

# **GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (GFA)**



## **REGIONAL WOMEN'S ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS**

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# GFA REGIONAL WOMEN'S ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 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 Regional Women's Zonal Championship Regulations, 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 Regional Women's Zonal Championship Regulations**" and the provisions shall be referred to as **Articles, Clauses and Sub-Clauses**.

### 2. Control of the Competition

The control and management of the Regional Women's Zonal Championship Regulations (hereinafter called the "competition") 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. Number of Clubs, Zones, Champions and Demotion

1. (a) The Regional Women's Zonal Championship shall be open to such number of clubs as determined by the Executive Council of the GFA and a number of Zones as are necessary. The Executive Council of the GFA shall have the power to re-zone the territories, where necessary.
- (b) Each Club shall register not more than thirty (30) players for each season.
2. There shall be only round of the Regional Women's Zonal Championship on a stadium or par determined by the GFA.
3. The first and second placed clubs in each Zone shall qualify for the Women's Premier League.
4. If two or more teams obtain the same number of points at the end of the competition for the first or second position, their ranking shall be determined as follows and in the stated order:
  - (a) Greater number of points obtained in matches between the teams concerned during the competition.

- (b) Goal difference resulting from the match(es) between the teams concerned during the competition.
- (c) Greater number of goals scored in the match(es) between the teams concerned during the competition.
- (d) Lesser number of goals conceded in matches between the teams concerned during the competition.
- (e) The fair play record of the teams in matches between the teams concerned during the competition.
- (f) 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 Fixtures

Fixtures for the Regional Women's Zonal Championship shall be prepared by the GFA.

## 6. 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.

## 7. 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 one (1) month 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 scratching or 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 competition 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 a match during the competition shall be fined an amount of Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00) and in addition, be banned from playing matches (both local and international) for a period of six (6) months commencing from the date of the match the club failed to honour. Twenty percent (20%) of the fine shall be paid to the opposing team.

## 8. Venue

1. The GFA shall determine the venue(s) for the competition.

## 9. Player Licence

1. Clubs participating in the competition 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 Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).

**10: Strip**

- 1 (a) A toss shall be conducted to determine the home and the away (visiting) teams for purposes of strips and the side a team sits at the dugout (bench).
  - (b) 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 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 colours of the two goalkeepers' strips, the goalkeeper of the visiting team shall change her 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 competition.
  - (e) The logo of the title sponsor (if any) of the competition shall appear on a designated portion of the sleeve(s) 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 competition.
  - (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 One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
  4. Any club that fails to present its duly registered strip at Match Coordination Meeting shall be liable to a fine of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).
  5. Each shirt must have displayed/embossed at the back, the number of the player donning it. The number must be clearly at the back of the shirt.

Additionally, the number must be entirely visible when the player's shirt is tucked into the shorts. The player's number must also appear on the front of the shorts, positioned on either leg.

6. A club that fails to comply with clause 5 above shall be fined an amount of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc1,000.00).

#### 11. Footballs

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

#### 12. Referee / Match Commissioner

1. No person shall officiate as Referee, Assistant Referee or Match Commissioner in any competition or match under the jurisdiction of the Association, unless appointed by the Association or by a person or body duly authorized by the GFA.
2. The GFA shall be responsible for selecting those who shall act as Referee, Assistant Referee and/or Match Commissioners in all competitions under its jurisdiction.
3. 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 be 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.
4. 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. She may, if he/she deems it necessary, go back to the dressing room during half-time or after the match.
  - (d) To submit a detailed report after the match to the GFA. This report may later be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee, if it becomes necessary.
  - (e) The Match Commissioner may, if she deems it necessary for the security of the Referee or the visiting team decide not to have the match played until his/she 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.
5. 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.

### 13. Absence of a Match Commissioner/Referee

1. In the absence of the appointed Match Commissioner, the referee acts.
2.
  - (a) Where the Referee and/or one or both of the Assistant Referees do not show up, the 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.

### 14. 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 three (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.

### 15. 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 twelve (12) 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 her report late she shall be banned for one (1) year.

### 16. Kick-off

1. Unless otherwise directed by the GFA:
  - (a) Competition 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 **or as determined by the GFA.**

The match day countdown shall be as follows:

#### Match day countdown

- i. Arrival of the Commissioner and official cameraperson - 1hr.30mins.
- ii. Arrival of the Referees/Assistant Referees, teams meet up with officials to co-ordinate release of line up forms -1 hour



iii.	Line up forms to be handed out to teams	- 55mins.
iv.	Collection of completed line up forms	- 45mins.
v.	Teams' warm-up on the pitch	- 40 to 20mins.
vi.	Final inspection of the pitch	- 18mins.
vii.	Welcome announcement of the team line up by the announcer	- 15mins.
viii.	Teams wait at the tunnel ready to come unto the pitch	- 10mins.
ix.	Check on players' equipment	- 10mins.
x.	Entry of the teams onto the pitch	- 8mins.
xi.	Team photographs	- 5mins.
xii.	Toss of coin	- 2mins.
xiii.	Kick-off	- 0

(b) A breach of any of the timelines stated in the countdown under clause 1(a) shall attract a fine of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).

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 Three Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢300.00).

(c) A club that fails to attend a Match Coordination meeting without reasonable excuse shall be liable to a fine of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).

(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 Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢5,000.00) 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 on to the pitch for the commencement of the game while the Match Commissioner, club officials and the substitute players proceed to their respective sitting places.
  - (b) It shall be misconduct for a club, player or club official to use an unauthorized entrance to get to the stadium or playing field. It is also misconduct when the home team prevents the visiting team from using the approved entrance into the stadium.
  - (c) A club, player or official who contravenes clause 3a or 3b above shall pay a fine of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
4. Any extra personnel on a club's bench shall be removed and the offending club shall pay a fine of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).

#### 17. Duration of Matches

1. Each match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising of 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.

#### 18. Unqualified Player

1. An unqualified player is:
  - (a) Any player not registered with 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 the association or the organizer of the competition concerned.
  - (b) A player suspended by the GFA from participating in football competitions indefinitely or for a specific period.
  - (c) A player banned from participating in GFA competitions by GFA, WAFU, CAF or FIFA.
  - (d) A player who has registered for more than one club or with any club registered with another National Association.
  - (e) A player who has received a caution in three 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.

- (f) 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 she 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.

## 19. 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.
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 (3) goals shall be awarded in favour of the other team.
4. 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 the club's accumulated points from other previous matches.
  - b. The club shall be fined One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00), 50% of which shall go 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.
5. 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.
  6. Where each of the two (2) 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.
  7. Unless otherwise stated, on the forfeiture of a match by club, the innocent team shall be awarded three (3) points and three (3) goals.
  8. 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 (3) points deduction on the offending club. For the avoidance of doubt, it shall be possible for a club to have a negative points build-up.
  9. 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.
  10. **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 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.
  20. **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 One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
- 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 not below Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).
  - (b) Throwing of sachet water, plastic bottles and other object onto the field of play shall attract a fine of not less than One Thousand Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
  - (c) Using abusive language against match officials before and after matches which did not attract expulsion shall be attract a fine of not less than One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00) 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.
  - (a) 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 to who has been so charged shall have twelve (12) hours 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/she furnishes Disciplinary Committee with the name 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 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 Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).
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 (6) 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 Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00) 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) with a fine of at least Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).
  - (b) with a ban on performing any football related activity for at least one year.
  - (c) with a ban on entering any stadium.
  - (d) 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 fine of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00). 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 One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
- 21. 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 Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).
  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 provide to 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 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 One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000.00).
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.
  - (c) 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 of the application is made.
  - (d) Any application for a Stay of Execution shall be heard by the Committee after the aggrieved party has paid the appropriate fee of Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢200.00).
  - (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 Four Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢400.00).
22. **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.
  - (f) pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures including stay of execution and any of the punishments stated under the Article 37(1) of these Regulations.
  - (g) determine protest filed in this competition.
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.
  - (e) 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.
  - (f) determine protest filed in this competition.

### 23. 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 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.
1. 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 punishment recommended herein are the minimum that may be ordered for a first offence and that the punishment may be increased in accordance with the gravity of the offence. Where, however the same player is guilty of repeated acts of misconduct, whether at one and the same time or at different times, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose a severer sanction.
5. 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
  - (i) making derogatory remarks concerning other players; or
  - (ii) temporarily leaving the field of play without the express permission of the referee; or
  - (iii) any other offence on the field of play,

shall be informed in writing by the GFA for a first and second offence. She shall be automatically suspended from taking part in the next 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 matches including the match in which he was sent off the field and shall in addition pay a fine of One Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢100.00).
- (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 Three Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢300.00). For a repetition of the same offence, he shall be suspended for the rest of the football season and shall in addition, be fined Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00).
- (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 bodies and/or 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 at the Appeals Committee of the Association.
9.
  - (a) Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions shall be 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.
24. **Association'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) 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.
  2. 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.

3. All official correspondence including, but not limited to, daily and weekly information updates, fines, debts, costs, notices, invitations, decisions, communiqués and any other information of the Association, its bodies, its organs, its committees or the Secretariat shall be deemed to have been duly served on a club, its officers, players, supporters, agents, representatives or whoever described, if the service of the said correspondence is communicated to the club or the club Secretary or the club owner, or the club Representatives submitted to the GFA through its e-mail address or the delivery of a hard copy or vis the GFA website.

4. **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 match.

(b) Any club that contravenes clause (a) of this Regulations above shall be liable to a fine of One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc1,000.00) for each absentee and for a repeated offence, a fine of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc10,000.00).

(b) Any club official who accuses a match official without proof shall be liable to a fine of at least Two Thousand and Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHc2,500.00). This provision is without prejudice to any other body of the GFA further dealing with the person or the issue.

25. **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 One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc1,000.00) in the first instance and a further Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHc500.00) for each day that the default remains.

26. **Attendance of Qualified Medical Personnel**

1. The host club of any 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. Any club which breach any of the provisions above shall be liable to a fine of at least Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHc500.00).

5. The GFA shall keep an ambulance and a crew or a standby vehicle at the match venue for the duration of the match.

## 27. 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 competition.

## 28. Ownership, Commercial & Media Rights of the Competition

1. The ownership, organisation, control and management of the competition 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 competition, 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”).
  - (c) In relation to each match, the GFA shall be exclusively entitled, either by itself or by its authorised agent or authorise others, to use sell or otherwise exploit all commercial and other marketing rights associated with its competitions including, without limitation, 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, the Television Rights, the Radio Rights, the Footage Rights and the Marketing Rights (collectively, the “Commercial Contracts”) in relation to the any GFA competition.
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 club’s education purposes. They are prohibited from being used for commercial purposes, without GFA’s approval.

6. It is an offence to prevent or seek to prevent a person authorised by the GFA from filming a match.

7. 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 Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00).

**29. 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.

**30. Betting**

1. No participant of the competition, 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 competition whatsoever.

2. Any participant of the competition 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 One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc1,000.00).

2. No betting or lottery company or entity may use any fixtures, result or any other material of the competition for betting or lottery purposes without authorisation from the GFA.

**31. Adoption and Enforcement**

These Regulations was adopted by the GFA Executive Council on October 1, 2021 and came into force on October 1, 2021. All Regulations in relations to the Competition in force before the coming into force of these Regulations is hereby repealed.

**Accra, October 1, 2021**  
**For GFA Executive Council**

**KURT EDWIN SIMEON-OKRAKU**  
**(PRESIDENT)**

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