

GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (GFA)



PREMIER LEAGUE REGULATIONS

DECEMBER 18, 2019

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PREMIER LEAGUE REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Executive Council of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) by the Statutes of the GFA, these Regulations for the control, management, and organisation of the Premier League, are hereby made.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

All words and abbreviations used in these Regulations shall be deemed to have the same meaning and interpretation as assigned by the GFA Statutes unless, otherwise explicitly defined or provided within these Regulations.

ARTICLES

1. Title and Name of Provisions

The Title of these Regulations shall be known and called, the “**Ghana Football Association Premier League Regulations**” and the provisions shall be referred to as **Articles, Clauses and Sub-Clauses**.

2. Control of the Premier League

The control and management of the Premier League in the country shall be vested in the GFA.

3. Laws of the Game

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

4. Forbidden Matches

No club shall maintain any relations of a sporting nature with non-recognized entities such as non-affiliated clubs, third parties or with members that have been suspended or expelled.

5. Affiliated Associations

- 1 No match shall be played nor shall a competition be organized by an affiliated Premier League Club unless, such a match or competition has been sanctioned by the GFA and the appropriate fee paid.
- 2 Clubs registered with the GFA directly or as affiliate members shall not organise any competition nor play matches against any other Ghanaian club or clubs registered with any other National Football Associations without the prior approval and consent of the GFA. No individual or organization shall organise a match or tournament involving Ghanaian clubs without prior approval by the GFA.
- 3 A club wishing to play against a club registered with the GFA or another National Association shall apply for approval at least seven (7) days before the match, except where the General Secretary of the GFA otherwise decides.

- 4 The GFA, may, at its discretion, sanction a match arranged at shorter notice.

6. Football Season

- 1 The football season may cover a period of ten (10) months, starting from August to May. The Executive Council may for good cause, extend or shorten or determine the period of the football season. The Executive Council shall also, have the power to suspend the league temporarily or abridge it.
- 2 There shall be a close season, which shall be defined as the period of one (1) month, save where the GFA makes an order to the contrary, or in competitions organised by FIFA, CAF, WAFU or the Ghana League Clubs Association.
- 3 Any club that engages in an off-season match without the written permission of the GFA shall be liable for a fine of not less than Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00) for the first offence. A repetition shall attract a suspension of the club from GFA-organised matches.

7. Number of Clubs, Champion and Demotion

- 1 (a) The League shall be open to a maximum of eighteen (18) clubs. All Clubs shall be incorporated as companies limited by either shares or guarantee and licensed in accordance with the GFA Club Licensing Regulations.
- (b) Each Club shall register not more than thirty (30) players for each season.
- 2 At the end of the competition, the last three clubs on the League table shall be automatically demoted to the Division One League. The champion club from each of the three Zones in the Division One League shall automatically be promoted to replace the demoted clubs in the Premier League.
- 3 There shall be first and second rounds of the League on Home and Away basis.
- 4 The club which has scored the highest number of points at the end of the league shall be declared the champion. If two or more teams obtain the same number of points at the end of the competition, their ranking shall be determined as follows and in the stated order:
- (a) Greater number of points obtained in matches between the clubs concerned during the competition.
- (b) Goal difference resulting from the match(es) between the teams concerned.
- (c) Greater number of goals scored in the match(es) between the teams concerned.
- (d) Greater number of goals scored away from home in matches between the teams concerned.
- (e) In the event there is still a tie after the application of all the above, the GFA shall organize a play-off between/or amongst the teams concerned at a neutral ground.

5 The GFA shall present the Championship Cup to the League Champion which shall keep it for one football season. The club shall be responsible for the upkeep and return of the Cup to the Association not later than thirty (30) days or six (6) matches to the end of the season.

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

7 The provision on the determination of the Champion of the league applies to qualification to African Clubs competitions and relegation.

8. The FA Cup

All Premier League clubs shall compete in the FA Cup Competition without fail.

9. The Super Cup

1 The Super Cup match shall be played before the commencement of the League.

2 The Champion of the Premier League and the Champion of the FA Cup competitions, if not one and the same club, shall play a one off match and the winner shall be declared the Super Champion.

3 In the event of the League Champion being the same as the FA Cup Champion, that club shall be declared the automatic Super Champion. The GFA Executive Council may, however, organise a ceremonial match between the club and either the runners-up in the League or FA Cup, for the purpose of awarding the Trophy.

10. Trophies

1 The holder of the league trophy shall be responsible for its up-keep and return to the GFA in good condition.

2 Where the trophy is lost or damaged from any cause, the club shall in addition to any penalty, which the GFA may impose, pay to the Association, the replacement value of the trophy.

11. Fixtures

Fixtures for the Premier League shall be prepared by the GFA.

12. Postponement of matches

1 Request for the postponement of a match(es) shall not be granted by the GFA except, on the grounds of force majeure or some other sufficient cause.

2 Where a match is postponed or abandoned on the grounds of bad weather or other sufficient cause, it shall be replayed within 24 hours of the scheduled date, unless the GFA determines otherwise.

- 3 Further to the above provision, in the case of a match being abandoned as a result of force majeure after it has already kicked-off, the following principles shall apply:
 - (a) the match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full, and with the same score line.
 - (b) the match shall recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was abandoned.
 - (c) no additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the start list.
 - (d) the teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned.
 - (e) players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced.
 - (f) any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned shall remain valid for the remainder of the match.
 - (g) the kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the GFA.
- 4 Where the GFA sanctions the postponement of a match for a club engaged in an international match outside Ghana, the postponed match shall be played within 72 hours not being earlier than 24 hours after the return of the club to Ghana or on a date to be determined by the GFA.
- 5 Where a club has contributed three (3) players or more to the National Team “A” or 5 players or more in any combination of the National Team ‘A’, National Team ‘B’, U-23, U-20 or U-17 National Teams, the club may request the postponement of its match and the postponed match shall be rescheduled by the GFA.

13. Withdrawal of clubs from competitions/matches

- 1 A club shall be liable for misconduct if it withdraws from a competition after the competition has started without just cause.
- 2 Any club intending to withdraw from any competition must give notice of its intention to do so to the GFA not later than fourteen (14) days before the commencement of the competition. Should a club fail to comply with this Regulation the Association shall have the power to compel such offending club to refund any expenses incurred and take such further action as it may deem fit.
- 3 Without prejudice to any provision in these Regulations, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to take appropriate disciplinary decisions, including but not limited to an imposition of a ban or a demotion, against any club which withdraws from a competition or fails to honour any match without just cause and may also, ban officials of the club from taking part in football activities for a specified period.

- 4 A club failing to give satisfactory reason for withdrawing without first obtaining the consent of the Association, shall not be allowed to enter the competition for a number of seasons to be determined by the GFA.
- 5 Where a club withdraws from the league after it has started, any match which that club is scheduled to play shall be considered forfeited and accordingly, three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the opposing club.
- 6 A club that fails to honour a sanctioned friendly match shall be fined an amount of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2,000.00) and in addition, be banned from playing friendly matches (both local and international) for a period of six (6) months, commencing from the date of the match the club failed to honour. Fifty per cent (50%) of the fine shall be paid to the opposing team. In addition, where the defaulting club is playing at home, it shall pay the cost of transportation of the opposing club.
- 7 If a club makes preparations towards a match and the match is cancelled by the Organizers, the latter shall pay to the club an amount of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2,000.00) as compensation. Where the club proves to the GFA that the money expended is more than the sum of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2,000.00), the GFA may order the Organizers to pay the difference in addition.

In this sub clause, friendly match includes, GALA and other promotional matches.

14. Venue

- 1 A place shall not be used as venue for league matches unless, it has been approved by the GFA to be used as such.
- 2 The GFA may order the closure of any league centre/venue where the safety of clubs, match officials and/or spectators cannot be guaranteed.
- 3 In all other cases, where it becomes necessary for a club to play away from its registered home venue, the GFA shall have the discretion to decide where any such match(es) shall be played.

15. Player Licence

- 1 Clubs participating in any official match sanctioned by the association shall always take with them to the football field the licenses of participating players duly issued by the GFA.
- 2 The Referee, the Assistant Referees and the Captains of the two clubs shall inspect the player licenses before the commencement of each match.
- 3 A match shall be played even if the licenses of some players are not available for inspection. In such an instance, a group photograph of the Referee, the Captain of the opposing side and the player(s) concerned shall be taken and submitted to the GFA Secretariat within one(1) day after the match has been played either by the Match Commissioner or the defaulting club(s).

- 4 Where the defaulting team fails to produce the license of the player(s) concerned either in hard copy or by email within the stipulated one (1) day, the defaulting team shall be fined an amount of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).

16: Strip

- 1 (a) Each club shall register with the GFA, official and reserve strips in distinct colours for outfield players and goalkeepers on forms prescribed by the GFA before the commencement of each season. In addition, the club shall submit to the GFA a pictorial replica of the registered strips, showing the front and back of the strips. Clubs shall appear in their official strip in all official matches.
- (b) In the event of a clash between the visiting team's official strip and the home team's official strip, the visiting team shall change to its reserve strip or combination of the official and reserve strips as determined by the GFA.
- (c) Where there is a clash of colours in respect of the goalkeeper's strip and the outfield players' strip, the goalkeeper shall change to a reserve strip. Any clash occurring between the colour of the two goalkeepers' strips, the goalkeeper of the visiting team shall change his strip. In the event that an outfield player is replacing the goalkeeper, the outfield player shall appear in his team's registered goalkeeper's shirt without a number.
- (d) A club shall not be permitted to change its registered strips during the season.
- (e) The logo of the title sponsor (if any) of the league shall appear on a designated portion of the sleeves of the shirts of both official and reserve strips of clubs.
- (f) The GFA shall publish a register of all club strips for all clubs and Match Officials before the commencement of the league.
- (g) The Referees and Assistant Referees shall appear in strips quite distinct from those of the two teams.
- 2 Any club which contravenes clause 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) of this Article shall be liable to a fine of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
- 3 Any team that delays the kick-off of a match due to its reluctance to change its strip in the event of a clash of strips, shall be fined an amount of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,000.00).
- 4 Any club that fails to present its duly registered strip at Match Coordination Meeting shall be liable to a fine of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
- 5 Each shirt must have displayed/embossed at the back, the number for the player donning it. The number must be between twenty-five (25) centimeters in height, clearly legible and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. Additionally, the number must be entirely visible when the player's shirt is tucked in to the shorts. The player's number must also appear on the front of the shorts, positioned on either leg. The number must be between ten (10) centimeters and fifteen (15) centimeters in height and clearly legible.

The numbering shall begin from one (1) and end at thirty (30). The number one (1) shall be exclusively reserved for a goalkeeper. Each club shall have two (2) unnumbered official and reserve strips for outfield players and goalkeepers to be used in case of bloody or destroyed strips during matches.

- 6 A club that fails to comply with clause 5 above shall be fined an amount of Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00).

17. Footballs

Footballs used in all official matches must conform to the Laws of the Game. The footballs shall be provided by the GFA.

18. Referee / Match Commissioner

- 1 No person shall officiate as Referee, Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner in any competition or match under the jurisdiction of the Association, unless appointed by the Association or by a person or body duly authorized by the GFA.
- 2 The GFA shall be responsible for selecting those who shall act as Referees, Assistant Referees and/or Match Commissioners in all competitions under its jurisdiction.
- 3 At the commencement of the football season, the GFA shall make a list of Referees and Match Commissioners as the Association shall deem fit, in order to ensure that there are enough qualified persons to be appointed to officiate in all matches under its jurisdiction.
- 4 No person against whom disciplinary action has been taken or is pending shall be appointed to officiate in any match of the League. Where the disciplinary action results in sanctions, the disqualification herein contained shall cease to apply as soon as the sanction is served on the affected person.
- 5 For the avoidance of doubt, the right/power to suspend or remove a person from the list of persons qualified to officiate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the Association is reserved exclusively by the Association.
- 6 A Referee or Match Commissioner may appeal to the GFA against a decision that imposes upon him/her a penalty, punishment or other disciplinary action (including removal from the GFA's list of registered referees). Such an appeal must be lodged with the GFA within two (2) days from the date of the communication of the decision. The appeal shall be accompanied by a fee of Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHc200.00). It shall be heard by the GFA's Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 7 Referees and Match Commissioners shall attend disciplinary hearings when called upon to do so. Disciplinary action shall be taken against those who fail to attend hearings without just cause.

- 8 A qualified Referee, other than the officiating Referee and Assistants, shall be appointed in each match as fourth referee. The duties of the fourth referee shall include but not limited to taking the place of the officiating referee or any of the assistant referees who either through absence, indisposition or other cause, may retire in the course of the game.
- 9 A Match Commissioner designated by the GFA shall be present at each match whose duties shall be:
- (a) To chair the Match Coordination meeting.
 - (b) To observe the match in all its aspects including but not limited to performance of the Referee, behaviour of the spectators, control and organization of the match.
 - (c) To attend the pre-match formalities in the dressing room and note any protests made. He may, if he deems it necessary, go back to the dressing room during half-time or after the match.
 - (d) To submit a detailed report within 24 hours after the match to the GFA Secretariat. This report may later be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee, if it becomes necessary.
 - (e) The Match Commissioner may, if he deems it necessary for the security of the Referee or the visiting team decide not to have the match played until his instructions are carried out, but once the match is started, it is exclusively the prerogative of the Referee to suspend or end the match for any of the reasons in Law 5 of the Laws of the Game.
10. The GFA may appoint a Match Coordinator, Media Officer, Match Observer or Referees Assessor to observe or coordinate any match and report on it. These reports shall be considered together with the match reports by the appropriate sanctioning bodies.

19. Absence of a Match Commissioner/Referee

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

20. Match report form

1. The GFA shall provide Match Report Forms for Match Observers, Referees and the Match Commissioners and Match Substitution Forms for the Referees.

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

21. Match officials 'report

1.
 - (a) The Referee and the Match Commissioners shall transmit their reports by e-mail or through any approved electronic medium and in any approved electronic format where possible to the GFA Secretariat within two (2) hours after the end of the match.
 - (b) Referees and Match Commissioners shall send the full completed reports to the GFA within twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the match.
2. Failure to submit any of the reports in clause 1 above shall lead to the Match Official forfeiting his/her allowance in the first instance. If a match official repeatedly submits his/her report late he/she shall be banned for one (1) year.

22. Kick-off

1. Unless otherwise directed by the GFA:
 - (a) League matches shall kick-off at times to be decided by the GFA and teams shall report to the Match Officials in the dressing rooms or such places as may be determined by the Match Officials, at least sixty (60) minutes before kick-off.

The match day countdown shall be as follows:

Match day countdown

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

- xi. Team photographs - 5mins.
 - xii. Toss of coin - 2mins.
 - xiii. Kick-off - 0
- (b) A breach of any of the timelines stated in the countdown under clause 1(a) shall attract of at least a fine of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).
2. (a) The Match Coordination meeting shall start at times as determined by the GFA. For the avoidance of doubt, any club that reports after the determined start time shall be considered to be late. A club shall be deemed to be absent if the club fails to report during meeting.
- (b) A club that reports late for a match coordination meeting shall be liable to a fine of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
- (c) A club that fails to attend a Match Coordination meeting without reasonable excuse shall be liable to a fine of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).
- (d) Without prejudice to the authority of the GFA to invoke any of the disciplinary measures provided under these Regulations against the offending team(s);
- (i) a referee shall declare the end of a match if one or both clubs fail to appear on the pitch after 30 minutes of kick-off time.
 - (ii) Where both teams fail to appear, the match shall be deemed to have been played with neither side earning any point. In addition, both teams shall lose three (3) points from their accumulated points and three (3) goals each. Further, the GFA shall impose a fine of at least Twenty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢20,000.00) on the offending teams.
3. (a) The players, accompanied by not more than seven (7) officials of each club, whose names shall be registered on the match sheet, shall come out of the dressing rooms preceded by the match officials. The referee, the assistant referees, and the twenty-two (22) competing players shall then, proceed directly onto the pitch for the commencement of the game while the Match Commissioner, club officials and the substitute players proceed to their respective sitting places.
- (b) It shall be misconduct for a club, player or club official to use an unauthorized entrance to get to the stadium or playing field. It is also misconduct when the home team prevents the visiting team from using the approved entrance into the stadium.
- (c) A club, player or official who contravenes clause 3(a) or 3(b) above shall pay a fine of Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000.00).

4. Any extra personnel on a club's bench or inner perimeter shall be removed and the offending club shall pay a fine of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00) for each unauthorized person.

23. Duration of Matches

1. Each match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two (2) periods/halves of forty-five (45) minutes each with an interval of not more than fifteen (15) minutes. The Referee shall allow for time wasted or lost through accident or other sufficient cause.
2. The Referee is the sole judge of time including, time lost through accident or other sufficient cause and his decision on this matter shall not be subject to protest or appeal.
3. At the end of the first half, the referee and the assistant referees shall follow all the players off the field.

24. Amateur and Professional players

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

25. Registration - General guidelines

1. (a) The GFA Secretariat shall keep registers and data bases in which the names, birth dates and other particulars of all players for each club shall be recorded.
- (b) A player must be registered with a club as either a Professional or an Amateur in accordance with the provision of Article 2 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Only registered players are eligible to participate in the League. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA, CAF and the GFA.

- (c) All clubs shall ensure that their total number of registered players does not exceed a number to be determined by the GFA.
 - (d) In registering players, full names (surnames and other names) shall be given. Incomplete names or nicknames shall not be accepted. After registration, the Association shall be notified of any changes, and in any event, not later than fourteen (14) days from the date the license was issued.
- 2.
 - (a) Each club shall be given an online account by the GFA for online registration of each of its players and officials.
 - (b) Clubs registering players shall pay processing fees as determined by the GFA.
 - (c) The application for registration of a Professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract. It shall be at the discretion of the relevant decision-making body to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.
- 3.
 - (a) If a player who has not been registered with the Association appears for a club in any official match, that player shall be considered as having played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and / or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the Association.
 - (b) A player shall only be registered with one club at a time.
 - (c) The GFA is obliged to provide the club for which the player is registered with a Player Passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club (s) for which the player has been registered since the season of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player shall be listed in the player passport for the club for which he was registered in the season following his birthday.
 - (d) Players may be registered with a maximum of three (3) clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this Regulation, a player moving between two clubs belonging to the Association in overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring), may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods (Article 6 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players), as well as the minimum length of a contract (Article 18, paragraph 2, of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as amended from time to time), must be respected.
 - (e) A club shall be deemed to be the bona fide holder of the registration of a player only upon receipt of his registration license duly issued by the GFA. The player license is the property of the Association being held in trust by the clubs. The GFA shall have the right to withdraw or recall the license when the need arises.

- (f) Players may only be registered subject to the exception provided in Article 6 paragraph 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as amended from time to time, if an application from the club is validly submitted during a registration period.
4. In all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.

26. Registration of different categories of players

1. Registration of players(s) for different categories shall be in accordance with the requirement of these Regulations. Additionally, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) Old/Renewal of Players (Amateurs or Professionals)
 - (i) Player's license (old registration card) after the expiration of contract.
 - (ii) Online registration completed by the parties and submitted.
 - (iii) Contract where applicable
 - (iv) Medical Certificate
 - (b) New players (on transfer – Amateur or Professional):
 - (i) Player's license from the releasing club
 - (ii) A transfer agreement between the old and the new clubs duly signed by authorized officials of the clubs.
 - (iii) Online registration form completed and duly submitted by the parties.
 - (iv) A contract between the player and the club duly signed by both parties, where applicable.
 - (v) Medical Certificate
 - (c) New players (players who have never previously registered for any club or those from a nursery club of the registering club).
 - (i) Player's license, where applicable.
 - (ii) A letter of release addressed to the GFA, where applicable, with explicit instructions as stated in 1(b) (ii) above.
 - (iii) Online registration form completed and duly submitted by the parties.
 - (iv) Contract (Professionals only)
 - (v) Medical Certificate
 - (vi) A legal document indicating that he has never before registered for any other club.
 - (d) Loan players (Professional):

A club that has accepted a player on loan basis is not entitled to transfer the player to a third club without

 - (i) the written authorization of the club that released the player on loan, as well as the player concerned;
 - (i) the player's License from the transferor;
 - (ii) a Loan Agreement between the old club and the new club duly signed by authorized officials of the two clubs and the player; and

- (iii) online registration form completed and duly submitted by the parties.
 - (e) Juvenile Clubs cannot loan their players to Premier League clubs.
 - (f) Foreign Players
 - (i) International Transfer Certificate
 - (ii) Photocopy of passport showing work permit (professionals)
 - (iii) Photocopy of passport showing resident permit
 - (iv) Contract (where applicable)
 - (v) Online registration form completed and submitted by the parties.
 - (vi) Medical Certificate
 - (g) Refugee Players
 - (i) Letter from the Refugee Board indicating that the said player is a refugee from a particular country.
 - (ii) The player shall apply to the Players' Status Committee for the issuance of a Provisional International Transfer Certificate for his registration.
 - (iii) Online registration form completed and submitted by the parties.
 - (iv) Refugee Players shall not be registered as Professionals.
 - (h) Free Agent Players
 - (i) Letter from the GFA Player Status Committee indicating that the said player is a free agent or proof of last contract end date signed by the former club of the player with the name, title and designation of the official or an Amateur Player who has completed the season in which he was registered.
 - (ii) A contract between the player and the club duly signed by both parties (where applicable)
 - (iii) Online registration form duly and submitted completed by the parties.
 - (iv) Medical Certificate.
 - (i) Ghanaian Player from Outside Ghana
 - (i) International Transfer Certificate
 - (ii) Contract between the player and the club duly signed by both parties (where applicable)
 - (iii) Online registration form duly and submitted completed by the parties.
 - (iv) Medical Certificate
2. (a) Under the provisions of these Regulations, the loan of a player by one club to another constitutes a transfer. Clubs may loan a player(s) during the football season based on the following conditions:
- (i) A club shall register a maximum of five (5) loaned players.
 - (ii) A club may loan a player(s) to another club by mutual agreement for a minimum period between two registration periods, provided that not more than five (5) players had been loaned to that club within the two registration periods.

- (iii) A professional may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between him and the club concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same provisions as apply to the transfer of Professional Players, including the provisions on training compensation and solidarity mechanism.
 - (iv) On the expiry of the loan period, the player reverts automatically to his mother club and the GFA is obliged to issue a new registration card upon receipt of the original loan agreement.
 - (v) Subject to Article 26(4)(d), the minimum loan period shall be the time between two registration periods.
- (b) Lost License:
 - The following shall be required for a new license to be issued:
 - (i) Police Extract.
 - (ii) Legal document
 - (iii) Written application on the club's letter head addressed to the General Secretary.
 - (iv) Payment of a fee of GH¢100.00
- (c) Damaged License:
 - The following shall be required for a new license to be issued:
 - (i) Return of the damaged license.
 - (ii) Written application on the club's letter head addressed to the General Secretary.
 - (iii) Payment of a fee of GH¢100.00
- 3. A non-Ghanaian player shall only be registered after satisfying the requirements of clause 1(f) of this Article.
- 4.
 - (a) An amateur player's registration with a club shall be valid for one (1) football season whilst that of a professional player shall be valid for the duration of the contract which shall be for a minimum period of one (1) season and a maximum period of five (5) years.
 - (b) A player who has not attained his 18th birthday can only register as a professional for a maximum of three (3) years.
 - (c) All players shall be registered anew every season.
 - (d) A player shall not be registered anew or issued with a new license where a Club renews or extends the term of a player whose contract has expired in the course of a league season. For the avoidance of doubt, a player so affected shall continue to use his or her player license for the remainder of the season.

5. Clubs may register a maximum of five (5) non-Ghanaian nationals but not more than three (3) can participate in any one match. However, if all five(5) players are from the ECOWAS Community, then all of the players shall be eligible to participate in any one match.
6. Responsibility for the truthfulness of information on players' licenses lies on the clubs and not on the GFA.
7. Clubs that operate an academy with legal, financial or de facto links to the clubs are obliged to report all minors who attend the academy to the association upon whose territory the academy operates.
8. The GFA is obliged to ensure that all academies without legal, financial or de facto links to a club:
 - (a) run a club that participates in the relevant national championship, all players shall be reported to the association upon whose territory the academy operates, or registered with the club itself, or
 - (b) report all minors who attend the academy, for the purpose of training to the association upon whose territory the academy operates.
9. Each association shall keep a register comprising the names and dates of birth of the minors that have been reported to it by the clubs or academies.
10. Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practice football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organized football.
11. Any violation of the above-mentioned clause will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
12. Subject to Article 26(4)(d), the minimum loan period shall be the time between two registration periods.

27. Registration periods

1. Players may only be registered during one of the two annual Registration Periods fixed by the Association. As an exception to this provision, a Professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside that registration period. GFA are authorized to register such professionals provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. Where a contract has been terminated with just cause, FIFA may take provisional measures in order to avoid abuse, subject to Article 22 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as amended from time to time.
 - (a) The first registration period shall begin after the completion of the season and shall normally end before the new season starts. This period may not exceed twelve (12) weeks. The second registration period shall normally occur in the middle of the season and may not exceed four weeks. The two registration periods for the season shall be entered into the Transfer Matching System (TMS) at least

12 months before they come into force (CF Annex 3, Article 5(1) paragraph 1 of the FIFA Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players). FIFA shall determine the dates for any association that fails to communicate them on time.

- (b) The GFA shall publish the list of all players registered by all clubs.
 - (c) At any time during the season, a player suspected to have been registered illegally or fraudulently shall be reported to the GFA Prosecutor. Also, a complaint about any player concerning a change in identity or data may be challenged at any time by any club by sending the complaint and evidence to the GFA Prosecutor for investigation and prosecution before the GFA Disciplinary Committee.
 - (d) The Second Registration Period shall begin four (4) weeks to the end of the 1st round of the league or as determined by the GFA.
2. Players may only be registered subject to the exception provided in the relevant article of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, upon submission of a valid application from the club to the relevant association during a registration period.

28. Unqualified Player

1. An unqualified player is:
- (a) Any player not registered by the GFA who appears for a club in any official match. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the Club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with GFA.
 - (b) A player suspended by the GFA from participating in football competitions indefinitely or for a specific period.
 - (c) A player banned from participating in GFA competitions by GFA, WAFU, CAF or FIFA.
 - (d) A player who has registered for more than one club or with any club registered with another National Association.
 - (e) A player who has received a caution in three league matches.
 - (f) A player who has received a direct red card in a match and has not missed the required number of matches and/or paid the related fine.
 - (g) A player who has received two cautions in the same match and has not missed the next match and/or paid the related fine.
2. (a) An unqualified player shall not take part in any match for which he is unqualified to play.

- (b) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision of this Article, the GFA shall in all cases, locate and punish the guilty party/parties. In the event of the player being the sole guilty party, the results of the match which he played shall stand.
- (c) A player guilty of double or multiple registrations shall be suspended from participating in matches and competitions organised by the GFA for a period of at least one (1) year.

29. Contracts

1. Every player designated as a Professional player under these Regulations shall have a written contract with the club employing him, which shall at least contain the following standard terms; duration, financial commitments, obligations of the parties, settlement of disputes, forum for dispute settlement (GFA), payment terms, name of Intermediary (if any) and termination. Such a contract shall be signed in triplicate; one for the club, one for the player and one for the GFA.
2. Every club shall, on contracting or registering a player or a member of the technical team, deposit at the headquarters of the GFA or upload into the registration system, any Contract or Agreement it has entered into with the professional player or technical team member. In the case of an Amateur, the club shall deposit the appropriate form prescribed by the GFA. The affected player or team official is also encouraged to deposit any contract signed with a club at the GFA.
3. No contract to play for a club shall be recognized by the Association, unless a copy of such a contract has been duly deposited at the Association in compliance with this Article.
4. The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognized.
5. Copies of all documents of employment exchanged between the club of the one part, and any player, official or other employee of the club of the other part, shall be deposited with the Association and all such documents shall specify that, that person is directly under the disciplinary control of the club, as well as the Association. The GFA shall certify the Contracts and return copies to all parties.
6. Any dispute arising out of any contract shall as far as possible, be resolved by the Players' Status Committee of the GFA.
7. Any club which fails to comply with clause (2) of this Article shall be liable to a fine of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,000.00) per player.
8. If an agent is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he shall be named in that contract.
9. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to successful medical examination and/or the grant of a work permit.

10. If a Professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Chapter IV of FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as amended from time to time shall apply.
11. No club shall enter into a contract which enables any other party to that contract or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer related matters, its independence, its policies or the performance of its terms.
12. The GFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this Article.

30. Resignations, withdrawals, suspensions and dismissal

1. (a) Any amateur player may leave his club after one (1) football season. The new club which subsequently engages the services of the player, shall pay a development fee as determined by the GFA.

(b) A player under contract shall not leave his club without fulfilling his obligations to his club under the terms of his contract, unless the player is discharged from further performance of his obligations by mutual consent or the contract is rescinded by one party or the other for valid reasons.
2. (a) A club may release or withdraw any of its players during one of the registration periods.

(b) A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during the course of a season.
3. (a) For good reasons, a player may be suspended or dismissed by his club. The club shall not suspend a player for more than six (6) months at a time. A dismissed player shall be free to register for any club in the next registration period without the payment of transfer fee.

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

31. Free Agent

1. A Free Agent is a player:
 - (a) whose contract with his present club has ended.
 - (b) whose amateur status for the season has expired at the end of the season.
 - (c) whose contract mutually been terminated.
 - (d) a player who has been so declared by the Player Status Committee (PSC) on any of the following grounds:
 - (i) if he is suspended by his club for a continuous period of more than six(6) months; or

- (ii) if he has for a full league season not been registered by any club; or
 - (iii) any other ground which in the opinion of Players' Status Committee justifies such declaration.
- 2. A player wishing to apply for a free agent status shall in addition to the application duly signed by him/her, pay a processing fee of Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢200.00). For the avoidance of doubt, no other matter(s) regarding the Status or eligibility of a player shall be entertained unless the appropriate processing fee has been paid.
- 3. Without prejudice to the rights of his club to training compensation, a free agent shall be eligible for registration without the payment of compensation for breach of contract.
- 4. The GFA Players' Status Committee, the Disciplinary Committee or the Dispute Resolution Committee (as the case may be) shall not address any dispute under these Regulations if more than two(2) years have elapsed from the event giving rise to the dispute.
- 5. For the purpose of service, the proper address of a club/player(s) on whom a document of invitation is to be served by the GFA shall be the address provided by the GFA and for the player by the Club.

32. Transfers

- 1. Transfer negotiations shall, in accordance with FIFA Regulations, involve three (3) parties, the player, the club he wishes to leave and the new club he intends to join.
- 2. For the avoidance of doubt, movement of players shall be in accordance with prevailing FIFA Regulations, which include the following:
 - (a) A club intending to conclude a contract with a professional must inform his current club in writing before entering into negotiations with that professional. A Professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or will expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions. Any violation shall attract a fine of not less than GH¢5,000.00 and not more than GH¢30,000.00.
 - (b) If a professional player concludes a contract with a new club his former club shall be entitled to compensation for his training and/or development.
 - (c) If an amateur player concludes a contract with a new club which he joins as a professional player his former club shall be entitled to compensation for his development.
 - (d) If an amateur player joins another club and maintains the same amateur status there, his former club shall be entitled to compensation for his training.
 - (e) If the player's former club considers it is entitled to compensation for development under the terms of (iii) above, it shall file its claim with the GFA within three (3) months from the date of the player turning professional. In the event that the new club defaults its payment at that point the player shall be considered ineligible to participate in any official match of the GFA.

- (f) Where there is a dispute between a player and his club or between two clubs over the player's intention to leave his current club, the new registration of such a player shall be suspended until the dispute is resolved by the Players' Status Committee of the GFA.
- 3. Payment of training and player development fees shall be negotiated by the parties. Where the parties are unable to reach any agreement as to the training development fees the matter shall be referred to the GFA Dispute Resolution Committee. The Committee's decision shall be final.
- 4. A club may make a valid agreement with any of its players waiving its right to compensation for training and development due it under the terms of these regulations, such a waiver, must be in writing to be valid.
- 5.
 - (a) Negotiations for the transfer of a player registered with the GFA to a club belonging to another National Association shall be conducted between the Ghanaian club, the Foreign club and the player. The GFA should be notified of the result of the negotiation to enable the Association to comply with the FIFA regulations.
 - (b) The GFA shall not interfere with negotiation and the process of transferring a player from a member club to a club belonging to another National Association provided that:
 - (i) The player has met his contractual obligations to his mother or current club whichever is applicable: clubs may transfer any number of players within the season.
 - (ii) The contract with the player contains a clause which obliges his new club to release the player to honour, a call by the GFA to play for a national team in accordance with FIFA's Regulations with respect to the number of releases per year and time allowed for training.
 - (c) Ten (10) percent of all training and transfer fees in respect of external transfers, shall be paid into a Football Development Fund as follows:
 - (i) five (5) percent shall be paid to the GFA.
 - (ii) five (5) percent shall be paid to the Ghana League Clubs Association (GHALCA). Where the player involved is a Juvenile, GHALCA's 5 percent share shall be paid to the National Juvenile Committee.
- 6. An International Transfer Certificate shall be issued whenever an amateur player leaves to join another National Association to which he has been released.
- 7. The outright transfer of a player(s) currently registered with any club or clubs under the jurisdiction of the GFA to a club of another Association, shall follow the under-mentioned procedure:
 - (a) The player and his club shall complete and sign a GFA "cancelled by mutual consent" form to annul the player's registration with the club and the GFA.
 - (b) The player(s) license shall be sent to the GFA.

- (c) The player(s) must complete and sign a GFA questionnaire requesting the issuance of an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) in his name to the national association to which his prospective club belongs.
 - (d) A copy of the transfer agreement duly signed by the two(2) clubs, must be submitted together with the afore-mentioned document to the GFA General Secretary or through the TMS.
 - (e) The transfer agreement must contain indications as to when the payment of the agreed transfer compensation is due.
 - (f) The issuance of an International Transfer Certificate shall be contingent upon the satisfaction of the conditions stated above, except where the GFA has a good reason to vary them.
8. International transfer of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.
 9. The following exceptions to this rule apply:
 - (a) The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football.
 - (b) The player lives no further than 50km. from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighboring association is also within 50 km. of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100km. in such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.
 10. The conditions of this Article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club and is not a national of the country in which he wished to be registered for the first time.
 11. Every international transfer according to clause 9 and every first registration according to clause 10 of this Article is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wishes to register the player. The former association shall be given the opportunity to submit its position. The sub-committee's approval shall be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate, and/or a first registration. Any violations of this provision shall result in the imposition of sanctions by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In addition to the association that failed to apply to the sub-committee, sanction may also be imposed on the former association for issuing an International Transfer Certificate without the approval of the sub-committee, as well as on the clubs that reached an agreement for the transfer of a minor.
 12. The procedures for applying to the sub-committee for a first registration and an international transfer of a minor are contained in Annex 2 of the FIFA Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players.

33. Forfeiture of matches

1. A team commits an offence punishable by forfeiture of a match where:
 - (a) that team walks off the field of play or refuses to continue play;
 - (b) that team positions itself in such a way as to render the progress of the game impossible or the player(s) or supporter(s) of the team initiate(s) an act responsible for the abrupt end of the match;
 - (c) the team's lateness without just cause, renders continuation of the match impossible or renders it impossible for the match to travel the full 90 minutes;
 - (d) it fields more than five (5) loaned players in a match or more than the required number of foreign players allowed under these Regulations;
 - (e) it fields an unqualified player(s) or team official(s);
 - (f) it fails to report for or honour a match without just cause;
 - (g) it plays with another team a match which has been declared non-competitive or the results of which have been found to be pre-determined or fixed;
 - (h) as a premier league club it fails to submit its audited accounts for the year preceding the just ended league season before the commencement of the new league season;
 - (i) it plays in a strip that is not registered with the Association in an official match;
 - (j) it fails to play in the strip that is determined by the GFA for that match; and
 - (k) it fails to put up a functional office in place and inform the Association of the location, telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address of the said office before the commencement of the league season.
2. In respect of offences (a) to (e), no matter what the scores shall be at the time of the offence or at the end of the match, the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly, three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team, unless the innocent team is leading by a margin of more than three (3) goals at the time of the offence or when the match comes to an end; in which case, the scores will stand.
3. In respect of offence (f), the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly, three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team.
4. (a) In respect of offence (h), the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly, three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team. In addition, the defaulting club shall lose three (3) points and three (3) goals from the club's accumulated points, notwithstanding whether or not it has accumulated points. For the avoidance of doubt, it is possible for a

club to have a negative points build up. The team shall lose its subsequent matches if it fails to comply with the provision stated herein.

- (b) In respect of offences (i) and (j), the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match and accordingly, three (3) points and three (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team. In addition, the offending club shall lose three (3) points and three (3) goals from the club's accumulated points, whether or not the club has accumulated points. For the avoidance of doubt, it is possible for a club to have negative points build up.
5. In addition to the sanctions provided in clauses 2 and 3 above in respect of offences 33(1)(a) to 33(1)(e) and 33(1)(f) respectively, the following sanctions shall apply:
- (a) The defaulting club shall lose 3 points from its accumulated points from previous matches.
 - (b) The club shall be fined Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000.00), 50% of which shall be paid to the opposing club.
 - (c) Where the defaulting club is playing at home the transportation expenses of the opposing club shall also be paid by the defaulting club.
6. In addition to the sanctions under clause 4b above, the following sanctions shall also apply:
- (a) In respect of Clause 33(1)(i) and 33(1)(j), the offending club shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).
 - (b) In respect of Clause 33(1)(j), the offending club shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Three Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢3000.00).
7. A team shall forfeit a match under Article 33(1) in consequence of a protest duly filed within the time limited for filing of protests under these Regulations or where the GFA discovers that a club has committed an infraction.
8. In respect of offence 33(1)(g), the match shall be declared null and void and three (3) points shall be deducted from the accumulated points of the offending club(s).
9. Where each of the two clubs commits an offence that is punishable by the forfeiture of the match, the match shall be considered as having been played but with neither side being credited with any point, no matter what the score shall be at the end of the match.
10. Unless otherwise stated, on the forfeiture of a match by club, the innocent team shall be awarded three (3) points and three (3) goals.
11. Notwithstanding any provision in this Article or in any other Article in these Regulations and notwithstanding the fact that a club may not have accumulated points, the GFA shall impose the sanction of three-point deduction on the offending club. For the avoidance of doubt, it shall be possible for a club to have a negative points build-up.

12. In respect of offences 33 (1)(a), 33(1)(b) and 33(1)(c), the offending team shall be considered as having lost the match.

13. Burden of proof

- a. The burden of proof regarding protests between clubs rests on the protesting club and in the case of a charge by the Prosecutor, the burden rests with the Prosecution.
- b. In the case of a protest regarding the use of an unqualified player in the sense of Article 28(1)(a), the burden of proof shall be incumbent on the protesting club and/or the GFA.
- c. In the case of an anti-doping rule violation, it is incumbent upon the suspect to produce the proof necessary to reduce or cancel a sanction. For sanctions to be reduced, the suspect must also prove how the prohibited substance entered his body.

34. Offences by GFA officials, clubs, club officials and players etc.

1. A club official, player or member of a club who:
 - (a) interferes with the progress of a match shall be liable to a fine to be determined by the GFA Disciplinary Committee or banned from attending matches played under the jurisdiction of the GFA for such period as the GFA Disciplinary Committee may determine;
 - (b) incites players against other players or match officials because of their decisions or encourages an unhealthy demonstration in whatever form, commits an offence and shall be liable to a fine to be determined by the GFA Disciplinary Committee or banned from attending matches played under the jurisdiction of the GFA for such period as the GFA Disciplinary Committee may determine.
 - (c) A club or club official, player(s) or supporter(s) of a club who prevents the video coverage of a match by accredited GFA officials shall be liable to a fine not less than Twenty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢20,000.00).
2. Misconduct towards a match official away from the field of play where that misconduct can be related or traced to a match shall be dealt with as if it has been committed on the field of play.
3.
 - (a) The sprinkling of water, powder or other concoctions in liquid or solid form in or around the field of play, including the dressing room, is forbidden and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,000.00).
 - (b) Throwing of sachet water, plastic bottles and other objects onto the field of play shall attract a fine of not less than Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000.00)

- (c) Using abusive language against match officials before and after matches shall be attract a fine not below Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000.00) or in more serious circumstances, expulsion.
- 4. The Association shall hold clubs responsible for the misconduct of their supporters before, during and after a match.
- 5.
 - (a) Any GFA or club official, or club, or player or participant of a match who instigates, commands, counsels, solicits, procures, or in any manner purposely aids, facilitates, encourages or promotes the playing of a fixed match or a match of convenience involving his club, or involving other clubs, the result of which may in one way or the other, affect his club, commits a grievous offence and the offender shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions.
 - (b) For the avoidance of doubt, it shall be a misconduct for any club, club official or a player or any participant of a match to offer or attempt to offer either directly or indirectly, any consideration whatsoever to another club, or player or to any match official, with a view to influencing the result of any match, or for any club to play a match in a non-competitive spirit. For the purpose of this rule, the determination of the competitiveness or otherwise of a match shall be done by the GFA Disciplinary Committee or the Ethics Committee.
 - (c) A fixed match or a match of convenience means a match the result of which has been pre-determined by two clubs/teams and therefore, in the view of the GFA Disciplinary Committee, is devoid of its competitiveness.
 - (d) Whenever the GFA or its Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that a fixed match or match of convenience has taken place between two clubs, the Committee shall in addition to any other sanctions provided under these Regulations, impose any of or a combination of any of the following sanctions on any club, official, member or player involved in the arrangement, preparation and/or playing of the fixed match, or match of convenience:
 - (i) A ban, either indefinitely or for a specific period.
 - (ii) A fine to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 6. In addition to matters referred to in any other regulation, it shall be misconduct if a club, Director, official, Referee, Assistant Referee, or Player or member is proved to have done or permitted or assisted any of the following to be done:
 - (a) Violation of the Laws of the Game or Rules and Regulations of the Association or any other Association affiliated to FIFA.
 - (b) Play with or against any suspended player or appoint as a Director, Official, Referee or any disqualified or suspended person.
 - (c) Continue in office as a Director, official, referee while under disqualification or suspension.

- (d) Commit any offensive act not provided for above or make any offensive statement either verbally or in writing or is responsible for any conduct or any matter which is in the opinion of the Association, ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.
7. Any club, club official, match official, player or member of the GFA or official of the GFA charged with any act of violence or misconduct under this General Regulation and any other Regulation or Statute of the GFA shall be furnished with details in writing of such acts of violence or misconduct and the appropriate punishment thereof. A person who has been so charged shall have two (2) days within which:
- (a) to accept the charge and comply with the punishment; or
 - (b) to deny the charge and request for either a personal hearing or submit a written defence. The Disciplinary Committee may be at liberty to increase the sanctions in this situation.
- A letter delivered to the official e-mail of a club shall be deemed to have been duly served on the club or official or player thereof.
8. In case a group of people are involved in violence, and it is not possible to identify the instigator(s), the Disciplinary Committee will sanction the captain and the club to which the aggressors belong. The person sanctioned may enjoy a reprieve if he furnishes the Disciplinary Committee with the names of the guilty person(s).
9. An official of a club, a player, Referee, Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner who makes an allegation without proof, publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates another person or participant in football in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin will be subject to match suspension for at least five matches. The Disciplinary Committee shall also, pronounce a ban on his entering the confines of any stadium and also, impose a fine of at least One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
10. Anyone who during football related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a suspension of at least six matches.
- (a) If the perpetrator is an official, the Disciplinary Committee will ban him/her from performing any football related activity for a period of at least twelve (12) months.
 - (b) The Disciplinary Committee may also, impose a fine of at least Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00) on the perpetrator.
11. Anyone who offers promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of the GFA, a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate GFA Regulations shall be sanctioned with;
- (a) a fine of at least Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00);
 - (b) a ban on performing any football related activity for at least one year;
 - (b) a ban on entering any stadium;
 - (c) all of the above.

12. Anyone who conspires to distort the result of a match in a manner incompatible with sporting ethics will be sanctioned with a minimum of at least one (1) match suspension and a minimum of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00) fine. The Disciplinary Committee will also impose a ban on performing any football related activity, and in serious cases, the person shall be fined at least Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000.00).

35. Protests and Appeals

1. All Protests in respect of inter-club matches shall be forwarded in writing directly to the General Secretary of the GFA not later than one (1) day from the end of the match concerned.
2. For the purpose of reckoning of time in these Regulations, Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays shall not be counted.
3. Such protests shall be accompanied by a protest fee of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).
4. It shall be the responsibility of the GFA to serve all disciplinary processes, Protests and Statements of Defence on the appropriate parties either manually or electronically through the official email of the parties and/or through fax on the same day the process is received by the GFA Secretariat.
5. Any protest not accompanied by the appropriate protest fee within the stipulated time shall not be entertained.
6. A protest on the Match Report Form shall be confirmed by a Protest Form sent directly to the GFA within the stipulated time, namely one (1) day from the end of the match. The Protest Form shall be accompanied by evidence of payment of the appropriate protest fee.
7.
 - (a) All protests shall be filed on appropriate forms to be provided free of charge by the GFA.
 - (b) Any club which files a protest in accordance with this Article of the Regulations within the time stipulated shall be required to furnish the General Secretary of the GFA with the grounds of the protest and Statement of Case, together with all documentary evidence relevant to the case, citing the relevant provision(s) in the Regulations and/or Statutes.
8.
 - (a) A club against whom a protest is lodged shall within one (1) day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) of being notified or served with a copy of the Written grounds and Statement of Case, file a Statement of Defence with the General Secretary of the GFA.
 - (b) Filing of Statement of Defence shall be made on appropriate forms to be provided by the GFA.

9.
 - (a) After the periods set for filing of the Statement of Case and Statement of Defence, the Disciplinary Committee shall consider all the Statements of the parties and deliver its judgement immediately.
 - (b) The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based on the Statements and/or evidence filed by the parties. However, if in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee, further evidence is required to assist in the determination of the case, the Disciplinary Committee may take such evidence before the delivery of its decision.
 - (c) The Disciplinary Committee shall consider the merits of a case and deliver its decision in any given case, even if a party fails, neglects or refuses to file a Statement of Defence within the stipulated time.
 - (d) All clubs agree that their right to a hearing before the judicial bodies of the GFA are expressed by filing of a Statement of Case, a Statement of Defence and any further evidence given before the said bodies. Accordingly, representations made through their Statements shall be deemed final and conclusive of the factual and legal basis of their cases.
 - (e) The procedures laid down for cases before the Disciplinary Committee shall apply to the Appeals Committee.
10. Any club dissatisfied or aggrieved by a decision of the Disciplinary Committee of the GFA may appeal against such decision within one (1) day of being notified in writing.
11. Appeals from the Disciplinary Committee and Ethics Committee shall attract a fee of Three Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢3,000.00).
12. The decision of the Appeals Committee in any matter shall be final, provided that the Appeals Committee shall have power to review its own decision suo motu.
13. The Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee may communicate their decisions directly to the clubs, officials or players concerned at their respective sittings. The GFA shall immediately, communicate in writing the decisions of the Committees to the parties involved when ready.
14. Where the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee is satisfied that a protest or appeal is frivolous, the Committee shall dismiss it and may impose the necessary fine and/or costs.
15.
 - (a) An appeal does not operate as a Stay of Execution or have a suspensive effect except, with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.
 - (b) An application for a Stay of Execution shall be filed within one (1) day after being notified in writing of the decision being appealed against and shall be filed by an application letter addressed to the General Secretary indicating the reasons in support of the application.

- (d) An application for a Stay of Execution shall not operate as a stay of the decision being appealed against until or unless, the Committee whose decision is being appealed against may otherwise, order. The Chairman or the Vice Chairman or a Member of the Committee designated by the Chairman shall decide on the application for Stay of Execution on the same day the application is made.
- (e) Any application for a Stay of Execution shall be heard by the Committee after the aggrieved party has paid the appropriate fee of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).
- (e) A repeat application for a Stay of Execution Pending Appeal shall be heard by the Appeals Committee after the aggrieved party has paid the appropriate fee of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).

36. Jurisdiction of the Chairmen of Judicial Bodies Sitting Alone

1.
 - (a) If an infringement appears to have been committed and a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough, the Chairman of the judicial body may, in emergencies, provisionally pronounce, alter or revoke a sanction.
 - (b) In similar circumstances, he/she may take other provisional measures at his/her discretion, especially, to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.
 - (c) He/She will take action upon request or ex-officio
2. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:
 - (a) Suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to three (3) months.
 - (b) Pronounce a fine to be determined by the GFA.
 - (c) Rule on extending a sanction.
 - (d) Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee.
 - (e) Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures including, Stay of Execution and any of the punishments stated under the Article 37(1) of these Regulations.
3. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee may take the following decisions alone:
 - (a) Decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction.
 - (b) Resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeals Committee.
 - (c) Rule an appeal against provisional decisions passed by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee.
 - (d) Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures under including Stay of Execution and any of the punishments stated under the Article 37(1) of these Regulations.

37. Punishment

1. Where the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that there has been misconduct by a Player, a Club Official, a Referee, an Assistant Referee, Supporters, a Match Commissioner or any participant of a match, the Committee may order such a person/persons;
 - (a) to be suspended from all or any specific football matches or competitions either indefinitely or for a stated period;
 - (b) to be fined, either with or without suspension and any such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days;
 - (c) to be reprimanded or cautioned;
 - (d) to close the venue of the club either permanently or for a stated period.
2. An indefinite suspension ordered by the Committee may be reviewed after a period of six (6) months. An application for such review shall be made to the General Secretary of the Association.
3. The Disciplinary Committee may:
 - (a) Order a guilty club to pay such part or percentage of its net gate proceeds to the GFA as it deems fit.
 - (b) Order the forfeiture of part or a whole of the officiating match official's remuneration for indecision, incompetence or misconduct.
 - (c) Recommend the removal of the name of a Referee or Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner from the GFA's list of Match Officials.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the punishments recommended herein are the minimum that may be ordered for a first offence and that the punishments may be increased in accordance with the gravity of the offence. Where however, the same player is guilty of repeated acts of misconduct, whether at one and the same time or at different times, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose a severer sanction.
5. Without prejudice to the powers of the Disciplinary Committee, a player cautioned by a Referee for:
 - (i) foul play; or
 - (ii) criticism of the referee's decision; or
 - (iii) making derogatory remarks concerning other players; or
 - (iv) temporarily leaving the field of play without the express permission of the referee; or
 - (v) any other offence on the field of play,

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

6. (a) A player sent off the field of play for:
 - (i) insulting other players or spectators, or match officials; or
 - (ii) serious foul play; or
 - (iii) repeated complaints against the referee's decision; or
 - (iv) repeated unsporting conduct despite previous cautions,

shall attract suspension from two consecutive league matches including, the match in which he was sent off the field and shall in addition, pay a fine of Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢200.00).
- (b) A player expelled by the referee for molesting a match official, violence against another player or spectator, shall be suspended from taking part in four consecutive matches including, the match in which the player was sent off and in addition, pay a fine of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00). For a repetition of the same offence, he shall be suspended for the rest of the football season and shall in addition, be fined One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
- (c) A player expelled by the referee for violence against a match official or against whom a charge of violence has been established shall be suspended for a period of twelve (12) months, beginning from the date of expulsion, or from the date when the charge of violence was established and for repetition of the same offence, the player shall forever not be qualified for registration as a player. In this regard, spitting at the referee is regarded as an assault.
7. Misconduct shall mean/include threat of death or harm or improper or ungentlemanly and unsporting behaviour or any act that has the effect of putting the game of football into disrepute.
8. (a) Without prejudice to any provision in these Regulations to the contrary, a club shall pay all fines, costs, debts imposed on it by the GFA or the Judiciary bodies of the GFA not later than ten (10) days excluding, Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays after such fines or costs have been communicated to it in writing by the GFA on the GFA website, and/or through the GFA email to the official emails of the Club.
- (b) All Clubs shall furnish the GFA or the competition's organising committees with their official representatives or officials and their official contact details before the commencement of each season, including but not limited to, the Club's official email address, telephone numbers, fax number and postal address.
- (c) A Club that fails to pay its fines, costs and debts on or before the stipulated due date shall automatically, forfeit its subsequent matches until such time that the fines and/or costs are fully paid.
- (d) Mode of payment for costs, fines and other debts ordered by the statutory bodies and/or the GFA shall be made by cash or by Banker's Draft or any other medium prescribed by the GFA. Accordingly, clubs shall not be allowed to tie such payment to sponsors' funds or any other source of funding.

- (e) The GFA shall automatically, implement the sanction herein. However, any Club dissatisfied with the sanction may appeal the decision within one (1) day the Appeals Committee of the Association.
9. (a) Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions shall be ~~are~~ stored in the central computer system of the GFA. The General Secretary or his/her representative shall confirm them in writing to the club concerned.
- (b) This communication shall serve only as confirmation~~:-~~ of the sanctions (caution, expulsions, automatic suspensions) and shall have an immediate effect on subsequent matches, even if the letter of confirmation reaches the club concerned later or not.

38. GFA's control over clubs, officials, players, spectators and all participants

1. (a) Subject to these Regulations, the Association shall have among others, financial, disciplinary and constitutional control over clubs and participants of a match.
- (b) Every club shall keep proper books of account in which shall be entered all receipts and payments. Every club shall file a copy of duly audited accounts with the Association as stipulated in these Regulations
- (c) All books and vouchers for at least two (2) financial years preceding the current season shall be retained by the club and be ready for production whenever required by the Association.
- (d) The Association reserves the right to cause an investigation into the financial management of any club or at the invitation of a recognized authority or body within the club.
- (e) The Association reserves the right to suspend, disqualify, expel, impose a fine, a ban or otherwise, punish or deal with any club management, body or member on grounds of mismanagement of the club's finances.
- (f) Where the Association is satisfied that matters have arisen which, if not investigated are likely to bring the game of football into disrepute or which are likely to cause the collapse of a club, it shall take such steps (including, suspension) as necessary, to restore order in the affairs of the club.
2. (a) Every club shall deposit a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and/or Constitution and other constitutional documents at the Association. Once deposited, the Association shall be notified of changes or amendments within fourteen (14) days of their having been effected. Such documents shall clearly specify the officers of the club and their powers. Where there are different levels of authority, the document shall specify the ranking and the powers of respective levels of authority.
- (b) Before the commencement of each football season, each club shall register all the names of its shareholders, directors, management members, other office holders, staff members and all other persons associated with the club in any capacity

whatsoever (as well as their terms of office if available) with the GFA. A club shall inform the GFA within three (3) days of any changes to the list of personnel or the role of the registered persons. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to sanction any club which fails to comply with this Regulation.

- (c) Each club shall designate an Accra Representative as its primary link with the GFA and who shall act as the first line agent of communication between the Secretariat and the club. The Accra Representative shall accordingly, check on mails at the Secretariat regularly. Non-receipt of authentically issued communication shall not be accepted as an excuse for the non-fulfilment of obligations by clubs.
 - (d) The GFA reserves the right to refuse to register a club or suspend any registration unless, the club complies with these Regulations.
- 3.
 - (a) Any club, person or organization that seeks to establish a football academy, or any such football institution must obtain the prior approval of the GFA.
 - (b) For the avoidance of doubt, nobody shall be allowed to establish a football academy or any such institution unless, it enters into partnership with local club(s).
 - (c) Where there is foreign involvement, the National Association of the foreign partner must provide appropriate reference on the foreign partner.
- 4. The Association shall have the power to disqualify any competing club, or player(s) proved to be guilty of any breach of the Rules of the Association.
- 5. Without prejudice to any provisions of the Statutes or any Regulations, the GFA through its appropriate bodies, shall have the authority to apply pecuniary sanctions as provided for under these Regulations without reference to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 6. All official correspondence including, but not limited to, daily and weekly information updates, fines, debts, costs, notices, invitations, decisions and any other information of the Association, its bodies, its organs, its committees or the Secretariat shall be deemed to have been duly served on a club, its officers, players, supporters, agents, representatives or whoever described, if the service of the said correspondence is communicated to the club or the club Secretary or the club owner, or the club Representatives submitted to the GFA through its e-mail address or the delivery of a hard copy or via the GFA website.
- 7. A club that prevents access to the stadium of an authorised Marketing Agent of the GFA, authorised sponsor of the League or the Broadcast partner of the GFA and any authorised person of the GFA shall be liable to a deduction of at least ten (10) points of its accumulated points, in addition to any financial sanction in these Regulations.
- 8. Post-Match Conference
 - (a) It shall be mandatory for a club to present its coach and one player for a post-match press conference immediately after every league match.

- (b) Any club that contravenes clause (a) of this Article above shall be liable to a fine of Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00) for each absentee and for a repeated offence, a fine of Twenty Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc20,000.00).
- (c) Any club official who accuses a match official without proof shall be liable to a fine of at least Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00). This provision is without prejudice to any other body of the GFA further dealing with the person or the issue.

39. Gate proceeds

1. The disbursement of gate proceeds shall be approved by the Executive Council of the GFA.
2. Any person or club who fails to pay to the GFA its share of any gate proceeds or fails to submit to the GFA the Function Statement of a match within five (5) days shall be liable to a fine of at least Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00) in the first instance and a further Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2,000.00) for each day that the default remains.

40. Attendance of Qualified Medical Personnel

1. The host club of any league match shall ensure that a qualified medical practitioner or a paramedic is in attendance throughout the game.
2. The Clubs shall ensure that their medical officers keep detailed up to date medical records on all players.
3. When a player is about to be transferred, the transferor club must make such records available to the medical officer of the signing club.
4. The Home Team shall keep an ambulance and a crew or a standby vehicle at every match venue for the duration of the match.
5. Clubs which breach any of the provisions of this Article shall be liable to a fine of at least One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc1,000.00).

41. Joint ownership

It shall be unlawful for any commercial enterprise, (including, holding companies and subsidiary companies), private person, or any other legal entity to have the controlling interest in more than one club in this league.

42. Ownership, Commercial & Media Rights of the League

1. The ownership, organisation, control and management of the league and any rights associated with it of any nature shall be vested entirely and exclusively in GFA.
2. In relation to each match in the league, the GFA shall itself be exclusively entitled to, or otherwise, to authorise or grant to others, rights of access to and attendance at the ground of the Home Club (“Access Rights”) for the purposes of transmitting or filming or otherwise recording on or by any media, any audio and/or visual materials depicting or describing all or any part or parts of a match (the “Copyright Materials”).

3. In relation to each match, the GFA shall itself be exclusively entitled throughout the world, to grant or otherwise, authorise others to grant the right:
 - (a) on a live, delayed, recorded or highlighted basis to broadcast or otherwise, transmit by any method whatsoever (now known or hereinafter devised) the Copyright Materials by way of any and all forms of television or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) including, without limitation, free to air television, pay television, pay per view, “not-video-on-demand” internet or other on-line media and “video-on- demand” (the “Television Rights”).
 - (b) on a live or delayed basis to broadcast or to otherwise transmit the Copyright Materials (or audio) by way of radio broadcast or internet, or other on-line media or similar technology (now known or hereinafter devised) (the “Radio Rights”).
 - (c) to use, sell, publish, distribute and otherwise exploit the Copyright Materials in any manner whatsoever including, without limitation, clip licensing, videos, CD Rom, CDI, internet or other on-line media (the “Footage Rights”).
 - (d) In relation to each match, the GFA shall be exclusively entitled, either by itself or by its authorised agents/to authorise others, to use sell or otherwise, exploit all commercial and other marketing rights associated with its competitions including, but not limited to, fixture list copyright, sponsorship, supplier rights, licences, perimeter board branding or other commercial arrangements (the “Marketing Rights”).
4. Clubs shall comply with the terms of all contracts entered into by the GFA from time to time in relation to Access Rights,–Television Rights, Radio Rights, Footage Rights and Marketing Rights (collectively, the “Commercial Contracts”) in relation to the competition/league.
5. Clubs may apply to film matches in which they are involved and shall proceed to film same, provided it is cleared by the GFA on payment of the appropriate fee determined by the GFA. Video films shall be used for the clubs’ education purposes only. Clubs are prohibited from being used for commercial purposes, without GFA’s approval.
5. It is an offence to prevent or seek to prevent a person authorised by the GFA from filming a match.
6. A club or club official, player(s) or supporter(s) of a club who prevent(s) the video coverage of a match by accredited GFA Officials shall be liable to a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,000.00).

43. Statistics Register

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

44. Name/Logo and Images of the League and Images of the Trophy

1. The trophy of the league shall be called Ghana Premier League Cup. The Ghana Premier League Cup shall be marketed under the title, “Ghana Premier League Cup” (the “Official Title”) or, as otherwise directed from time to time by the GFA.
2. Each club shall include the Official Title on all materials produced by or on behalf of it which relate to the Premier League Cup (including, but not limited to, tickets, programmes, press releases and (where possible) scoreboard displays) and (where possible) shall refer to the Official Title at least once over (any) public address system operating on the day of each league match.
3. The GFA shall from time to time, issue a league Logo. The league Logo may incorporate branding for the lead Premier League Sponsor.
4. Each participating club shall include the league Logo on all League communication materials produced by or on behalf of the club [including, but not limited to, the front page of each Premier League match programme, match tickets (if it is not possible to include the league Logo on tickets, the Club shall include a reference to the Official Title), fixture posters, stadium giant screens (if any), Club websites and club interview backdrop].
5. The GFA will from time to time, issue images of the league to clubs for their use. The ribbons attached to the league in the image will incorporate branding for the lead league Sponsor.
6. If a club wishes to use an image of the league, it shall use the image issued by the GFA and will follow any directions issued by the GFA in relation to the use of such image.

45. Doping

Doping is strictly prohibited. The use of doping substances shall be severely punished and the GFA shall have the right to carry out anti-doping control/tests at any time, before, during recess and after a match and those found positive shall receive at least one (1) year ban in the first instance. A repetition shall attract a ban for life.

46. Betting

1. No participant of a league match or the league, including but not limited to players, club officials, GFA officials, match officials, ball boys, or clubs, shall be involved in any form of betting or lottery in relation to the league whatsoever.
2. Any participant of the league who violates clause 1 above shall be banned for a least one (1) year and in addition, be liable to a fine of at least Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00).
3. No betting or lottery company or entity may use any fixture, result or any other material of the league for betting or lottery purposes without authorisation from the GFA.

47. Adoption and Enforcement

These Regulations was adopted by the GFA Executive Council on December 18, 2019 and came into force immediately. The GFA General Regulations in force before the coming into force of these Regulations is hereby repealed.

Accra, December 18, 2019
For the GFA Executive Council



KURTE.S OKRAKU
(PRESIDENT)



ALEX ASANTE
(DEP. GENERAL SECRETARY)