# Belmopan Football Association

# Statutes 2019

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**Article**

The terms given below denote the following:

**FFB**: Football Federation of Belize.

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

**FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

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

**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 area).

**Club:** a member of an Association (that is a member of FIFA) or of a League recognised by an Association.

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

**Player:** a football player registered with FFB.

**Congress:** the supreme and legislative body of the Regional Association.

**Executive Committee:** the strategic and oversight body of the Regional Association.

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

**Association Football:** the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**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 in Lausanne (Switzerland).

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 The Regional Association is a private organisation of an associative nature in compliance with the laws of Belize. It is formed for an unlimited period.

2 The headquarters of the Regional Association is in Belmopan City .

3 The Regional Association is a member of the FFB.

4 The logo of the Regional Association is

6 The logo and abbreviation are legally registered with the Belize Intellectual Property Office

## Article 2 Objectives

In coordination with the FFB Statutes, the objectives of the Regional Associations are:

a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of the Regional Association in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;

b) in accordance with the stipulations of the FFB Statutes, Regulations and decisions, to organise competitions in Association Football, Futsal and beach soccer at Regional level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various Clubs of which it is composed;

c) to protect the interests of its Members;

d) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and the Regional Association as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;

e) 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;

f) to control and supervise all friendly football matches played throughout the territory of the Regional Association;

g) to control and supervise Association Football, futsal and beach soccer at regional level and to control and supervise all forms of football matches played throughout the territory of the Regional Association, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF and FFB.

## Article 3 Human rights

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

## Article 4 Non-discrimination and equality

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

## Article 5 Neutrality and institutional independence

1 The Regional Association is neutral in matters of politics and religion.

2 The Members of the Regional Association shall also be neutral in matters of politics and religion and shall ensure that their own members remain neutral.

3 The Regional Association shall remain independent and shall avoid any form of undue political interference. The Regional Association 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 The Regional Association shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.

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

## Article 7 Players

1 The status of Players and the provisions for their registration shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of the 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 The Regional Association 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 The Regional Association and each of its Members shall play futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game.

[3] The Regional Association 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 and Officials

[1] The bodies and Officials of the Regional Association shall observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of 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 the Regional Association 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 the Regional Association 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 the Regional Association in accordance with its statutes.

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

4 The Regional Association 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

The Members of the Regional Association are:

a) All clubs in the first division, having been duly accepted by the Congress;

b) All clubs in the second division, having been duly accepted by the Congress;

c) All clubs in the U17 division, having been duly accepted by the Congress

d) All clubs in the U15 division, having been duly accepted by the Congress;

e) All clubs in the U13 division, having been duly accepted by the Congress;

f) All clubs in the female category, having been duly accepted by the Congress

## Article 13 Admission and request and procedure for application

1 Any legal person (registered under chapter 247 or chapter 250 of the laws of Belize) wishing to become a Member of the Regional Association shall apply in writing to the secretariat of the Regional Association.

2 The application shall be accompanied by the following mandatory items:

a) a copy of its legally valid statutes or constitutional document and, if applicable, regulations;

b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of the Regional Association, the FFB, FIFA and CONCACAF and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, clubs and officials.

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, CONCACAF, FFB and the Regional Association Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB or the Regional Association, 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 [if legally required] in the territory of the Regional Association;

g) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;

h) 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;

i) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;

j) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting;

k) if applicable, a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the Regional Association;

l) if applicable, a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of the Regional Association.

3 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.

4 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 the Regional Association have the following rights:

a) to take part in the Congress of the Regional Association, to receive its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;

b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;

c) to nominate candidates for elections to all bodies of the Regional Association;

d) to be informed of the affairs of the Regional Association through the official bodies of the Regional Association;

e) to take part in competitions [if applicable] and/or other sporting activities organised by the Regional Association;

f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of the Regional Association.

2 The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations of the Regional Association.

## Article 15 Members' obligations

1 The Members of the Regional Association have the following obligations:

a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and the Regional Association at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;

b) to ensure the election of its decision-making body every four years;

c) to take part in competitions [if applicable], and other sporting activities organised by the Regional Association;

d) to pay their membership subscriptions;

e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;

f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of national dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the Regional Association may only be referred in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within the Regional Association) to an FFB appointed arbitration tribunal, which shall definitely settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in Belize;

g) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of international dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA or of CONCACAF may only be submitted in the last instance to CAS as specified in the Statutes of FIFA and CONCACAF;

h) 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;

i) to ensure that their bodies are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;

j) to communicate to the Regional Association 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;

k) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;

l) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;

m) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 13 par. 2 for the duration of their affiliation;

n) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;

o) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of the FFB and the Regional Association;

p) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF, FFB and the Regional Association.

q) to take part in meetings called by the regional association

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

## Article 16 Suspension

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

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

3 A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee of FFB may impose further sanctions.

4 Members that do not participate in the sporting activities of the Regional Association 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 the Regional Association;

b) it seriously and repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations directives or decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF and the 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 the Regional Association with effect from the end of a football season.

2 Resignation does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards the Regional Association and the other Members of the Regional Association.

## Article 19 Independence of the Members and their bodies

1 Each Member of the Regional Association 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 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, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the Regional Association.

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

## Article 20 Status of Clubs, groups of Clubs and other stakeholders

1 Clubs, any groups of Clubs or other stakeholders affiliated to the Regional Association shall be subordinate to and recognised by the Regional Association.

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 the Regional Association. 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 shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of FFB.

[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 whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

## Article 21 Bodies of the Regional Association

1 The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.

2 The Executive Committee is the strategic and oversight body.

3 The General Secretary is the executive, operational and administrative body.

4 The bodies of the Regional Association shall be either elected or appointed by the Regional Association 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.

5 The Electoral Committee of FFB is the body in charge of supervising the election process.

6 Any member of the bodies of the Regional Association 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 the Regional Association shall always be aware of, and comply with, the relevant provisions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of FFB on conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary (e.g. abstain from performing their duties, notify the chairperson in cases of potential conflicts of interest).

## Article 22 Dismissal of a member of a body of the Regional Association

1 The Congress may dismiss a member of a body. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a member of a body provisionally. 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 and shall be sent to the members of the Executive Committee and/or to the Members of the Regional Association along with the 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 23 Definition and composition of the Congress

1 The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of the Regional Association regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the Regional Association. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

2 The Congress of the Regional Association 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 Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.

6 The Congress is composed of [24] delegates allocated as follows:

a) for the Atletico FC, 1 delegate

b) for the Capital United FC, 1 delegate

c) for the Camalote Warriors FC, 1 delegate

d) for the Roaring Creek, 1 delegate

e) for the Juventus FC BMP, 1 delegate

f) for the Las Flores FC, 1 delegate

g) for the Napoles FC, 1 delegate

h) for the Valley United FC, 1 delegate

i) for the Galacticos FC, 1 delegate

j) for the Franks Eddy FC, 1 delegate

k) for the Second Division Clubs, 6 delegates

l) for the U 17 Division, 3 delegates

m) for the U15 Division, 2 delegates

n) for the U13 Division, 2 delegates

o) for the Female Division, 1, delegate

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

8 Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

9 The Executive Committee and the Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights and may not be appointed as delegates during their terms of office.

### Article 24 Areas of authority

The Congress has the following areas of authority:

a) adopting or amending the Statutes of the Regional Association;

b) electing or dismissing the Chairman, the vice-chairman and members of the Executive Committee;

c) appointing three members to check the minutes of the Congress and approving the minutes of the last meeting;

d) approving the annual financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report, the budget and the activity report;

e) fixing the membership subscriptions on the recommendation of the Executive Committee;

f) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;

g) dismissing a member of a body of the Regional Association (if applicable);

h) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;

i) dissolving the Regional Association.

## Article 25 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 the Regional Association, the election of the President, vice-president and members of the Executive Committee of the Regional Association. The dismissal of a member of a body of the Regional Association or the dissolution of the Regional Association.

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

## Article 26 Decisions of the Congress

1 A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands, unless decided otherwise by the Congress. 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 the Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

## Article 27 Elections

1 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

2 Elections of the Regional Association shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of FFB.

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

proposed by at least two Members. Each Member shall support one candidate for each given position only. If a Member supports more than one candidate, none of its expressions of support shall be considered valid.

4 Elections of the members of the Executive Committee shall start with the election of the Chairman, then the election of the vice-chairman and finally the election of the ordinary members.

5 For the elections of the Chairman and vice-chairman of the Executive Committee, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary in the first ballot. If there are more than two candidates for each of the respective position, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.

6 For the election of the ordinary members of the Executive Committee, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.

7 In case of a tied vote, new ballots shall be conducted until the respective candidate is elected in accordance with the procedure set forth in this article. If the tied vote remains, the relevant position shall remain vacant until a new elective Congress convenes to proceed with new elections according to these Statutes.

8 Blank ballot papers, invalid votes 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 secretariat of the Regional Association at least 30 days before the relevant elective Congress. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of the Regional Association at least 10 days before the Congress at which the Executive Committee shall be elected. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply when elections take place during an Extraordinary Congress.

## Article 28 Ordinary Congress

1 The Ordinary Congress shall be held once a year and shall be convened by the Executive Committee.

2 The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 45 days in advance.

3 Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 30 days before the date of the Congress.

4 The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least 10 days before the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda and any other relevant documents.

## Article 29 Ordinary Congress agenda

1 The Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members.

2 The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):

a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened in compliance with the Statutes of the Regional Association;

b) activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);

c) an address by the President;

d) approval of the agenda;

e) approval of the minutes of the last meeting;

f) appointment of scrutineers;

g) admission, suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);

h) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;

i) approval of the financial statements;

j) approval of the budget;

k) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if applicable);

l) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee in accordance with the procedure stipulated under art. 28 par. 3 of these Statutes;

m) dismissal of a member of a body of the Regional Association (if applicable);

n) election of the Chairman, vice-chairman and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);

o) [...].

3 The Congress shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

4 The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may not be altered unless three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

## Article 30 Extraordinary Congress

1 The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.

2 The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if one-third of the delegates representing the Members of the Regional Association make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within 45 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 the Regional Association and the Executive Committee of the Regional Association 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 10 days in accordance with the convocation period specified in par. 2 above 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 may not be altered.

## Article 31 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 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 2/5 of delegates representing the Members.

3 For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes and to the Standing Orders of the Congress to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present.

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 32 Minutes

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

### Article 33 Effective dates of decisions

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

## B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Article 34 Composition

1 The Executive Committee consists of five members (at least one of which shall be a female):

- 1 Chairman
- 1 Vice-chairman
- 3 ordinary members

2 The Chairman, the vice-chairman and the ordinary members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Congress in accordance with art. 27 of these Statutes.

3 The mandate of the Chairman, vice-chairman and the ordinary members of the Executive Committee is for four years. Their mandates shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected them and expire at the end of the Congress at which their successors are elected. No person may serve as Chairman for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Any partial term of office shall count as one full term.

4 The members of the Executive Committee shall have already been active in football and shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence.

5 A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of the FFB or a delegate to the Congress of the Regional Association.

7 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.

[8] If more than 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the secretary shall convene an elective e Extraordinary Congress within the prescribed period of time.

[9] Any position within the Executive Committee will be considered vacant in case of death, resignation or if the member concerned is permanently prevented from performing his official function.

## Article 35 Meetings

[1] The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times per year.

[2] The Chairman shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If more than 50% of the Executive Committee members request a meeting, the chairman shall convene it within 21 days of the receipt of the request. If the chairman 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 chairman, assisted by the secretary, 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 points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the 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/she may nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

## Article 36 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 Secretary, and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of the Regional Association;

c) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the Chairman. The General Secretary may be dismissed by the Executive Committee acting alone;

d) shall draw up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the Regional Association;

e) shall approve and issue regulations stipulating how the Regional Association shall be organised internally;

f) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;

g) may dismiss a person of a body or suspend a Member of the Regional Association provisionally until the next Congress.

h) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of the regional Association;

i) may appoint observers who may take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote;

j) shall approve and issue regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the Regional Association.

k.) shall appoint delegates to the FFB congress

### Article 37 Decisions

1 The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless a majority 50% 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. The Executive Committee may however take decisions on matters requiring urgent and immediate settlement using modern means of written communication (e.g. by email).

3 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.

4 The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.

5 The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless it is agreed otherwise.

## C. CHAIRMAN

### Article 38 Chairman

1 The Chairman represents the Regional Association legally.

2 He is primarily responsible for:

a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the secretariat;

b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of the Regional Association in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;

c) supervising the work of the secretariat;

d) relations between the Regional Association and its Members, FFB, political bodies and other organisations.

3 Only the Chairman may propose to the Council the appointment of the General Secretary. The President may however also propose to the Council the dismissal of the General Secretary.

4 The Chairman shall preside over the Congress and the Executive Committee.

5 The Chairman shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee.

6 If the Chairman is absent or unavailable, the vice-chairman shall deputise.

7 If the position of the Chairman becomes vacant, the vice-chairman shall deputise until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new Chairman for the remaining period of office.

### Article 39 Representation and signature

The Chairman represents the Regional Association generally. The Executive Committee shall adopt special provisions regarding the joint signature of office-holders.

## E. SECRETARIAT

### Article 40 General Secretary

1 The General Secretary is responsible for the secretariat of the Regional Association and shall have the necessary professional qualifications and/or experience.

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

2 The General Secretary shall be responsible for:

a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;

b) attending the Congress and the meetings of the Executive Committee;

c) organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee;

d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress and the Executive Committee;

e) managing and keeping the accounts of the Regional Association properly;

f) the correspondence of the Regional Association;

g) the relations with the Members and FFB;

h) organising the secretariat and [if applicable] appointing and dismissing staff working in the general secretariat.

4 The General Secretary may not be a Congress delegate, a member of the Executive Committee, or a member of any body of the Regional Association.

## F. DISPUTES AND ARBITRATION

### Article 41 Disciplinary

Any disputes of a disciplinary nature that may arise at the level of the Regional Association shall be heard by the Disciplinary Committee of the Regional Association.

### Article 42 Arbitration

1 Disputes within the Regional Association or disputes affecting its Members, Clubs, officials and any other entity bound by the statutes of the Regional Association shall not be submitted to Ordinary Courts, unless the regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB or the Regional Association or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.

2 Such disputes as specified in par. 1 shall be taken to the Arbitration Tribunal of FFB, or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

## Article 43 Jurisdiction

1 Recourse may only be made to an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with art. 42 once all internal channels of the Regional Association have been exhausted.

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

## Article 44 Court of Arbitration for Sport

1 In accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding decision passed by FIFA shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, and suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions), or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.

2 The Regional Association shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA or CONCACAF body, by the Arbitration Tribunal recognised by FFB or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

## Article 45 Financial period

[1] The financial period of the Regional Association shall be one year and coincides with the standard calendar year.

[2] The revenue and expenses of the Regional Association shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. The Regional Association'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 the Regional Association as at 31 December.

## Article 46 Revenue

The revenue of the Regional Association arises specifically from:

a) Members' annual subscriptions;
b) donations;
c) any other revenue related to football activities;

## Article 47 Expenses

The Regional Association 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 the Regional Association.

## Article 48 Membership subscriptions, settlement and levies

[1] Membership subscriptions are due on 31 August. 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 year on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

[3] The Regional Association may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

[4] The Regional Association may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches.

## Article 49 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 The Regional Association is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

## Article 50 Sporting Contacts

The Regional Association, its Members, Players and Officials shall not play matches or make sporting contact with Associations that are not members of FFB & FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FFB & FIFA.

## Article 51 Approval

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

2 Clubs or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to the Regional Association 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.

## Article 52 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, CONCACAF and FFB.

## Article 53 Dissolution

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

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

## Article 54 Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in Belmopan City on 24 November, 2019 and will come into force on 25 November, 2019

For the

Marlon Tillett
Chairman

Dean Flowers
Vice Chairman