



The Football Federation of Belize

Statutes 2019

Approved by Congress
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DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

FFB: Football Federation of Belize.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

CONCACAF: Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football.

UNCAF: Unión Centroamericana de Fútbol.

Association: a football association recognised by and a member of FIFA.

League: an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

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

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

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

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

Player: a football player licensed by an Association.

Congress: the supreme and legislative body of FFB.

Executive Committee: the strategic and oversight body of FFB.

Member: a legal person that has been admitted into membership of FFB by its Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAS: Court of Arbitration for Sport based in Lausanne (Switzerland).

NSC: National Sport Council

NB: Terms referring to natural persons include both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Article 1 Legal form, headquarters and trademarks

¹ FFB is a private organisation of an associative nature registered under the Companies Act Chapter 250 Revised Edition 2000 of the Laws of Belize as a non-profit organization in the City of Belmopan, established in compliance with the legislation of Belize. It is formed for an unlimited period.

² The headquarters of FFB are at #26 Humming Bird Highway in Belmopan.

³ FFB is a member of FIFA, of CONCACAF and of UNCAF.

⁴ FFB recognises the Belize NSC.

⁵ The flag of FFB is the National Flag of Belize.

⁶ The emblem of FFB is "Jaguars".

⁷ The logo of FFB is



⁸ The flag, emblem and logo are legally registered with the Belize Intellectual Property Office.

Article 2 Objectives

The objectives of FFB are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of FFB in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to organise competitions in Association football, futsal and beach soccer at national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various Leagues of which it is composed;
- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to protect the interests of its Members;
- e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of CONCACAF, of UNCAF and of FFB as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- f) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association football, futsal or beach soccer;
- g) to promote the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance;
- h) to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of FFB;
- i) to control and supervise Association football, futsal and beach soccer at national level and to control and supervise all forms of international football matches played throughout the territory of FFB, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and of the Confederations;

- j) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association football, futsal and beach soccer;
- k) to host competitions at international and other levels;
- l) to commit to settle disputes between and amongst players, clubs, officials, member associations of FFB and NSC.
- m) to do all such acts within the FFB's remit to reach its objectives and the development of the game of football.

Article 3 Human rights

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

Article 4 Non-discrimination, equality and stance against racism

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

Article 5 Neutrality and institutional independence

- ¹ FFB is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- ² The Members of FFB shall also be neutral in matters of politics and religion and shall ensure that their own members remain neutral.
- ³ FFB shall remain independent and shall avoid any form of undue political interference. FFB shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.

Article 6 Promoting friendly relations

- ¹ FFB shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
- ² FFB shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between the Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of FFB.

Article 7 Players

- ¹ The status of Players and the provisions for their registration shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of FFB in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

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

Article **8** **Laws of the Game**

- ¹ FFB and each of its Members shall play Association football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.
- ² FFB and each of its Members shall play futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game.
- ³ FFB and each of its Members shall play beach soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

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

- ¹ All bodies and Officials of FFB must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of the CONCACAF, and of FFB in their activities.
- ² Every person and organisation involved in the game of Association football, futsal and beach soccer in the territory of FFB is obliged to observe the relevant Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

Article **10** **Official languages**

- ¹ The official language of FFB shall be English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language.
- ² The official language at the Congress shall be English.

Article **11** Admission, suspension and expulsion

- ¹ The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.
- ² Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of FFB in accordance with the statutes of FFB.
- ³ Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards FFB or other Members of FFB, but leads to the loss of all rights in relation to FFB.
- ⁴ FFB shall ensure that all relevant stakeholders are represented within its Congress. The interests of women's football shall also be adequately represented in the Congress.

Article **12** Members and admission

- ¹ The Members of FFB are:
 - a) Belize District Football Association;
 - b) Belmopan Football Association;
 - c) Cayo Football Association;
 - d) Corozal Football Association;
 - e) Orange Walk Football Association;
 - f) Stann Creek Football Association;
 - g) Toledo Football Association;
 - h) Premier League of Belize.
- ² Any legal person (registered under chapter 247 or chapter 250 of the laws of Belize) wishing to become a Member of FFB shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of FFB.
- ³ The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
 - a) a copy of its legally valid statutes or constitutional document approved by company registry as per Belize law, a certified copy of the business registration documents and, if applicable, of its regulations;
 - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FFB, FIFA and CONCACAF and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, clubs, officials and players;
 - c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force as laid down by The IFAB, as well as the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA;
 - d) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, the CONCACAF, and FFB Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the FIFA Statutes or regulations, the CONCACAF Statutes, or the FFB regulations, or binding national law, provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;
 - e) a declaration that it recognises the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
 - f) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of FFB;
 - g) if applicable, a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of FFB;

- h) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
- i) a declaration to the effect that the members of its own bodies were elected or appointed as a result of a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
- j) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- k) if applicable, a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of FFB;
- l) a copy of the minutes of its last Congress;
- m) proof that it has carried out competitions for male and female for the past two years.

Article 13 Request and procedure for application

- ¹ The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulation approved by the Executive Committee of FFB.
- ² The Executive Committee shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.
- ³ The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

Article 14 Members' rights

- ¹ The Members of FFB have the following rights:
 - a) to take part in the Congress of FFB, to receive its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time, to exercise their rights to participate in the debates and discussions and to exercise their voting rights;
 - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
 - c) to nominate candidates for elections and/or appointment to the relevant bodies of FFB;
 - d) to be informed of the affairs of FFB through the official bodies of FFB;
 - e) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and/or other sporting activities organised by FFB;
 - f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of FFB.
 - g) to sanction tournament and competitions solely within their territory and/or within their own members in accordance with FFB statutes, regulations.
 - h) to take part in FFB assistance and development programs.
- ² The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

Article 15 Members' obligations

- ¹ The Members of FFB have the following obligations:

- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF and FFB at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by their members;
- b) to ensure the election of their decision-making bodies (at least every four years);
- c) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and other sporting activities organised by FFB;
- d) to pay their membership fee;
- e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by their members through a statutory provision;
- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB or the League(s) shall only be referred to an Arbitration Tribunal or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, both as specified in the FIFA Statutes and in these Statutes, and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
- g) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with art. 19 of these Statutes;
- h) to ensure that their bodies are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of their election or appointment;
- i) to communicate to FFB any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- j) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- k) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- l) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 12 paragraph 3 for the duration of their affiliation;
- m) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- n) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of FFB.
- o) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF and FFB.
- p) to compulsorily conduct at least one competition for both men and women among its affiliated clubs at district level
- q) not to disrupt or attempt to disrupt the FFB calendar of events by scheduling competitions and events clashing with FFB events
- r) to have at a minimum of eight (8) active, legally registered and license clubs to maintain membership.

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

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

Article 16 Suspension

¹ The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, temporarily suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension approved by the Executive Committee shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.

² The presence of a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote is necessary for a suspension to be valid. A suspension of a Member by the Congress or the Executive Committee shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a three-quarter majority of the valid vote cast. If it is not confirmed, the suspension shall be automatically lifted.

³ A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights except its right foreseen in lit. d) of art. 14 of the present Statutes. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

⁴ Members that do not participate in the sporting activities as specified under article 15 (p) of FFB for one year shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

Article 17 Expulsion

¹ The Congress may expel a Member if:

- a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards FFB;
- b) it seriously and repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, and FFB.

² The presence of a majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

Article 18 Resignation

¹ A Member may resign from FFB with effect from the end of a football season. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than six months before the end of a football season.

² The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards FFB and the other Members of FFB.

Article 19 Independence of Members and their bodies

¹ Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.

² The Members' bodies shall be either elected or appointed. The Members' statutes shall provide for a democratic procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.

³ Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 2 above, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by FFB.

⁴ Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 above shall not be recognised by FFB.

Article **20** Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and other groups of Clubs

¹ Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to FFB shall be subordinate to and recognised by FFB. There shall only be one top-tier national league on the territory of FFB.

² These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of the entities mentioned in par. 1 above. Their statutes and regulations shall be in line with the requirements and obligations of the Statutes and regulations of FFB. FFB shall have the primary responsibility to regulate matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and measures required to protect the integrity of competitions.

³ The entities mentioned in par. 1 above shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

⁴ In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group of Clubs whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

Article **21** Honorary president and honorary member

- ¹ The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to football.
- ² The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.
- ³ The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article **22** Bodies of FFB

- ¹ The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
- ² The Executive Committee is the strategic and oversight body.
- ³ Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee and the general secretariat in fulfilling their duties.
- ⁴ The general secretariat is the executive, operational and administrative body.
- ⁵ The Club Licensing Bodies are in charge of the club licensing system within FFB.
- ⁶ The Independent Committees fulfil their functions in accordance with these Statutes and applicable regulations. The independent committees shall consist of the Independent Audit and Compliance Officer, the electoral committees, and the judicial bodies.
- ⁷ The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.
- ⁸ The bodies of FFB shall be either elected or appointed by FFB itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes. The members of the bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence.
- ⁹ Any member of the bodies of FFB must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest. In particular, members of the bodies of FFB shall always be aware of, and comply with, the relevant provisions of the FIFA Code of Ethics on conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary (e.g., abstain from performing their duties, notify the chairperson in case of potential conflicts of interest, and suchlike).

Article **23** Dismissal of a member of a body of FFB

- ¹ The Congress may dismiss a member of a body of FFB. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a member of a body provisionally, with the exception of the members of the Independent Committees. The provisional dismissal approved by the Executive Committee shall be confirmed by the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime. If the next Congress is of an elective nature, a dismissed member shall be allowed to be an elective candidate (provided that he fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria) on a conditional basis depending on the final decision of the Congress on his dismissal which shall be taken before the election.
- ² The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of the Executive Committee and/or to the Members of FFB along with the respective agenda.
- ³ The member of the body in question has the right to defend himself in front of the Executive Committee and/or the Congress.
- ⁴ The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot at the Executive Committee and/or the Congress. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.
- ⁵ The member dismissed (provisionally or not) is relieved of his functions with immediate effect.

A. CONGRESS

Article 24 Definition and composition of the Congress

- ¹ The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of FFB regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of FFB. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.
- ² The Congress of FFB shall be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and shall take into account the importance of gender equality in football.
- ³ A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.
- ⁴ The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with these Statutes as well as any applicable regulations.
- ⁵ The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.
- ⁶ The honorary presidents or honorary members may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article 25 Delegates and votes

- ¹ The Congress is composed of 21 delegates. The number of delegates is allocated as follows:
 - a) for Belize District Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - b) for Belmopan Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - c) for Cayo Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - d) for Corozal Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - e) for Orange Walk Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - f) for Stann Creek Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - g) for Toledo Football Association: 2 delegates;
 - h) for Premier League of Belize League: 7 delegates.
- ² Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member in accordance with art. 19 of these Statutes. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
- ³ Each delegate has one vote in the Congress. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- ⁴ The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates to the Congress.

Article **26** Areas of authority

The Congress has the following areas of authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes;
- b) appointing three Members to check the minutes, and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) electing or dismissing the President, the vice-president and members of the Executive Committee;
- d) electing the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Independent Committees [*i.e.* Independent Audit and Compliance Officer, electoral committees and judicial bodies], upon proposal of the Executive Committee or the proposal of at least 2 Members.
- e) dismissing the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Independent Committees [*i.e.* Independent Audit and Compliance Officer, electoral committees and judicial bodies];
- f) appointing the scrutineers to count the votes and to assist the General Secretary in distributing and counting voting papers issued for the elections;
- g) approving the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report;
- h) approving the budget;
- i) approving the activity report (containing the activities of FFB since the last Congress);
- j) appointing the independent and external auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- k) fixing the membership subscriptions upon proposal of the Executive Committee;
- l) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;
- m) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
- n) dismissing one or a number of members of a body of FFB;
- o) dissolving FFB;
- p) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes or passing any decision entrusted to the Congress in accordance with these Statutes.

Article **27** Quorum of the Congress

¹ Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present.

² If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place within 24 hours with the same agenda.

³ A quorum is not required for the second meeting of the Congress unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of FFB, the election of the President and the election of the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee, the election of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Independent Committees, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of FFB, the suspension or expulsion of a Member of FFB or the dissolution of FFB.

⁴ Once it is declared that the Congress has been convened and composed in accordance with the Statutes of FFB, the quorum shall not be influenced by departing delegates.

Article **28** Decisions of the Congress

¹ A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

² Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

Article **29** Elections

¹ Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

² Elections within FFB shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of FFB and shall be supervised by the Electoral Committee of FFB.

³ The election of the positions of the Executive Committee shall take place by position. At least one position shall be reserved for a female candidate

⁴ Every candidate in the election for the position of the Executive Committee shall be proposed by at least two Members. Each Member shall support one candidate only for each given position only. If a Member proposes more than one candidate, none of its expressions of support shall be considered valid.

⁵ A majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary for the election of the President and vice-president(s) of FFB. If there are more than two candidates for the office of President or of the office of vice-president, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated after each ballot until only two candidates are left. For the election of the other members of the Council, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.

⁶ For the appointment of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and other members of independent committees [Independent Audit and Compliance Officer, electoral committees, and judicial bodies], the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected. These appointments may be conducted *en bloc*. However, at the request of at least 50% of the delegates representing the Members, a separate vote for a specific candidate shall take place.

⁷ In case of a tied vote in any elections of any body of FFB, two new ballots shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure set forth by the present provision. If the tied vote remains, the relevant position shall remain vacant until the next Congress when elections for the vacant position(s) shall be held for the remaining period of office.

⁸ Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

⁹ Candidatures for any of the positions of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the general secretariat of FFB at least 40 days before the relevant elective Congress. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of FFB at least 15 days before the Congress at which the Executive Committee will be elected. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply when elections take place during an Extraordinary Congress.

¹⁰ Candidatures for any of the positions of all other bodies of FFB [Independent Audit and Compliance Officer, electoral committees and judicial bodies] must be passed to the Members of FFB at least 15 days before the Congress at which the members in question will be appointed.

Article **30** Ordinary Congress

- ¹ The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year not later than March 30.
- ² The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 60 days in advance.
- ³ The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least 15 days before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the activity report, the financial statements and the auditors' report and any other relevant documents.

Article **31** Ordinary Congress agenda

- ¹ The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. Any proposal that the Executive Committee or a Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 40 days before the date of the Congress.
- ² The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):
 - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of FFB;
 - b) approval of the agenda;
 - c) an address by the President;
 - d) appointment of three Members to check the minutes;
 - e) appointment of three scrutineers;
 - f) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
 - g) approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
 - h) activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);
 - i) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
 - j) approval of the financial statements of the previous financial period;
 - k) approval of the budget;
 - l) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if applicable);
 - m) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee in accordance with the procedure stipulated under paragraph 1 above;
 - n) appointment of independent and external auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
 - o) dismissal of a member of a body (if applicable);
 - p) election of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);

- q) appointment of the members of the Independent Committees [i.e. Independent Audit and Compliance Officer, electoral committees and judicial bodies] (if applicable);
 - r) admission for membership (if applicable).
- ³ The Congress shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.
- ⁴ The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

Article 32 Extraordinary Congress

- ¹ The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
- ² The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if 11 delegates representing the Members of FFB make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within 60 days of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the delegates representing the Members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves. In doing so, they shall inform all the Members of FFB and the Executive Committee of FFB of the date and location of the Extraordinary Congress, along with the items to be included on the agenda in accordance with par. 3 below.
- ³ The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least 30 days before the date of an Extraordinary Congress.
- ⁴ When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
- ⁵ The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress must not be altered.

Article 33 Amendments to the Statutes

- ¹ The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes.
- ² Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by delegates representing a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least two-fifth of the other delegates representing the Members;
- ³ For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present.
- ⁴ A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

Article 34 Minutes

The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The minutes shall be checked by those Members designated within 60 days after the end of the Congress, and finally approved at the next Congress.

Article **35** Effective dates of decisions

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

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 36 Composition

¹ The Executive Committee consists of five members as follows:

- 1 (one) President
- 1 (one) Vice-President,
- 1 (one) female
- 2 (two) members

² The President, the vice-president and the other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Congress in accordance with art. 29 of these Statutes.

³ The mandate of the President, vice-president and other members of the Executive Committee is for four years. Their mandates shall immediately begin after the end of the Congress which has elected them. No person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Any other member (including the Vice-President) of the Executive Committee may serve for no more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not).

⁴ Before being proposed as a candidate, candidates to positions within the Executive Committee shall fulfil the prerequisites stipulated in art. 22 par. 8 of these Statutes as well as the following ones:

- a. Candidates must be a citizen of Belize and must reside in Belize
- b. Candidates shall have served for at least four years during the preceding twelve years as a member of the executive committee of FFB; or as a member of the executive committee of an association/league; or as a member of a FFB committee; or as an official within a top tier league club; or as an official within a FFB Member Association or FIFA or CONCACAF or UNCAF.

⁵ A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of an independent committee of FFB and may not be appointed/elected as delegate representing a Member at the Congress of FFB.

⁶ If a position or up to 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the position(s) in question until the next Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining period of office.

⁷ If more than 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the General Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary Congress within the prescribed period of time.

⁸ Any position within the Executive Committee will be considered vacant in case of death, resignation or if the member concerned of the Executive Committee is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, or if any member of the Executive Committee does not participate in at least three consecutive ordinary meetings.

⁹ Should there be no candidate for the female member position in the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall fill up the relevant position with a female member until the next Congress, when the position will be elected for the remaining period of office.

¹⁰ In addition, such female member position in the Executive Committee shall not prevent any woman from applying to the other positions within the Executive Committee of the FFB.

Article **37** Meetings

¹ The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times a year.

² The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If three members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene it so that it is held within 21 days. If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the Executive Committee shall convene it themselves, but must send the agenda to all members of the Executive Committee at least 7 days before the meeting in line with par. 3 below.

³ The President, assisted by the general secretariat, shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the items they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the general secretariat at least 14 days before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least 7 days before the meeting.

⁴ The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role and without voting rights. If the General Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, he may nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

⁵ The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.

Article **38** Powers of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee:

- a) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) shall prepare, with the assistance of the general secretariat, and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of FFB;
- c) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- d) may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary, at any time;
- e) shall approve and issue the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- f) shall appoint the General Secretary on the proposal of the President
- g) shall dismiss the Secretary General;
- h) shall propose the independent auditors to the Congress;
- i) shall propose the members of the independent committees to the Congress;
- j) shall appoint replacements for vacancies in the independent committees until the next Congress;
- k) shall approve and issue regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by FFB;
- l) shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;
- m) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- n) may dismiss a member of a body of FFB or suspend a Member of FFB provisionally until the next Congress;
- o) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of FFB or third parties;

- p) may appoint observers who may take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.
- q) shall carry out the objectives of FFB.
- r) shall represent and commit FFB in respect to third parties;
- s) shall act as Finance Committee, *i.e.* shall monitor the financial management of FFB. It shall analyse the budget of FFB and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary before approving them.

Article 39 Decisions

- ¹ The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless three of its members are present.
- ² The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- ³ In all matters requiring urgent and immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee, decisions may be passed by the Executive Committee via e-mail. The members of the Executive Committee shall register an official e-mail address which shall be used for that purpose.
- ⁴ Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests, as described in art. 19 of these Statutes.
- ⁵ The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
- ⁶ The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

C. PRESIDENT

Article 40 President

- ¹ The President represents FFB legally.
 - ² He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of FFB in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
 - d) The relations between FFB and its Members, FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF, political bodies and other organisations.
 - ³ The President shall propose to the Executive Committee the appointment of the General Secretary.
 - ⁴ The President shall preside over the Congress, the Executive Committee and Emergency Committee [if applicable] meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
 - ⁵ The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee.
 - ⁶ If the President is absent or unavailable, the Vice-President shall deputise. Should both the President and Vice-President be absent or unavailable, the longest serving member shall deputize.
 - ⁷ If the position of the President becomes vacant in the sense of art. 36 par. 8 of these Statutes, the Vice-President shall deputise until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President for the remaining period of office.
 - ⁸ Any additional powers of the President shall be set out in the Internal Organisation Regulations (IOR) of FFB.
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Article 41 Representation and signature

The President represents FFB generally. The Executive Committee shall adopt special provisions in the FFB Finance Regulations regarding the joint signature of office-holders.

E. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 42 General secretariat

The general secretariat is the executive, operational and administrative body and shall carry out all the work of FFB under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the Internal Organisational Regulations (IOR) of FFB and shall fulfil the given tasks in good faith.

Article 43 General Secretary

- ¹ The General Secretary is the chief executive officer of FFB.
- ² The General Secretary shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications and/or experience. At no time, shall the agreement exceed 4 years;
- ³ He shall be responsible for:
 - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
 - b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee, Emergency Committee [if applicable] and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - c) organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
 - d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - e) managing and keeping the accounts of FFB properly;
 - f) the correspondence of FFB;
 - g) the relations with the Members, committees, FIFA, CONCACAF and UNCAF, under the direction of the President of FFB;
 - h) organising the general secretariat;
 - i) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat;
 - j) providing the electoral committees with logistic and operative support for the elections.
- ⁴ Any additional responsibilities and duties assigned to the General Secretary shall be stipulated in the Internal Organisation Regulations (IOR) of FFB.
- ⁵ The General Secretary shall not be a Congress delegate or a member of any other body of FFB. The General Secretary may not be manager of any of the clubs related to football and must not function within any of the bodies affiliated to the Congress of the FFB as a Member.

F. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 44 Standing Committees

¹ The standing committees of FFB are:

- a) Organising Committee for FFB Competitions
- b) Technical and Development Committee;
- c) Referees Committee;
- d) Committee for Women's Football;
- e) Players' Status Committee.

² Members of the standing committees may be members of the Executive Committee. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the Members of FFB or the President of FFB. The Executive committee shall ensure appropriate female representation on standing committees. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years.

³ Each chairperson shall represent his/her committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant provisions here below. Each committee shall not engage in valid debate unless four of its members are present. Each committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%).

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

⁵ Each standing committee may propose to the Executive Committee amendments to the relevant provisions of the Internal Organisation Regulations (IOR) that concern its committee.

Article 45 Organising Committee for FFB Competitions

The Organising Committee for FFB Competitions shall organise the competitions of FFB in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to FFB's competitions. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and five members.

Article 46 Technical and Development Committee

The Technical and Development Committee shall primarily analyse the basic aspects of football training and technical development. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and five members.

Article 47 Referees Committee

The Referees Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organised by FFB, organise refereeing matters within FFB in collaboration with the administration

of FFB and monitor the education and training of referees. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and five members.

Article 48 Women's Football Committee

The Committee for Women's Football shall organise the women's football competitions of FFB and deal with all matters relating to women's football. It shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and five members.

Article 49 Players' Status Committee

¹ The Players' Status Committee shall set up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for the various competitions of FFB. The Executive Committee may approve special regulations governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and five members.

² Players' status disputes involving FFB, its Members, Players, Officials, intermediaries and licensed match agents shall be settled in the last instance by an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with these Statutes and subject to any applicable national law.

Article 50 Ad-hoc committees

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

G. CLUB LICENSING BODIES

Article 51 Club Licensing Bodies

- ¹ The Club Licensing Bodies are in charge of the club licensing system within FFB in accordance with the Club licensing regulations of FFB and the regulations of CONCACAF.
- ² The Club Licensing bodies consist of a first instance body and an appeal body.
- ³ Decisions pronounced by the Club Licensing Bodies in second instance may only be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, or to an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with the provisions in these Statutes.
- ⁴ The objective of the club licensing is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of leagues, to improve the level of professionalism of FFB to promote the sporting values in accordance with principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments and to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of clubs.
- ⁵ The executive committee of FFB shall issue club licensing regulations governing the club licensing system. Inter alia, the club licensing regulations shall stipulate the clubs to which the system will apply. As a minimum, the club licensing must be implemented in respect of top division clubs (league-PLB), clubs that qualify for FFB national club competitions (inter-district NALC and NAWL) and clubs participating in member association competitions.
- ⁶ The members of these club licensing bodies shall be appointed by the executive committee.

Article **52** Institutional independence

The independent committees as well as their individual members shall conduct their activities and perform their duties entirely independently but always in the interests of FFB and in accordance with the Statutes and regulations of FFB.

Article **53** Independent Audit and Compliance Officer

¹ The Independent Audit and Compliance Officer shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the external auditors' reports. The Independent Audit and Compliance Officer shall be knowledgeable and experienced in financial and/or regulatory and legal matters and may not be involved in any decision affecting the operations of FFB.

² The Independent Audit and Compliance Officer shall advise, assist and oversee the Executive Committee in monitoring FFB's financial and compliance matters, and issue and monitor compliance with the relevant regulations of FFB. He/she shall also supervise the general secretariat in financial and compliance issues. The Independent Audit and Compliance Officer shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the consolidated financial statements and the independent and external auditor's report. The Officer shall furthermore monitor FFB's financial and compliance matters and suggest to the appropriate FFB bodies any action that he/she deems necessary as a result of such monitoring.

³ Details on the Independent Audit and Compliance Officer's responsibilities, and any other procedural matters are stipulated in the Internal Organisation Regulations (IOR) of the FFB.

⁴ The Independent Audit and Compliance Officer shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years and may only be relieved of his/her duties by the Congress. He/she shall not belong to any other body of FFB and. He/she shall fulfil the independence requirements contained in paragraph 5 of this article.

⁵ The Independent Audit and Compliance Officer as well as any of his/her immediate family members may not exercise or have exercised during the four years preceding their initial terms any executive function at FFB, one of FFB's Members, a League or a Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations), nor have or have had in the four years preceding their initial term any material business relationship with FFB, one of FFB's Members, a League or a Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations). "Immediate family member" shall mean, with respect to an person, such person's spouse or domestic partner, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, children (including any stepchild or adopted child), grandchildren, son-, daughter-, father- or mother-in-law, and including anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, with whom the individual has a relationship akin to a family relationship for which such person provides financial support.

⁶ If the Independent Audit and Compliance Officer permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress.

Article **54** Electoral committees

- ¹ The electoral committees are the bodies in charge of organising and supervising the election process in accordance with the Electoral Code of FFB. The electoral committees consist of the Electoral Committee composed of the members of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (the first instance body) and the Election Appeal Committee composed of the members of the Appeal Committee (the second instance body).
- ² The responsibilities and function of the electoral committees shall be governed by the Electoral Code of FFB.

Article **55** Judicial bodies

- ¹ The judicial bodies of FFB are:
 - a) the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
 - b) the Appeal Committee.
- ² The judicial bodies shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson, three other members, and two substitutes.
- ³ The judicial bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks in both disciplinary and ethical matters. The chairpersons of the judicial bodies shall be qualified to practice law.
- ⁴ The term of office of all members shall be 4 years. The members may be re-appointed or relieved of their duties at any time, although they may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.
- ⁵ The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the judicial bodies shall be appointed by the Congress upon proposal of the Members or the Executive Committee and shall not be members of any other body of FFB.
- ⁶ The chairpersons of the judicial bodies shall fulfil the same independence criteria that are stipulated in art. 53 par. 5 above for the chairperson of the Independent Audit and Compliance Officer.
- ⁷ If the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or a member of a judicial body permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress, in which the Congress shall appoint a new member of the respective judicial body for the remaining period.
- ⁸ The responsibilities and function of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of FFB and the Code of Ethics of FFB.

Article **56** Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

- ¹ The function of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of FFB.

² The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of FFB on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs, licensed match agents and intermediaries.

³ These provisions do not affect the powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.

⁴ The Executive Committee shall issue the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of FFB, which shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Ethics Code.

Article 57 Appeal Committee

¹ The function of the Appeal Committee shall be governed by the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of FFB.

² The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee as well as the Electoral Committee that are not declared final by the relevant regulations of FFB.

³ Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may only be appealed to the CAS, or to a national and independent Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with the provisions in these Statutes.

Article 58 Disciplinary measures

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

¹ for natural and legal persons:

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a fine;
- d) the return of awards.

² for natural persons:

- a) a caution;
- b) an expulsion;
- c) a match suspension;
- d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
- e) a ban from entering a stadium;
- f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- g) social work;
- h) compliance training.

³ for legal persons:

- a) a transfer ban;
- b) playing a match without spectators;
- c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) annulment of the result of the match;
- f) expulsion from a competition;
- g) a forfeit;

- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division;
- j) replaying a match.

Article **59** Arbitration

¹ Disputes in FFB or disputes affecting Members of FFB, Leagues, members of Leagues, Clubs, members of Clubs, Players, and Officials may only be referred in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within FFB) to an arbitration tribunal, which shall definitely settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in Belize.

² Disputes of international dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA or CONCACAF may only be submitted in the last instance to CAS as specified in the Statutes of FIFA and CONCACAF.

Article **60** Jurisdiction

¹ FFB shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, *i.e.* disputes between parties belonging or affiliated to FFB.

² FIFA and/or CONCACAF shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, *i.e.* disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations, in accordance with the relevant regulations.

³ FFB shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA body, by a CONCACAF body or by CAS.

Article **61** Financial period

- ¹ The financial period of FFB shall be one year and shall begin on 1 of January and end on 31 of December.
- ² The revenue and expenses of FFB shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. FFB's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
- ³ The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of FFB with its subsidiaries as at 31 December.

Article **62** Revenue

The revenue of FFB arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
- b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which FFB is entitled;
- c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
- d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by FFB;
- e) donations;
- f) any other revenue related to football activities;
- g) funding from FIFA and from CONCACAF.

Article **63** Expenses

FFB bears:

- a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;
- b) other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;
- c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by FFB.

Article **64** Independent and external auditors

The independent and external auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit on a yearly basis the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of four years. This mandate may be renewed.

Article **65** Membership subscriptions

¹ Membership subscriptions are due on 31 December. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.

² The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every 4 years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Member and amount to no more than BZ\$ 500.

Article **66** Settlement

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

Article **67** Levies

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

Article **68** Competitions

- ¹ FFB organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
 - League Championships
 - National Amateur Championship (Male)
 - National Amateur Championship (female)
 - National Youth Championship U10 through U18 (Male & Female)
 - NALC-National Amateur League Championship (inter district)
 - National Beach Soccer Championship
 - National Futsal Championship
- ² The Executive Committee may delegate to FFB's subordinate Leagues the authority to organise competitions [e.g. by means of a proper and comprehensive agreement for elite football]. The competitions organised by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organised by FFB. Competitions organised by FFB shall take priority.
- ³ The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.

Article **69** Club licensing

The Executive Committee of FFB shall issue regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in the competitions of FFB and CONCACAF, in compliance with the minimum requirements of the club licensing system as set up by the CONCACAF in conformity with the FIFA Club Licensing Regulations.

Article **70** Rights

- ¹ FFB and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time and place. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
- ² The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end.

Article **71** Authorisation

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

Article **72** International matches and competitions

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

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

Article **73** Contacts

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

Article **74** Approval

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

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

³ Competitions sanctioned by Members of FFB within the territory of Belize must be approved by FFB.

Article 75 Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

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

Article 76 Dissolution

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

² If FFB is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the NSC. It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until FFB is re-established. The final Congress may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

Article 77 Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the Congress on 31 August 2019 and will come into force immediately after its adoption. The former FFB Statutes are hereby repealed.

Article 78 Transitory provisions

¹ Existing FFB Members shall comply with the requirements of the aforementioned article 12 par. 3 within 12 months after adoption by the Congress of the present Statutes in accordance with article 77 here above. The Congress shall decide, if deemed necessary, to extend the aforementioned transitory period to an additional grace period of 12 months.

² Should any Member fail to comply with this obligation following the aforementioned 24-month transitory period (i.e. initial 12-month period + 12-month grace period), their voting right at the Congress of the FFB will be suspended until they comply with said obligation.

This Statutes was adopted at the Congress on 31 August 2019 and will come into force immediately after its adoption.

Belmopan City, dated 31 August 2019

For the FFB


Sergio Chuc
President of FFB




Earl Jones
General Secretary of FFB

