

REGULATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

2019/2020



PREAMBLE

- A. The National Amateur Women League (NAWL) Championship, the Top Flight of Women's Football in Belize, is sanctioned by the Football Federation of Belize and serves as the showcase event for top female footballers of the country as well as a qualifying competition for the UNCAF female football club championship.
- B. The Competition shall consist of an Opening Season and a Closing Season. Each Season shall consist of a Qualifying Phase and a Final Phase
- C. Any rights in the present regulations **not** ceded to a participating Club in the Qualifying or Final Phases shall belong to the League.
- D. On entering the Competition, the participating Clubs, players and officials shall automatically undertake to:
 - 1. Observe the regulations, decisions, guidelines and circular issued by the FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF, FFB, NAWL as well as the applicable national laws
 - 2. Accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters concerned with the Competition will be settled by the decisions of the Organizing Committee (OC) in compliance with these regulations
 - 3. Observe the Principle of Fair Play
 - 4. The Organizing Committee for the NAWL Championship Cup shall decide on all competition related matters not provided for in these regulations.
- E. The participating clubs shall compete in zonal league format from which the winners will compete in an inter-zonal home and away knockout series until a champion club emerges. This champion club shall represent Belize in the UNCAF female interclub tournament to held on a date and venue to be announced by UNCAF

I. TITLE – THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NAWL) CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The National Amateur Women Football League Championship is the Division One amateur competition for adult women in the FFB. It shall be contested by women football clubs or clubs with women football teams with demonstrated capability to successfully participate in a nationwide football competition.
- B. It will be played twice each year between the months of August and June. The Apertura or Opening Season is staged from August to December. The Clausura or Closing Season is staged

from January to June. Every participating club is expected to field its strongest eligible set of players available in every match.

- C. The Champion shall retain the replica trophy awarded during official presentation ceremony on the last match day of the season. The NAWL will retain the original trophy on which all Championship Cup winners will be recorded. All other trophies shall be the property of the NAWL.
- D. The CHAMPION shall receive the first-place trophy and 25 gold medals. The SECOND PLACE will receive up to 25 silver medals and the second-place trophy. The third place will receive up to 25 bronze medals and the third-place trophy. The third place shall be the unsuccessful semifinalist with the best overall record throughout the championship.
- E. If applicable, the clubs placing last and second-to-last in the Championship Competition shall enter into two relegation/promotion playoff series with the champion and sub-champion of the next highest women's national competition during the months between May and August of the same year. The two clubs which emerge as winners from the two series shall be invited to participate in the NAWLC. If the invited clubs fail to respond to invitation, the recently relegated clubs shall be invited to register for the imminent opening season. If there is no interdistrict female league, the two last placed teams shall be invited back to participate in the imminent season
- F. The members of the NAWL Championship Cup Awards Committee shall be appointed by the Commissioner of the NAWL. The committee shall prepare the guideline for choosing these awards. The guidelines must be presented to the clubs at least two months before conclusion of a given season. Other awards that will be given (in accordance with established criteria) include:
 - a. Most goal scored(Golden Boot) (player with highest number of goals scored per match)
 - b. Most valuable player(Golden Ball) (player from club with greatest goal ratio with most player of the match votes)
 - c. Most Entertaining Club Team (club team with highest number of passes per match average)
 - d. Fair Play (Club team with least fair play demerits per match)
 - e. Best Goalkeeper(Golden Glove) (who gets most goalkeeper of the match votes per match played)
 - f. Best Forward (who gets most coaches' forward of the match votes per match played)
 - g. Best Defender (who gets most coaches' defender of the match votes per match played)
 - h. Best Midfielder (who gets most coaches' midfielder of the match votes per match played)
 - i. Best Young Player (U20 player who gets most coaches' votes per match played))
 - j. Best Coach (most votes by match commissioner per match coached)
 - k. Best Manager (most votes by match commissioner per match managed)

II. ENTRIES

- A. Women Football Clubs and Football Clubs with adult female teams registered with the Football Federation of Belize via the FIFA Connect Platform and headquartered within Belize are invited to participate in The National Amateur Women Football League Championship.
- B. All amateur female football clubs or amateur clubs with female club team must be in possession of a minimum of a provisional FFB Club license in order for the clubs' first teams to be registered to participate in competitions sanctioned by the Football Federation of Belize. Provisional FFB

Club licensing for the clubs participating in the NAWL Championship is automatic for clubs which submit a FFB club license application form, a FFB club team roster and registration forms for all players with FIFA IDs and team officials with FIFA ID. All provisional licenses for a given year shall expire on the last day of the Closing Season in the following year.

C. Presentation of the following shall constitute the baseline for the attainment of a full FFB Amateur Football Club license:

- (1) a business name registration certificate,
- (2) letter declaring ownership of the business name
- (3) a list of names of club officials,
- (4) a proposed budget for football operations for both opening and closing seasons of current competition
- (5) List containing at least seventeen (17) names of female club team players, coach, and manager,
- (6) Copy of Club statutes or by-laws, and
- (7), if club team will be registered by a person other than the owner, a club registration authorization letter from the club owner(s).

The application for a full club license must be accompanied by a payment of \$100.00. On receipt of required documents and fee, the FFB Club Licensing Office shall conduct a thorough review of the documents for the subsequent issuance of a letter of issuance of FFB Club License by the Club Licensing First Instance Body.

- D. All players, nationals or foreign, must be in possession of either a 11 or 14 series FIFA ID number obtained by registration via FIFA Connect registration platform in order to be registered with the first team of a FIFA Connect registered football club. Female Football Clubs shall submit a list with names, copy of picture ID, and signatures via the online platform. This list shall serve as the club team registration document for the NAWL Championship and will qualify players listed for player licenses for the duration of the NAWL Championship. These expire on the 31 May of the following year.
- E. The eligibility of the FFB registered player to be rostered as a club team member in any given amateur season shall be determined by the club registration rules as set by the competition's organizing committee.
- F. A foreign non-amateur player whose contract with her former club in her former association has expired for more than thirty (30) days shall be allowed to register with the FFB as an amateur after FFB TMS manager has determined that all obligations with former association have been discharged.
- G. Club team registration for NAWL Championship shall consist the following
- (1) Submittal of the list of all FFB-licensed players with jersey number assignments,
 - (2) Copies of players' licenses (online) and
 - (3) A copy of the FFB Club License or licensing application. (Online)
- H. Any club that fails to completely fulfill any or all of the above club registration requirements shall not be certified as a registered club for the competition in question but may be granted provisional status until requirements are met.
- I. The Organizing Committee for the NAWL Championship shall submit completed club registration packets to the General Secretariat for review and concurrence before publishing competition match schedule.
- J. No more than twenty (20) and no less than ten (10) club teams will be allowed to participate in this competition
- K. For domestic competitions, FFB-licensed clubs are allowed to register a maximum of fifty (28) FFB-licensed players of which only five (5) or less may be non-Belizean nationals.. Each club's

team registration roster may differentiate between u20, foreign and domestic players. In general, every club shall submit to the FFB Secretariat a list of twenty three (23) players it intends to use for a match by 12:01 pm on the Thursday before the scheduled match. The Secretariat shall conduct an eligibility review of all club-nominated players and publish an official list of all eligible players for the match on the FFB website before close of business on Friday before match. Specifically, for any given match, a club is allowed to present a maximum of (5) foreign players on its match roster three (3) of whom shall be permitted to participate on any given match date.

- L. Each club is encouraged to register at least five (5) **U -20** players who should be deployed in accordance with club match objectives. The official rosters prepared by the FFB Secretariat for any given match shall indicate which players are under the age of twenty (20).
- M. Each club must register, at a minimum, a coach and a match data collector. **The match data collector shall keep a record of all passes attempted, unsuccessful and completed passes made by his or her team.** If able, a club shall register a management staff (manager, assistant-manager, and equipment manager) and coaching staff (Head Coach, Assistant Coach (match data analyst), Physical Trainer, Goal-keeper Coach and Physiotherapist) with the FFB. Each individual on the club management staff is encouraged to submit a curriculum vitae detailing training, work experience and education relevant to position on the club-team management and shall, in turn, receive a photo identification card to be used during match related assignments. These officials will be eligible to receive training courses in conjunction with the FFB / UNCAF / CONCACAF AND FIFA
- N. Club-teams will not be allowed to participate or continue to participate in the NAWL Championship Competition without a coach registered with the FFB.
- O. The NAWL OC will determine the right of entry of any other clubs
- P. The winner of the competition is the club which emerges as champion in both opening and closing seasons. In the event that there are different winners of the two seasons, the winner with the highest accumulation of points over the opening and closing seasons shall be declared the NAWL Champion.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

- A. The competition shall be played in two (2) phases:
 - a. The Qualifying Phase
 - b. The Final Phase
- B. The Qualifying Phase
 - 1. The teams taking part in the tournament will play other teams in their respective zones in a home and away format. The OC will prepare the schedule of games whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible
 - 2. The system of play will be the League System. This means a home and away system until every team has played the same number of games.

3. Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat.
4. The two (2) top teams from each zone in the Qualifying Phase shall advance to the Final Phase
5. The ranking of teams will be determined as follows:
 - a. Greatest number of points obtained in all group matches.
 - b. Greatest Goal difference in all group matches.
 - c. Highest Goal ratio
 - d. Greatest number of goals scored in all group matches.
 - e. The result of head to head competition between the two tied teams
 - f. The team that most exemplify Fair Play by having the lowest number of negative points accrued from accumulated yellow and red cards. Three (3) negative points accrue for each Red Card and one (1) negative point for each Yellow Card.

C. The Final Phase

1. The Final Phase of the competition shall be played among between two club teams from each of the two zones. The OC shall publish the seeding order of the competing teams in the Final Phase. This seeding order shall determine which team will be designated as the home team in the first leg of all the series in the Final Phase.
2. The Final Phase shall consist of two (2) rounds:
 - a. Semi finals
 - i. The Semi-Finals shall consist of two series, SF1 and SF2, each of which shall each consist of two matches.
 - ii. Series SF1 and SF2 shall be contested by two teams with seeding designations that were determined at the conclusion of the Qualifying Phase of the season.
 - iii. In each series, the lower seeded team shall be listed first as the home team in the first leg of the series.
 - b. Finals
 - i. The Finals shall consist of a single series between the two teams that advance from the Semi-Final Round
 - ii. The lower seeded team shall be designated as the home team in the first leg of the two-game series.
3. The matches of the Final Phase of the competition shall be played using a HOME and AWAY KNOCKOUT SYSTEM. In such a system, there must be a winner of the series after end of regulation of second match otherwise extra time and penalty kicks must be taken to determine winner.
4. The OC shall use the criteria of Article III.B.5. Above to determine the seeding order among the zone qualifiants to the Final Phase. The team with the best record shall be Seed #1 and so forth.

North Zone Seed #2	vs	South Zone Seed #1	= SF1_1
South Zone Seed #1	vs	North Zone Seed #2	= SF1_2

South Zone Seed #2	vs	North Zone Seed #1	=SF2_1
North Zone Seed #1	vs	South Zone Seed #2	=SF2_2

5. The winners of the semifinal round shall contest the Finals as follows

Winner SF1	Vs	Winner SF2
Winner SF2	vs	Winner SF1

6. At the conclusion of 90 minutes of regulation time in the second leg of both Semifinal and final knockout series, the team with greater goal aggregate shall advance to the finals.
If both teams have equal goal aggregate, extra time of 30 minutes will be played. If teams are still tied, then kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner. The penalty kick formula shall be 5 vs 5; 1 vs 1 until a winner is determined.

IV. WITHDRAWALS

- A. Clubs that have entered the competition are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated. After entering the competition, a club that fails to participate shall be penalized as specified below, except in circumstances of force majeure as determined by the Commissioner.
- B. If a withdrawal takes place:
1. After registering for any given season of the competition but on or before the day of the draw for the Qualifying Phase, a fine of \$100.00 plus forfeit of the registration fee shall be levied
 2. After the draw but on or before the date of the first match of the Qualifying Phase of any season of the Competition a fine of \$200.00 in addition to forfeiting the registration fee shall be levied.
 3. Anytime during the Qualifying Phase of a given season of the competition a fine of \$300.00 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee

4. After the Qualifying Phase of a given season but before the start of the Final Phase of the competition a fine of \$500.00 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee
 5. Anytime during the Final Phase of any given season of the competition a fine of \$700.00 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
- C. Clubs that withdraw prior to qualifying phase or clubs which are excluded from playing in the Qualifying Phase of any season may be replaced by another Club
- D. If a team does not report for a match – except in cases of force majeure recognized by the NAWL Championship Organizing Committee or refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall forfeit the match and can be disqualified from the competition. The guilty team shall be disqualified from participating in the next two NAWL Competitions.
- E. The FFB Secretariat shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and are fully complied with.

V. THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

1. The Organizing Committee (OC) for the NAWL Championship shall be responsible for the organization of this competition. The OC shall appoint the Commissioner of the NAWL. The NAWL Championship OC shall appoint such persons with the requisite competencies resident at venues of matches to assist Commissioner with the smooth administration of the competition. Such individuals shall not be affiliated to any club listed as members of the NAWL
2. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
 - i. Disseminating the competition regulations as approved and ratified by the FFB
 - ii. Judging Protest validity
 - iii. Replacing Clubs that have withdrawn and to recommend new clubs
 - iv. Dispatching Match Commissioners, Referee Assessors, Security Officers and other officials
 - v. Deciding which laboratory will carry out the Doping test analysis, if necessary
 - vi. Deciding at which match doping test will be conducted
 - vii. Fixing the venues and dates and approving the stadiums
 - viii. Choosing the official football and the stipulated technical material
 - ix. Determining kick-off times
 - x. Dealing with any matter that should arise and is out of the responsibility of another body under the terms of these regulations.
 - xi. Contracting match officiating services through the FFB Referee Department
 - xii. Convening seminars to familiarize clubs with specific provisions of competition regulations
 - xiii. Resolving cases of force majeure
 - xiv. Submit such reports as directed by the NAWL Commissioner

VI. PROTEST AND DEPOSITS

1. Protests are objections to infringements of the governing regulations of a competition (state and markings of the pitch, non- enforcement of the Laws of the Game by referees, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs etc.)
2. Unless otherwise mentioned in these regulations, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or Coordinator within two (2) hours of the match and followed up with a full written report within forty eight (48) hours, including copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the FFB Secretariat.
3. Protest against the eligibility of players shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or General Coordinator at conclusion of the match. It shall be followed up with a written report with details of the grounds for the protest not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the match in question
4. Protest against any incidents involving non-enforcement of the Laws of the Game by the referee that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the Captain immediately after the disputed incident and before the play has restarted. The protest shall be confirmed in writing to the Match Commissioner or Coordinator by the head of the team no later than twenty four (24) hours after the match. If the protest can be resolved at venue by the regulations, the match Commissioner shall apply the remedies specified by the regulations.
5. Protest against the state of the pitch, the field markings, the accessory equipment (goals, etc.) or the footballs, shall be made in writing to the referee BEFORE the start of the match by the official responsible for the team lodging the protest.
6. Protest for reasons outlined in paragraph 3, 4 and 5 above, must be accompanied by a check in the amount of BZE\$100.00 payable to the NAWL. Protests not submitted in accordance with the procedures outlined above shall be deemed invalid.
7. Clubs may not bring disputes with the NAWL before a Court of Justice and they shall undertake to submit any such disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of FFB.
8. No protest may be made against the referee's decision regarding facts connected with play; such decisions are final. Protests against referees' violations of the provisions in the regulations, and misapplication of the Laws of the Game, and poor match management are encouraged by affected parties. The referee assessors report shall be made available to the OC for reference. The Match Commissioner's report shall render a ' poor, fair, good, excellent'" qualification on each of the three dimensions of referee performance i.e. match management, adherence to competition regulations, and strict adherence to application of the Laws of the Game.
9. All Protests shall be initially be examined by the Match Commissioner who shall determine if the Regulations are clear on the associated remedies or punitive measures. If regulations are unclear, the protest shall be heard by a Protest Task Group selected by the Chairman from among the members of the OC. The Protest Task Group shall be convened to adjudicate on a protest submission within 24 hours. It shall then submit its recommendations to the Chairman of the OC. The Chairman

shall then convene a meeting of the Organizing Committee to review the recommendations and render a decision in writing within 48 hrs. Via letter signed by the Chairman... The decision letter shall give the grounds for the decision.

10. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by NAWL, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
11. Appeals against Disciplinary Committee decisions shall be lodged with the FFB General Secretary for FFB Appeals Committee in writing within 24 hours of delivery of decision to club to the club in question... The appeal letter shall state grounds on which appeal is based. The General Secretary shall determine whether the grounds for the appeal are valid or not. The only grounds on which an appeal can be made are 1. Misinformation used to arrive at decision and 2. Procedural flaw in arriving at decision. In both cases, the burden of proof lies with the appellant or else the appeal letter will be dismissed forthwith.
12. Outstanding protests lodged during qualifying phase of a given season and the appeals arising therefrom shall be dealt with conclusively before the final phase of that season.
13. Applicable disciplinary measures arising from findings during protest committee proceedings shall not be subject to time limitations.

VII. THE NAWL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The NAWL Disciplinary Committee shall have responsibility to take disciplinary action against any natural or legal person involved in any transgression related to the NAWL Championship Cup Competition
2. The scope of application of the disciplinary measures of the Disciplinary Committee shall include the following natural and legal persons ;
 - a) football clubs;
 - b) officials;
 - c) players;
 - d) licensed match and players' agents;
 - e) anyone with an authorization from FFB, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by NAWL;
 - f) spectators .In cases of infringement of these regulations, unsporting behavior, or instances of violations specified in the FIFA Disciplinary Code on the part of the entities listed above, The Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, teams, team officials, spectators or coaches.
3. The NAWL Disciplinary Committee shall review recommendations from NAWL protest task group proceedings relating to referee violation of the laws of the game captured on video footage. This shall be form basis of request for action by NAWL DC to the Chairman of the FFB Referees Committee
4. Both natural persons (flesh-and-blood) and legal persons (clubs, associations, leagues) are punishable by the following disciplinary measures:
 - a) warning;
 - b) reprimand;
 - c) fine;
 - d) return of awards.
5. The following disciplinary measures are applicable only to people:
 - a) caution;

- b) expulsion;
 - c) match suspension;
 - d) ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
 - e) ban from entering a stadium;
 - f) ban on taking part in any football-related activity.
6. The following disciplinary measures are applicable only to legal persons (clubs, associations, leagues) :
- a) transfer ban;
 - b) playing a match without spectators;
 - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
 - d) ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - e) Annulment of the result of a match;
 - f) expulsion;
 - g) forfeit;
 - h) deduction of points;
 - i) relegation to a lower division.
 - j) take action, in accordance with FFB's Disciplinary Code and/or FIFA Disciplinary Code, against any person or club which may violate the competition regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
7. An expulsion, whether of a player or a team official, automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled and/or forfeited. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.
8. A player shall be cautioned if she commits any of the following offences during a match (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 17 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code):
- i. unsporting behavior;
 - ii. dissent by word or action;
 - iii. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
 - iv. delaying the restart of play;
 - v. failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
 - vi. entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
 - vii. deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
9. Players accumulating three cautions (yellow cards) in three different matches shall be suspended from the subsequent match. Such a player shall remain suspended until the respective fine has been paid. An economic sanction of \$10.00 shall be levied against a player who receives a caution in a match. If she receives a subsequent caution in the same match, an additional caution fine of 15.00 shall be levied on her. The \$25.00 fine payable for the expulsion then supersedes the cumulative fines for two the yellow cards
10. A player shall receive a direct red card if she commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 of FIFA Disciplinary Code):
- i. serious foul play;
 - ii. violent conduct; spitting at an opponent or any other person;
 - iii. denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within her own penalty area);
 - iv. denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;

- v. using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
11. A player who receives a direct red card due to misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials shall be suspended, in addition to the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, as follows:
- i. one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
 - ii. two (2) matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);
 - iii. two (2) matches for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official ;
 - iv. three (3) matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official;
 - v. six (6) matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.
 - vi. Twelve (12) months for fighting on field of play or within confines of stadium. Only those players who restrain their own team mate or restrain both combatants simultaneously shall be deemed as attempting to stop a fight. All other players are prohibited from entering combat zone on the penalty of one year suspension on doing so. Any player which leaves the substitute bench to aid her teammate shall also be suspended for one year. Any spectator who enters the field of play during a fight shall be subjected to a stadium ban of one year
12. Players receiving three expulsions (red cards) in any given season shall be suspended from participation in the rest of that season... Any player who receives a direct red card shall be subjected to a fine of \$25.00. This amount shall be added to any other fines she may have incurred as a result of Disciplinary Committee decision.
13. Any player who has received a caution in a match and subsequently receives a direct red card shall, in addition to being expelled from the match, carry the caution through to a subsequent match.
14. At the end of the preliminary round, every CLUB which has made good effort to deeply U20 players shall be given honorable mention by FFB.
15. When making a decision, the cognizant Disciplinary Committee shall refer to the reports made by the referee, assistant referees and fourth official. Match commissioner, referee assessor, general coordinator, technical delegate, security officers and other FFB officials present. It may also refer to television and video recordings. They may be used as evidence but only as far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and shall not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play. An integral part of the disciplinary process is to give every affected party a fair chance in representing itself. Players to be affected by a disciplinary committee decision shall be summoned to present their account of events leading to sanctions. Decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee shall be communicated in writing to the FFB Secretariat stating grounds for the decision and bearing the signatures of all members present at meeting. Dissenting members shall write the letter (d) alongside their signatures. Records of decisions or disciplinary proceedings that do not meet the all the requirements stated herein shall be null and void.
16. Any club team with five (5) players with an accumulated caution and expulsion tally of at least five (5) shall be guilty of team misconduct which shall result in a fine of \$50.00

- being levied on the club. If a club suffers expulsion of five or more players, the club shall forfeit the match with a score of 3:0 if the score at the time is better than 3:0 (i.e. 4:2, 5:3 etc.) and by the score at the time of forfeit if it is equal or worse than 3:0 (i.e. 4:0, 5:0, 6:0)
17. A player engaged in misconduct against match officials resulting in a direct red card shall be, in addition to the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, suspended for
 - i. at least four matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official (subject to art. 53, 54 and 57-60);b)
 - ii. Six (6) months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official;
 - iii. at least 12 months for spitting at a match official or fighting on field of play. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.
 18. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure recognized by the OC, the team shall forfeit the match with three points awarded to opponent with a score line of 3-0. Force majeure notwithstanding, the absenting team shall notify the match commissioner of the conditions preventing team transit to match venue.
 19. If a team refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall forfeit the match and three points shall be awarded to its opponent with a score of 3-0. If the persisting team had already reached a higher net score at the time the guilty team left the field, the higher score shall be regarded as the official score. .
 20. If the suspension of a match is the result of negligence on the part of the host team or the stadium authorities, the stadium where the match was interrupted will remain suspended until the factors leading to match interruptions are remedied. The host team shall be fined a sum of \$500.00, shall forfeit the match by a score of 3-0, and shall reimburse all expenses incurred by the visiting team in travelling to match venue.
 21. All economic sanctions levied against clubs must be fully settled no later than seven (7) days after notification. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to NY&WFL. Failure to pay fines accruing from cautions and expulsions before the next scheduled match shall cause the affected player to become ineligible for match duty. The FFB General Secretariat shall reserve the right to publish a list of all players and clubs with outstanding fines on the FFB website.

VIII. FFB APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The FFB Appeals Committee shall hear appeals against decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared as final. In its letter to the affected parties, the Disciplinary Committee shall state whether its decision is final or not.
2. The procedure to be applied by the Appeal Committee is defined in the (art) FIFA Disciplinary Code and the (art) FFB Statutes.
3. The Appeal Committee shall reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary Committee's file. However, the Appeal Committee may, if necessary, resort to further evidence which it considers relevant.

4. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee are final. The decision shall be conveyed in writing by the Chairman of the Appeals Committee stating the grounds for the decision and bearing the signatures of all members present. Records of decisions in non-conformity with these requirements shall be null and void.

IX. MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

1. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA.
2. In cases of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
3. A maximum of fourteen (14) persons shall be allowed on the team bench; seven (7) team officials and seven (7) substitutes. The names of these persons and their respective functions must be indicated on the form provided by the match officials prior to the commencement of the match. A maximum of five (5) substitutes shall be allowed for each match
4. The Referee designated for a given match shall make a presentation at the technical meeting to emphasize to club representatives that his function is to arbitrate in strict conformance with the laws of the game.

X. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

1. Each match shall last for ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty five (45) minutes with an interval of no more than fifteen (15) minutes between each period.
2. If, in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, a winner must be declared at end of a match or the second match of a knockout series and there is a tie in goal aggregate between the two teams at the end of regulation of the second match ,kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken until a winner is determine in accordance with the procedure laid out by the IFAB and published by FIFA.
3. If applicable, clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e. after forty five (45) and (90) minutes respectively. This shall also apply in the event of extra time being played (15 minutes in each extra time period)
4. At the end of each period (regular or extra time), the referee will indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the minimum number of minutes he has decided to allow for time lost. Allowance for lost time in each period shall be communicated to the public by the fourth official using the substitution cards or electronic display board and by the public address announcer.
5. If a match is interrupted before the completion of normal playing time or extra time due to reasons of force majeure, the OC shall review the causes and make its decision on the outcome of the match in accordance with the following:
 - A. If the match is interrupted before the completion of the first half, during the half-time interval or up to the seventy-fifth (75th) minute of play, the match shall be replayed in its entirety. The repeat match, if possible and mutually agreeable, shall be arranged for the following day, thus avoiding considerable

extra expense for the visiting team. If the match still cannot be played on the second day, the OC shall reschedule the match for another date.

- B. If a match is interrupted after seventy-five (75) minutes of play, the OC shall consider the beneficiary of the current score status, the visiting team willingness to wait another day to finish match, and the mutuality of clubs position on completing the match before ruling to record current score as official score. This shall be dictated only by the case where competitive fair play is served in the best manner.
- C. In all cases where the OC is satisfied that a game has been interrupted due to one or both clubs' misconduct the OC shall declare a forfeit against the offending club if only one club is responsible. If both clubs are responsible, the game shall be replayed in its entirety and each club fined a sum of \$25 and may escalate proceedings to the Disciplinary Committee.
- D. In case where a game is interrupted owing to the conduct of fans of both teams or of spectators attending the match, the OC shall take such action as it deem appropriate.

XI. FIELD OF PLAY, STADIA, KICK-OFF TIME,BALLS

1. Clubs hosting competition matches shall ensure that the stadium facilities fulfill FIFA's requirements and comply with the standards of safety and security required for international matches. The field of play and the accessory equipment shall comply with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game. The fields and the facilities shall be in optimum condition.
2. The matches of the NAWL CHAMPIONSHIP CUP may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, it must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for artificial turf or the International Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is provided by FIFA.
3. Clubs shall guarantee that field of play chosen meet the requirements of the Laws of the Game. They must pass inspection by the NAWL/FFB
4. In cases where games are played at night, stadium must possess lighting suitable for the playing of night matches. Lighting must pass inspection by the FFB. The average luminosity at an elevation of 5 feet within playing area shall be between 600 and 800 lux
5. All matches shall be administered and controlled in addition to the regulations contained herein as well as in accordance with the Match Day Procedures, which shall be published by the League office at least 24 hours before the scheduled match. Every instance of deviation, as noted by match commissioner, from the published match day procedures by clubs or match officials shall incur a fine of \$100,00.
6. The kick-off times shall be fixed by the OC after clubs' submission of best. Any club failing to commence at the schedule kick-off time, except under conditions of force majeure, shall be fined a sum of \$100.00.

7. Referees, during the technical meeting, must emphasize the need for matches to commence at the appointed time, if possible. He shall state the reason/s for all late starts in his match report and advise the Coach of the offending team/s of the consequences of his reporting such irregularities.
8. *Clubs MUST use balls bearing any one of the following designations:*
 - A. *"FIFA APPROVED" logo*
 - B. *"FIFA INSPECTED" logo*
 - C. *"INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD"*

Such a designation on a football indicates that it has been tested officially and found to be in compliance with specific technical requirements.
9. Host club must provide balls that are fit for play throughout the match and the referee must state in his Match Report the unsuitability of the match balls, if applicable, and must also notify the club team officials of his intention to do so.
10. Competition football supply support may be provided by the FFB.

XII. RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

Qualifying and Final Phase

1. Each club that hosts a match shall be responsible for:
 - i. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadium, if necessary in collaboration with the relevant authorities. Specifically, the law and order guarantee shall be in the form of the presence of at least two (2) police officers during preliminary round matches, at least four (4) police officers during quarter final and semifinal matches of the playoff round, and at least five (5) police officers in attendance of the matches of the finals.
 - ii. If applicable, undertake to arrange adequate liability insurance cover in respect of the stadium in which the match is due to be held
 - iii. Comply with the guidelines and instructions issued by the NAWL for Match Day
 - iv. Monitoring fan attendance and ticket sales
 - v. Assembling players listed on match roster at a designated area for inspection by match officials at least 60 minutes before kickoff time.
 - vi. Designating the club representative to attend the technical meeting scheduled for two (2) hours before kickoff time. Failure of a club to present itself at a technical meeting within ten (10) minutes of its commencement shall incur a fine of \$5
2. Each visiting club will be responsible:
 - i. Making arrangements for their own travel, accommodations and meal expenses to and from the host club and any cost for their delegation
 - ii. Starting the scheduled game at the scheduled time
 - iii. Assembling players on match roster at a designated area for the proper conduct of player inspection by the Match Officials at least 75 minutes before scheduled kick off time.

- iv. Designating the club representative to attend the technical meeting scheduled for two (2) hours before kickoff time. A tardiness of ten (10) minutes to the technical meeting shall result in a fine of \$5.00
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- 3. Each participating club shall be responsible for:
 - i. The behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players). Club officials who are ejected from the technical area shall be fined \$20 in addition to additional disciplinary measures taken by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - ii. If applicable, health, accident and travel insurance coverage for its full delegation
 - iii. Returning any information requested by The NAWL by the dates specified
 - iv. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by the League in a timely manner.
 - v. Assigning a coach to make player and team performance evaluations during matches to nominate, player of the match, best midfielder of both teams, best forward of both teams, best goalkeeper of both teams, best defender of both teams, mvp of each team and best passing team)
 - 4. Commercial Reference to Event and Advertising Provisions
 - i. Participating teams shall agree, as a condition of their participation, that the terms "THE NAWL CHAMPIONSHIP CUP", "THE NAWL CHAMPIONSHIP CUP COMPETITION", "THE DIVISION I AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE", commonly used to identify the competition and their equivalent, abbreviated or as translated into other languages, may only be used by such clubs in a sporting context with no commercial implications. FFB owns the copyright for all these terms.
 - ii. Participating team shall also agree to abide by any advertising provisions issued by the League

XIII. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, LIST OF PLAYERS

- 1. Clubs will be permitted to register a maximum of twenty eight (28) FFB- licensed players. Of these fifty players, a maximum of five (5) players can be non-nationals. The five (5) non-nationals can be used on the match roster for a given match day provided that only three (3) are on field of play at any time. Only the players listed on the game day match roster published by the FFB Secretariat shall be eligible to participate in a given match. Any alteration to the game day match roster after third match shall result in a fine of \$10.00 being levied on the guilty club.
- 2. At least five (5) of the registered players are encourage to be nationals who are less than 20 years of age (U – 20)
- 3. Player under age of sixteen (16) are ineligible for rostering on a club team for match duty. A player who has reached her fifteenth birthday shall be deemed to be in her sixteenth year of life. Such a player shall be considered to be 16 for purposes of this competition subject to submittal of a parental consent form.
- 4. Players registered on club team must be licensed with the FFB to make them eligible to play in any League match for the current season. Licensure with FFB shall be

- established by assignment of a FIFA ID number to every player via FIFA Connect registration platform.
5. All players presented for a club's team competition registration shall be deemed ineligible to play if the club has failed to complete all club registration requirements. Offending clubs shall forfeit all matches in which an ineligible player was fielded.
 6. Once having appeared for a club in the Preliminary Phase of the Opening or Closing Season, a player may appear for any another club during the same season if she hasn't played four matches with parent club
 7. Players must show a picture identification card/ FFB Player license/provisional FFB licensed player list to the Match Commissioner/Fourth Official;(Driving license, SSB Card, etc.) on demand otherwise they will not be allowed to participate in a match.
 8. After arrival at the venue, each club's head of delegation shall, upon request, submit to the Match Commissioner, the final roster of eighteen (18) players and the identification card required in paragraph (6) above for verification.
 9. A player is expected to use the same number on their uniform throughout the competition. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in a fine of \$5.00 being levied on the club...
 10. Any team found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. The victory and the resultant three points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as a score of 3-0.
 11. All registered players must comply when called upon for National Team duty. Players shall be notified of their call-up by mail delivered to the clubs' and players' registered addresses. Failure of a player to respond to the call to national team duty without a medical report declaring her unfit for national team duty shall result in player's deregistration from the FFB. The player shall not be allowed to register with the FFB until six (6) months have lapsed. If player's non-response is due to adverse consequences caused by the club, the club shall be fined \$100.00 and ordered to release player without prejudice to national team duty. If club continues to defy the FFB's order to release player, the club's license shall be revoked resulting in automatic deregistration from current competition.

XIV. DOPING CONTROL

1. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and / or mental condition of a player, with a view to improving his athletic and mental performance. It is prohibited.
2. Only the OC is empowered to arrange doping tests and to decide at which laboratories and who shall carry out the analysis. Every player in a team, including substitute players, will be liable to undergo doping tests.

3. The OC reserves the right to arrange random doping tests at all the matches in the competition.
4. Any player or club that refuses to take a doping test or falsifies the result of a test or attempts to do so or is found guilty of having taken prohibited substances whether intentionally or not will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
5. Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as stated in paragraph (4) above, will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
6. In addition, reference is made to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, which contain the list of prohibited substances and methods.
7. If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Guidelines, a player is tested positive for using banned substances, he shall be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in the competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from the FFB Disciplinary Committee.

XV. REGULATIONS ON SPORTING EQUIPMENT

A Club's Equipment must comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations with the following modifications:

- I. Uniform Color – Each Club must register its official colors (home and away) with the OC of the NAWL Championship Cup. The home uniform shall be of a different design and color than the away uniform. The host team shall have its alternate uniform available in case of a conflict as determined by the referees. Each team shall have at least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.
- II. Where there is a conflict in the colors worn by any two teams for any match, the HOME team shall be required to change. However, should the visiting team not be wearing its registered away colors thus causing the home team to change, the visiting team shall be fined \$25.00.
- III. Player's name – Players may be identified by means of their surname or an abbreviation or nickname on the back of their shirts above the number. The player's name shall correspond with the name and number on the players' list.
- IV. Sponsor Advertising – Teams may only wear colors registered with the NAWL. However, the advertising of tobacco or distilled spirits, as well as slogans of a political, religious or racist nature or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.

XVI. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

1. The referee chosen to officiate in the competition shall be of such competence deemed adequate by the FFB Referee Department. The officiating team shall arrive at match venue at least two hours before kick-off time to attend the technical meeting convened by the match commissioner. If referee team anticipates a late arrival to technical

meeting due to causes beyond its control, the referee shall notify the match commissioner of the circumstances.

2. Subject to the conditions and quality factors specified in the applicable referee service contract drawn up between the League and the Referees Department, the FFB Referees Committee shall appoint the referees, two (2) assistant referees and fourth official who can best provide the required quality of service for each match. The committee shall also appoint referees assessors for all matches.
3. Where one match official cannot perform his duties as appointed, the most competent official will fill that vacancy.
4. The Referee Department may prepare power point presentations aimed at familiarizing players of the different clubs with the laws of the game. This presentation should be sent to the FFB Secretariat for subsequent dissemination to the clubs. The presentation should include sample questions that evaluate the players' knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the Game. Players must attain a score of 50% on a test to be administered by the Player Licensing Office in connection with the renewal of a FFB player license.
5. After each match the Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor and the referee shall complete their designated official FFB report forms. They shall send their reports immediately following the match to the FFB Secretariat, but at no time later than twenty four (24) hours following the match.

XVII. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING, TICKETS

1. Marketing, Radio, Television, international Broadcasting rights for the Competition are fully vested with the FFB.
2. A Club may not offer souvenir sales of NAWL CHAMPIONSHIP CUP identified merchandise, without the written permission of the FFB.
3. Technical Film / Tapes – Permission to make technical films/tapes, exclusively reserved for the use of a participating Club concerned, must be obtained from the Secretariat of the FFB
4. Tickets for the Visiting Teams – The Host Club shall provide a least five (5) highest category tickets and twenty (20) reserved seat tickets complimentary and make available at least fifty (50) reserved seats for purchase for each match.

XVIII. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1. Qualifying and Final Phase
 - A. Revenues
 - a. All revenues from gate receipts accrue to the home team and must be reported

- b. All revenues from Broadcasting rights, advertising and sponsorship will accrue to the NAWL/FFB in the Qualifying Phase and in the Final Phase, unless otherwise agreed by both

B. Expenses

- a. Travel – Each team is responsible for the management of its own travel expenses, accommodations and meals.
- b. Allotments- When deemed affordable by the OC, 10% of gross gate receipts shall be paid to the NAWL.
- c. The Host team is responsible for:
 - i. All game related costs (Stadium, security, promotion, tickets, etc.)
 - ii. All Game officials' and Commissioner's air or land transportation, accommodation, meals and their per diems.

XIX. PROTOCOL

1. During the competition the following flags should be flown or displayed inside the stadium:
 - a. Belize
 - b. FFB
 - c. Fair Play
2. The National Anthem and the FFB Anthem, when available, will be played during the parade of the teams unto the field of play.
3. Each player of the starting eleven (11) of each team accompanied by a child shall travel no more than thirty (30) feet into the field and fanned out. The Belize National Anthem shall be played immediately after the presentation of teams. Failure to play the Belize National Anthem by the host club shall incur a fine of \$5.00
4. The teams shall shake hands with the match officials and each other and proceed immediately to take a team photograph.
5. The club teams shall shake hands with the match officials and each other at the conclusion of the match. A club team shall be awarded one (1) fair play point at conclusion of a match if any player shakes the hands of at least one opposing player and one official. The Match Commissioner shall take note of which players, if any, make the effort to shake hands after the match

XX. COPYRIGHT

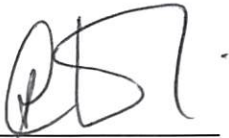
The copyright of the schedule of games and matches adopted by the NAWL Executive and drawn up in accordance with provisions of these regulations are the property of the FFB.

XXI. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE REGULATIONS

1. The Commissioner, in consultation with the Executive of the National Amateur Women Football League, shall resolve any matter not provided for in these regulations and such decisions shall be final
2. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English or Spanish texts of these regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

These regulations were adopted by the Executive Committee of the FFB and enter into force at the instant of signature.

For the Executive Committee of the Football Federation of Belize, on 10 of 10 - 2019



Sergio Chuc
President



Earl Jones
General Secretary

