match;
- f) expulsion from a competition;
- g) a forfeiture
- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division;
- j) replaying a match.

VI. ARBITRATION

Article 61 Arbitration

¹ Disputes in GFA or disputes affecting Members of GFA, Leagues, members of Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players and Officials shall not be submitted to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA regulations, these Statutes or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.

² Such disputes as specified in paragraph 1 shall be taken before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 62 Jurisdiction

¹ Recourse may only be made to an Arbitration Tribunal once all internal channels of GFA have been exhausted.

² GFA shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to GFA. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

Article 63 Court of Arbitration for Sport

- ¹ In accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding decision passed by FIFA, by CAF, or the Leagues shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, unless another Arbitration Tribunal has jurisdiction. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, and suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions).
- ² GFA shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by FIFA, by CAF, by the Arbitration Tribunal recognised by GFA or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

VII. FINANCE

Article 64 Financial Period

- ¹ The financial period of GFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1 July and end on 30 June.
 - ² The revenue and expenses of GFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. GFA's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
 - ³ The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of GFA with its subsidiaries as at 30 June .
-

Article 65 Revenue

The sources of revenue for the GFA shall include but not limited to:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions and licensing fees;
 - b) National Competition entry fees;
 - c) Player registration fees
 - d) Share of Gate proceeds
 - e) Receipts generated by the marketing of rights and merchandizing to which GFA is entitled;
 - f) Fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
 - g) Other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by GFA;
 - h) Donations and Sponsorships;
 - i) Any other revenue related to football activities.
 - j) Government subventions and grants
 - k) Returns on investment
 - l) Broadcast rights
 - m) Advertising
 - n) Royalties
 - o) Patent and Trademark Rights
 - p) Player image rights
 - q) Grants from WAFU, CAF and FIFA
-

Article 66 Expenses

The GFA shall bear the following expenses:

- a) Expenses stipulated in the budget as approved by Congress;
- b) Other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Executive Council is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;
- c) All other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by GFA.

Article 67 Independent and External Auditors

The independent and external auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit on a yearly basis the management accounts of the GFA in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of three years and be internationally recognised entities. This mandate may be renewed. The audited accounts shall be published in the national dailies in compliance with the Companies Act of Ghana.

Article 68 Membership Subscriptions

1. Membership subscriptions are due on August 31 of each year. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.
 - a. Annual subscription is pegged for the next two years after coming into force of these Statutes at GHC5,000 for Premier Clubs, GHC2,500 for Division One Clubs and GHC1,000, Women's Premier clubs, GHc500 for Division Two clubs, GHc300 for Division Three clubs and GHc200 for all other clubs including juvenile clubs.
 - b. After three years upon coming into force of these Statutes Congress shall review the annual subscription.
-

Article 69 Settlement

GFA may debit any Member's assets and accounts to settle claims.

Article 70 Levies

GFA may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches.

VII. COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Article 71 Competitions

- 1 GFA organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
 - a) Premier League
 - b) FA cup Competition
 - c) Division One League
 - d) Regional 2nd Division League

- e) District 3rd and 4th Division Leagues
- f) Inter Schools and Colleges Competitions
- g) Juvenile Leagues
- h) Women Football Leagues
- i) Friendly matches (domestic and international)
- j) FIFA Sanctioned matches and international friendly matches
- k) CAF sanctioned matches (Champions League/Confederation)
- l) WAFU sanctioned matches
- m) GHALCA competitions

² The Executive Council may delegate to GFA's subordinate Leagues the authority to organise competitions. The competitions organisation by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions' organisation by GFA. Competitions organisation by GFA shall take priority.

⁴ The Executive Council may issue special regulations to this end.

Article **72 Club Licensing**

The Executive Council shall issue regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in the competitions of GFA, in compliance with the minimum requirements of the club licensing system as set up by CAF and FIFA.

Article **73 Rights**

¹ GFA and its Members are the original owners of all the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time and place. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

² The Executive Council shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end.

Article **74 Authorisation**

GFA and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, and without any restrictions.

IX. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

Article 75 International Matches and Competitions

¹ The authority for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between Leagues, Club, teams and/or scratch teams lies solely with FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

² GFA is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article 76 Contacts

GFA, its Members, Players, Officials, licensed match agents and intermediaries shall not play matches or make sporting contact with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

Article 77 Approval

¹ Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to GFA may only join another Association with the authorisation of GFA, the other Association, the respective Confederation(s) and FIFA.

² Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to GFA cannot participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of GFA, the other Association(s), FIFA and the respective Confederation(s) according to the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

X. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 78 Unforeseen Contingencies and Force Majeure

The Executive Council shall have the power to decide on all cases of force majeure and on all matters not provided for in these Statutes, such decisions to be made according to right and justice, taking into account the relevant regulations of FIFA and CAF.

Article **79 Dissolution**

¹ Any decision relating to the dissolution of GFA requires a majority of three-quarters of all of the Members of GFA, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.

² If GFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the Registrar General's Department. It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until GFA is re-established. The final Congress may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a decision by more than 50% of its members.

Article **80 Deadlines**

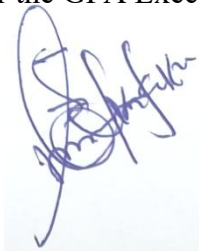
For the purposes of computation of time in these Statutes or any regulations or rules of the GFA, days shall be counted as calendar days.

- Saturdays and Sundays shall not be counted
- Statutory Public holidays shall not be counted
- One day shall mean until 5pm of the next day
- Twenty-four (24) hours shall mean until 5pm of the next day.

Article **81 Enforcement**

These Statutes were amended at the GFA Congress in Accra on 12th August, 2025 and came into force immediately.

Accra, August 12, 2025
For the GFA Executive Council



**KURT E.S OKRAKU
(PRESIDENT)**



**PROSPER HARRISON ADDO, ESQ.
(GENERAL SECRETARY)**

ANNEX A

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GFA

ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERAL SECRETARY – GFA

1. Must be a Ghanaian of not less than twenty-five (25) years old and not more than sixty (60) years old.
2. Must have a minimum of five (5) years working experience in sports administration or General Business Management.
3. Must have a Master's degree in a related discipline or first degree with ten(10) years working experience in Administration or Management.
4. Having a working knowledge of the FIFA, CAF and GFA Statutes and Regulations would be an added advantage.
5. Must be a person of high moral integrity.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE GFA

1. Must be a Ghanaian.
2. Must be of sound mind and has not been detained as a person of mental disorder under any enactment.
3. Has not been convicted of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude.
4. Helpful to have a working knowledge of the GFA, CAF and FIFA rules and regulations.
5. Has practical experience in Management, Administration, Finance or Corporate Governance.
6. Must be a person of high moral integrity.
7. Must have played an active role in association football (e.g. as a player or an official within the GFA or a Member) for two (2) of the last five (5) years.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF GFA

1. Must be a Ghanaian.
2. Working knowledge of the GFA, CAF and FIFA rules and regulations would be helpful.
3. Has not been convicted of an offence involving fraud dishonesty or moral turpitude.
4. Must be a person of high moral integrity.
5. Must have played an active role in association football (e.g. as a player or an official within the GFA or a Member) for two (2) of the last five (5) years.

ANNEX B – QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INTEGRITY CHECKS

Part 1: General provisions

- ¹ The integrity checks with regard to candidates for, and holders of, official positions within GFA that are subject to such checks (hereinafter: candidates) shall be conducted by the relevant body in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and the present Annexe.
- ² Candidates subject to integrity checks are obliged to comply with the screening and self-disclosure process as outlined in Part 2 and Part 3 below. Prior to the screening process, every candidate shall give his written consent to said process based on a form provided by the relevant body conducting the integrity check. If such written consent is not provided, the integrity check shall be deemed as not passed.
- ³ Candidates subject to integrity checks shall always act in good faith and shall fully collaborate to establish the relevant facts upon reasonable notice. If the candidate concerned does not cooperate with the body competent to conduct the integrity check, the integrity check shall be deemed as not passed.
- ⁴ An integrity check shall be deemed as not passed if the candidate concerned:
- a) has been subject to criminal convictions or disciplinary sanctions by a state court, in particular if the underlying behaviour was a substantive issue and not a minor infraction or procedural misbehaviour;
 - b) has been found guilty and/or sentenced by the GFA, CAF or FIFA Ethics Committee, a Commission of Enquiry into Sports Administration or any Sporting body with a sanction that would seriously put into question the discharge of the office concerned.
- ⁵ Subject to the relevant provisions regarding disclosure and forwarding of the information and related data obtained in the context of integrity checks in accordance with the present Annexe, all such information and all related data must be treated as strictly confidential by the body conducting the integrity checks concerned.
-

Part 2: Screening process

- ¹ At the beginning of the screening process, every candidate subject to an integrity check shall undergo an identification check (“ID check”). In this context, the candidate shall submit a copy of his current valid passport, National ID or Drivers License to the body in charge of performing the integrity check. The ID check shall include verification/identification of the following elements:
- a) name(s) and surname(s);
 - b) address of residence;
 - c) date and place of birth;
 - d) nationality/nationalities.
- ² Every candidate subject to an integrity check shall complete the questionnaire contained in Part 3 below.

³ The body in charge of performing the integrity checks may conduct independent research and/or investigations in order to obtain further relevant information on a particular candidate, which may include information on intermediaries and related parties, mandates, potential conflicts of interest and significant participations as well as civil and criminal proceedings/investigations.

Part 3: Questionnaire

First name(s):	
Surname(s):	
Address of residence:	
Date and place of birth:	
Nationality/nationalities:	
Profession:	

¹ Have you been previously convicted by a final decision of any intentional indictable offence or of any offence corresponding to a violation of the rules of conduct set out in part II section 5 of the FIFA Code of Ethics?

No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, please specify:

² Has a sports governing body ever imposed any disciplinary or similar sanction or measure on you in the past for actions which amount to a violation of the rules of conduct set out in part II section 5 of the FIFA Code of Ethics?

No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, please specify:

³ Are you the subject of any pending civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings or investigations?

No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, please specify:

⁴ I am fully aware that I am subject to the provisions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of GFA and to the provisions of the Statutes and other regulations of GFA that may address integrity issues, and I fully comply with such provisions.

⁵ I currently hold the following positions in football:

⁶ The following facts and circumstances may give rise to potential conflicts of interest regarding me (cf. in particular art. 23 par. 7 of these Statutes):

⁷ Remarks and observations which may be of potential relevance in the context of the integrity check:

⁸ I am fully aware and agree that this questionnaire is made available to the members of the appropriate body of GFA.

⁹ I am fully aware and confirm that I must notify the body conducting the integrity check of any relevant facts and circumstances arising after the integrity check has been completed.

¹⁰ I am fully aware and confirm that I am obliged to collaborate fully to establish the relevant facts with regard to the integrity check I am subject to. In particular, I will comply with requests for any documents, information or any other material of any nature held by me. In addition, I will comply with the procurement and provision of documents, information or any other material of any nature not held by me but which I am entitled to obtain.

¹¹ I am fully aware and confirm that the body conducting the integrity check may also request information on possible sanctions (questions 1 and 2 above) directly from FIFA or the relevant confederation as well as from other institutions such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, or the International Olympic Committee. In this regard, I hereby release the relevant institutions from any obligation of confidentiality relating to the information concerned.

¹² I am fully aware and confirm that the body conducting the integrity check may collect further information on me in accordance with Part 2 par. 3 of the present Annexe.

(Place and date)

(Signature)