



NATIONAL AMATEUR INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP
2022 Regulations



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NATIONAL AMATEUR INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

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The NATIONAL AMATEUR INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP is FFB's Premier Event for Amateur Clubs and will serve as the qualifying tournament for the promotional/relegation playoffs of the Premier League of Belize.

ORGANIZERS

1. FOOTBALL FEDERATION OF BELIZE (FFB)

President: Sergio Chuc
General Secretary: Earl Jones

Address: #26 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Belize

Telephone: (501) 822-3410

2. Organizing Committee for the Inter-District Championship

Chairman: Cruz Gamez
Members: Adrian Gonzalez
Kevin Flores
Martin Vasquez
Sandra Aleman
Luis Pena
Yashmin Juan



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I. NATIONAL AMATEUR INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The official name of the tournament is the National Inter-District Championship hereinafter: the Competition). FFB, at its sole discretion, can change the official name of the competition and include a Title or Presenting Sponsor in the official name and the official marks.
- B. The Competition is an official event of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB).
- C. The Competition is played each year.
- D. FFB Member Associations (hereinafter: Associations) may enter a certain number of Clubs for the Competition in accordance with the qualification process as defined by FFB for each Association or Region (as is the case of the Cayes, Mid-South and Benque Viejo).
- E. FFB is the sole owner of the Competition and of all rights emanating from the Competition and has the exclusive right to organize, control and manage this competition. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing, sponsorship and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law. Any rights relating to the Competition that these Regulations do not specifically grant to a participating Club or Member Association will belong to FFB.
- F. The 2022 edition of the Competition will also serve as the qualifying tournament for entry into the promotional/relegation playoffs for the 2022/23 Premier League of Belize League Championship.
- G. The Competition's Regulations (hereinafter: the Regulations) govern the rights, duties, and responsibilities of all taking part in the Competition. The Regulations, the FFB Statutes and all other FFB rules, regulations, circulars, directives, and decisions in force will apply and are binding for all participating Member Associations, officials, players and their respective Clubs and for all persons involved in the preparation, organization and hosting of the Competition.

II. THE COMPETITION

- A. Matches in the Competition will be evening matches and played on either Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday as decided by the Organizing Committee in consultation with the Host Team. Where matches are held on Thursday or Friday, they may not commence before 7:00 pm.
- B. Clubs agree to play at the venues and must ensure that their league schedule do not conflict with the dates and times as determined and approved by the FFB.
- C. The Competition will consist of two stages:



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1. Stage 1: District Associations and Regions Tournament

- a. Each Association or Region must hold at least one tournament per annum to determine their representatives.
- b. Each Association or Region shall be entitled to two entries who must be a Champion or Sub Champion.
- c. In the event an Association or Region does not have a Champion or Sub Champion for the year in question or from the previous year, the Organizing Committee and the FFB shall have the right to nominate replacement entries from another Association or Region. The decision of the Organizing Committee and the FFB shall be final where such a case may occur.

2. Stage 2: Knockout Stage

- a. Twenty teams qualify for the Knockout Stage as previously described in section II.C.
 - b. The Knockout Stage will consist of five rounds of matches: Round of Twenty, Round of Sixteen, Quarterfinals, Semifinals Round, the Finals .
 - c. Teams from the same Member Association may play each other in any phase of the Knockout Stage.
 - d. In each round, teams will play their opponent once.
 - i. The ten winners from the round of twenty will be ranked 1-10 based on their wins from the first rounds of the Knockout Stage. Six of the ten clubs which lost their respective series will be ranked 11 to 16 based on the severity of their loss (and will retain this ranking throughout the remainder of the Knockout Stage). This produces the teams for the round of sixteen.
 - ii. The higher ranked club in each pairing will host the second leg match throughout the remainder of the Knockout Stage.
 - iii. In the round of sixteen The Teams will be paired as follows:
 - a) T(1) vs. T(16);
 - b) T(2) vs T(15);
 - c) T(3) vs T(14);
 - d) T(4) vs T(13)
 - e) T(5) vs T(12)
 - f) T(6) vs T(11)
 - g) T(7) vs T (10)
 - h) T(8) vs T(9)
- a. Quarter finals (QF):
- a. Winner RoS(a) vs Winner RoS(h)
 - b. Winner RoS (b) vs Winner RoS (g)
 - c. Winner Ros (c) vs Winner RoS (f)
 - d. Winner RoS (d) vs Winner Ros (e)



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b. SemiFinals

- i. Winner SF(a) vs Winner SF(d)
- ii. Winner SF(b) vs Winner SF (c)

b. Finals:

- i. The winner of SF1 will play the winner of SF2
- ii. The winner of the Final will be deemed the Competition Champion, and the loser will be deemed the Competition Runner-up.

D. Tie-Breaker Procedures

- a. For ties among winners, the order of the team's ranking will be determined in the following manner:
 - i. Best goal difference.
 - ii. Most goals scored.
 - iii. Most away goals scored.
 - iv. Most wins.
 - v. Most away wins.
 - vi. Drawing of lots.
- b. If the aggregate goals between the two teams are equal at the end of regulation time in the second leg of the Knockout Stage, the tie-breaker criteria will be determined as follows:
 - i. Greater aggregate number of away goals scored in regulation time in the match (excluding any goals scored in extra time).
 - ii. Greater number of goals scored in the extra time periods at the end of the second leg match.
 - iii. Kicks from the penalty spot procedure in ABABABABAB format.

III. ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS

Entry Criteria

- A. The specific entry criteria for each Member Association or Regional Body (as in the case of the Cayes, Mid-South and Benque), will be agreed upon between FFB and each Member Association (or Regional Body) in question.
- B. In the event of any disagreement in establishing or applying the entry criteria, FFB and the Organizing Committee will determine and apply the entry criteria at its sole discretion.



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- C. As a matter of principle, Clubs will earn the right to be entered by their Member Association into the Competition through:
 - 1. Fair play and sporting merit usually through their existing local championship.
 - 2. Compliance with their Member Association's Club Registration
 - 3. Compliance with FFB Club Licensing requirements.
 - i Club Team Roster (players, coach, team manager)
 - ii Individual Player Registration signed by Secretary of District Association
 - iii FFB Club license application form
 - iv Club By-laws
 - v Head Coach Registration form
 - vi Name of Club Officials (players or non-players acceptable)
 - 4. Financial good standing with their Member Associations.
- D. The Competition Champion does not gain automatic entry to the next edition.
- E. Qualified Clubs must submit:
 - 1. The signed Competition Participation Agreement (sent via their Association) by 27 May.
 - 2. All other documents required for participating as requested by the FFB.
- F. Upon entering the Competition each Club agrees:
 - 1. To play in the competition until their elimination.
 - 2. To field their strongest team throughout the competition.
 - 3. To ensure that its regular home venue meets the criteria established in section XII of these Regulations.
 - 4. To play all scheduled matches on dates and times as determined by the FFB and Organizing Committee and set forth in accordance with these Regulations.
 - 5. To provide the FFB with any requirements defined in these Regulations.
 - 6. To take all necessary actions for its players, officials and staff to be bound by and comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, codes, protocols, directives and decisions, including but not limited to, all disciplinary and appeals rules and procedures, all anti-doping requirements, all anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations and all marketing and media requirements.
 - 7. To refrain from any illegal, immoral or unethical behavior that damages, or could damage, the integrity and reputation of football and must cooperate fully with the FFB at all times in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior.
 - 8. That the Club itself as well as its players, officials and staff recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), as defined by the FFB, CONCACAF and FIFA Statutes.
- G. Clubs will be considered to be officially registered for the Competition upon receipt by the FFB of their signed Competition Participation Agreement.



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- H. The Champion and Sub Champion shall enter into a home and away knockout series with the 8th and 7th placed teams in the 2021/22 Top League respectively for solely competition benchmarking purposes by the FFB Competitions Department. If one of the two series is won by an amateur club, competitive equity between top amateurs and lowest non amateurs would have been demonstrated. Thereafter, this completion shall serve as qualifying event for participation in a promotional-relegation playoffs at end of the 2021/22 Top League.

Non-entry and Withdrawals

- J. If an Association, or Regional Body, does not properly enter an eligible Club or Clubs into the Competition, or such Clubs are unable to meet the criteria established in these Regulations (considered “non-entry”), then the Organizing Committee and the FFB will decide, at its sole discretion, the course of action in relation to the vacant space(s) in the Competition. The same will also apply in cases where an Association and/or a Club are not in good standing with the FFB, or a Club is not in good standing with its Association. This decision may include:
1. Providing for an alternate Club(s) from the Association(s) in question (or from the Regional Body).
 2. Providing for an alternate Club from a different Association(s);
 3. Leaving a space vacant and granting a “bye” to their opponent(s).
- K. Once having entered the Competition, participating Clubs must meet all of their obligations including participating in all matches. Failure to participate in any match may be considered by the FFB, at its sole discretion, as a withdrawal from the event. A withdrawal may have a serious impact on the integrity of the event and as such, the penalties as specified below will apply, except in cases of *force majeure* or unforeseen circumstances deemed acceptable by the FFB.
- L. The following fines will apply in the case of withdrawal of a Club:
1. After entering the Competition but before the day of the Draw for the Round of Twenty Stage: A fine of \$1,000 BZD plus a forfeiture of any entry fees.
 2. On or after the day of the Draw for the Round of Twenty, but prior to any match having been played: A fine of \$2,000 BZD plus a forfeiture of any entry fees.
 3. After the commencement of the Round of Twenty but prior to the Hexagonal Stage: A fine of \$3,000 BZD plus a forfeiture of any entry fees.
 4. After the commencement of the Hexagonal Stage: A fine of \$5,000 BZD plus a forfeiture of any entry fees.
- M. Failure to play or complete any specific match does not necessarily release a Club from its obligation to play in any other matches as may be scheduled in the Competition. This clause will apply except in cases of *force majeure* or unforeseen circumstances deemed acceptable by the FFB.



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- N. Except in cases of *force majeure* or unforeseen circumstances as deemed acceptable by FFB, a Club that withdraws at any stage of the Competition:
1. May be ordered to reimburse the opposing Club(s) and/or the FFB of any expenses that they have already incurred as a result of its proposed involvement or non-involvement in the Competition.
 2. May be required to pay compensation for any damages or losses arising from its withdrawal.
 3. Will be disqualified from taking part in the next two editions of the Competition.
 4. Will be referred to the FFB appointed Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter: Disciplinary Committee) for additional sanctions.
- O. The Association of any penalized Club will be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are conducted and complied with.
- P. Failure of the Competition Champion to participate in the Premier League of Belize exhibition or relegation matches, providing it is played, will result in a fine of \$5,000 BZD payable to FFB regardless of any further sanction applied by Disciplinary Committee.
- Q. No appeal can be lodged against these decisions.

Replacement of Withdrawn Clubs

- R. The Organizing Committee and the FFB will decide, at its sole discretion, whether to replace Clubs that withdrew at any stage and on what basis such a replacement may occur.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. FFB will amongst other matters, be responsible for:
1. Organizing the Competition.
 2. Cover for the following expenses
 - 1 trophies, medals, awards,
 - 2 referee, MC,
 - 3 security and stadium rental
 3. Supervising general preparations, deciding on the Competition format, draws and the forming of the pairings.
 4. Approving the match schedule and kick-off times.
 5. Inspecting and approving venues.
 6. Appointing Match Delegates.
 7. Informing the Disciplinary Committee of any breach of any applicable regulations for appropriate action.



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8. Replacing Clubs that have withdrawn from the Competition.
9. Settling cases of *force majeure*.
10. Dealing with any aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body under the terms of these Regulations or the FFB Statutes.
11. Selecting the official match ball and the stipulated technical material.
12. Organizing and coordinating the post-match ceremony immediately following the second leg match of the Final Round.

B. Participating Clubs will be responsible throughout the Competition for:

1. The conduct of the members of their delegation (officials and players), and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.
2. Complying with these Regulations (including any appendices) and all other laws, rules, regulations, codes, protocols, directives, and decisions as determined in section III.E.
3. Providing FFB with all the information and/or documentation requested within the stipulated deadlines. Clubs that fail to provide FFB with all requested information and/or documentation within the stipulated deadlines will be imposed a fine of \$100 BZD. The fine will be increased by 50% for each repeated offence.
4. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by the FFB and in accordance with its instructions.
5. Attending the mandatory Match Coordination Meeting on assigned date and time, at the predesignated time and location.
6. Allowing FFB to use their marks for the promotion of the Competition and allow the event sponsors to use the marks in a collective form only, for the sole purpose of promoting the Competition.
7. All Clubs and their players and officials participating in the Competition agree to fully respect and comply with:
 - a. The *Laws of the Game* and the principles of Fair Play.
 - b. The FFB Statutes and all FFB regulations, rules, codes, protocols, circulars, directives, decisions, stipulations and requirements (including these Regulations).
 - c. All decisions and directives of the FFB Executive.
 - d. The FIFA Disciplinary Code and upon its entry into force, the FFB Disciplinary Code.
 - e. The FIFA Code of Ethics and the FIFA Code of Conduct.
 - f. The FIFA Doping Control Regulations.
 - g. All FIFA anti-match manipulation and anti-racism stipulations.
 - h. All kit and equipment requirements as per section XIII of these regulations.
9. Additionally, all Clubs along with their players and officials participating in the Competition agree to:



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- a. Refrain from any illegal, immoral, or unethical behavior that damages, or could damage, the integrity and reputation of football and must cooperate fully with the FFB at all times in its efforts to prevent, investigate and sanction such behavior.
- b. Refrain from (directly or indirectly) referring to its team as an inferior selection publicly or in the print and/or electronic media.
- c. Be responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so will lead to the consequences stipulated in the applicable regulations.

C. Host Club Responsibilities will include:

1. Providing a venue that is in compliance with the criteria established in section XII of these Regulations as well as described in any policies issued by FFB.
2. Providing for the local transportation of the designated FFB Delegates and Match Officials upon arrival until departure for all official functions.
3. Providing for the local hotel rooms (including breakfast and internet) for the designated Match Officials **when necessary**.
4. Providing all local information as may be reasonably requested by their visiting opponent in accordance with the schedule determined by the FFB.
5. Reserving and providing the necessary rooms and/or equipment for the Match Coordination Meeting (must be made available to FFB Match Officials at least 30 minutes before the predesignated start time and must be able to accommodate at least fifteen people).
7. Providing the match tickets.
8. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadium in collaboration with the relevant authorities.
9. Providing adequate space at the stadium for the Match Delegates in order to carry out their duties.
10. Providing for a minimum of four ball kids for each match who are 13 years of age or older.
11. If they host the final match of the Competition, assisting and cooperating with the FFB to coordinate the arrangements for the post-match awards presentation on the field immediately following the match.
12. Providing a segregated safe section for the visiting Club's supporters.

D. Visiting Club Responsibilities will include:

1. Arriving in the host venue no later than 4 hours before the match to fulfill any possible media obligations.
2. Providing for their own local travel and transport and any costs associated therewith.
3. Providing for their own hotel accommodation and meal expenses.
4. Having a cell phone during away matches that has the capacity to make and receive phone calls.
5. Making any reasonable request for guidance, information and assistance from the home Club in good time.



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6. Advising the home Club, no later than seventy-two hours before the match of their travel and accommodation arrangements;
7. Verifying with the home Club to ensure that their requested hotel is not being used for the Match Officials.
8. Advising the home Club of any special requests such as a training field, transportation needs, beverages for training, etc. no later than one week prior to the match.
9. Bringing their practice balls and at least fifteen bibs of each color.
10. Advising the home Club of the approximate number of supporters who will be attending and if they are aware of any problematic supporters who might attend or might try to access the stadium.
11. Traveling with a minimum of eighteen players from the approved 23-Player Roster for any match.
12. Covering all costs associated with section IV.D unless otherwise agreed by the host Club.

V. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- A. The Club may be refused participation in the Competition in case of the existence of outstanding debts towards the FFB or their Association. At the FFB's sole discretion, the Club may be allowed participation in the Competition if it fulfils its financial obligations within the deadlines stipulated by the Federation.
- B. FFB will provide each visiting Club with a travel subsidy per away match as a contribution to the travel costs. This subsidy will be paid directly to the Club at least seventy-two hours prior to the match.

Revenue

- C. All revenues from gate receipts accrue to the home Club.
- D. Participating Clubs agree to submit to the FFB for pre-approval, the pricing plan for match tickets within ten business days of the announcement of the schedule in addition to at least fifteen business days prior to any upcoming match that is not already covered by the initial pricing plan.
- E. Using forms provided by the FFB, participating Clubs agree to submit detail Financial Report, the Ticket Report, and all Match Official Expense Forms within ten business days of each match.
- F. Clubs will provide to the FFB a detailed accounting of ticket sales and will, upon request, make their records available to the FFB for inspection within fifteen business days post-match.



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- G. Participating Clubs agree to pay 5% of the gross ticket revenues
 - 1. Stage 2 - Quarterfinals Any balances incurred during the Knockout Stage owed to FFB by the host Club or due to the host Club from FFB, must be paid within 30 days of the Club's final match in the Competition if all required statements and documentation have been received.
- H. All other revenues from the commercial exploitation of the Competition including but not limited to the sale of broadcast rights, sponsorship rights and merchandising rights, through whatever means, will be retained by FFB.

VI. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. A Player Roster consisting of a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 25 players submitted to the FFB via email at: martin_vasquez@footballfederationbelize.bz no later than 15 days prior to their first match. If the initial and succeeding roster lists do not include the maximum twenty-five players, such roster list may be increased in a manner consistent with these Regulation provided the maximum of twenty-five players is not exceeded. A maximum of five foreign nationals can be registered with a club team. Only three of these five non-nationals can be on the field of play simultaneously.
- B. Prior to the commencement of the Competition and after the final match in their respective Association's local competition, Clubs will be able to inscribe a modified Player Roster consisting of a maximum of six new players in accordance with VI.A.
- C. A roster of up to 23 players (23-Player Roster) must be submitted to the FFB via the following e-mail address: martin_vasquez@footballfederationbelize.bz no later than 72 hours prior to each match to, in addition to its opponent.
- D. The players listed must also be registered on the 25-Player Roster and only players from this list may be selected for the 23-player match Start List for that specific match.
- E. Clubs must register at least two goalkeepers on their 23-player roster.
- F. In the event that both of the registered goalkeepers have suffered long-term injuries or illness, then the club may replace the goalkeeper in question with a goalkeeper at any time during the season even if the maximum of twenty-five players has been met. An injury or illness is considered long-term if it incapacitates the goalie for longer than 30 days. If the player is replaced, then said injured goalkeeper is ineligible to play for 30 days from the point that the FFB is notified of the injury or illness. A medical report, in English, must be submitted to the FFB prior to the submittal of the 23-player roster for the next eligible match.



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- G. Once having been registered on a roster for a Club, a player may not be registered for any other Club during the same edition of the Competition.
- H. A player already registered by a Club cannot be deleted from the roster regardless of the reason.
- I. All Players must be registered with the Club and the appropriate Member Association and eligible to play in any league match for the current playing season per the FFB transfer deadlines in each District.
- J. Players registered on club teams in the Top League are prohibited from participating in this competition.
- K. All players that will travel to away matches must have a readable state-issued identification (SSB Card, Passport, Driver's License) containing an up-to-date photograph that will enable them to be identified and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month and year) of the player.
- L. In the case of players participating only in home matches, or matches within their own district or region, they must have a readable state-issued identification (SSB Card, Passport, Driver's License) containing an up-to-date photograph that will enable them to be identified and giving full particulars on the date of birth (day, month and year) of the player.
- M. After arrival at the venue and no later than 90 minutes prior to any Competition match, a representative from each Club must submit to the General Coordinator, or other authorized FFB official, their match roster of eighteen players, selected from within the previously submitted 23-Player Roster, and should also have the aforementioned identification documentation for verification if needed. Any player without the relevant documentation may be deemed ineligible to play.
- N. Any Club found to have fielded an ineligible player will forfeit the match. If the result of the match was a victory or a tie for the Club fielding the ineligible player, three points will be awarded to the opposing Club based on a 3-0 score, or higher depending on the result of the match. This incident will be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee for further review.

VII. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND APPEALS

- A. Disciplinary Committee
 - 1. The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for enforcing the regulations of the Competition. The Disciplinary Committee may supplementary apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entry into force of the FFB Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarily). In particular, the Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Regulations, the



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FFB Statutes and all other CONCACAF rules, regulations, and codes as well as the FIFA Disciplinary Code (and, upon its entry into force, in the FFB Disciplinary Code).

2. In cases of infringement of these or any applicable Regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of the participating Clubs, their players, officials and/or staff, or in any kind of incident, the Disciplinary Committee is empowered to:
 - a. Admonish, sanction, fine, apply a penalty, suspend and/or disqualify Clubs, their players, staff and/or officials.
 - b. Take action against any person(s), Club(s) or Member Association(s) which incurs in such infringement of these or any applicable Regulations (which include the *Laws of the Game* and the rules of Fair Play).
 - c. Prohibit violators from participating in a specific number of FFB organized competitions in which they might otherwise have participated.
3. The Disciplinary Committee may refer to the FFB Executive, any matter relating to an infringement of these Regulations as it sees fit whether for further sanction or any other reason.
4. The Disciplinary Committee decisions may be based upon written record or by conducting a hearing.
5. When taking a decision, the Disciplinary Committee may refer to the reports made by the Match Delegates, Officials or any other FFB official or staff present. Such reports may be used as evidence but only in so far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and will not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play.
6. At its discretion, the Disciplinary Committee may convene a personal hearing and will decide any procedures to be followed. Decisions of such hearings will only be valid if at least three members of the Disciplinary Committee are present.
7. The following decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will not be subject to appeal:
 - a. Cautions and censures imposed on players, Match Officials, Clubs (staff and officials), other persons, or Member Associations.
 - b. Suspensions of up to two matches, or of up to two months, imposed on players, Match Officials, Clubs (staff and officials) or other persons.
 - c. Fines imposed on players, Match Officials, Clubs (staff and officials), other persons (not exceeding \$1,000 BZD) or Member Associations (not exceeding \$3,000 BZD).
8. The appropriate Member Association under the provisions of its own regulations may sanction any offenses that are committed during the course of the Competition by Club officials, technical staff or other personnel for Championships and Competitions. For this purpose, the Disciplinary Committee will refer to the appropriate Member Association the referee's report of the match in question. The Member Association will, in turn, report back to the Disciplinary Committee on the resolution of the matter and any disciplinary action taken.
9. Except in cases of force majeure as recognized by the FFB, if a Club does not report for a match, or refuses to commence or continue to play, or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the Club will be considered to have lost the match with a score of 3-0 or more. In any case, the matter will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate actions.



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10. Any other infringement of these Regulations, whether by Players, Officials, Clubs or Member Associations that are punishable by economic sanctions will be reported to the FFB General Secretariat for consideration by the FFB.
11. All imposed economic sanctions must be paid no later than 45 days after notification of the relevant decision. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to the FFB. FFB may debit accounts of debtors to settle any amounts due to the Federation.

B. Appeals Committee

1. The Appeals Committee will hear appeals eligible to be lodged against decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee.
2. The Appeals Committee may supplementary apply the FIFA Disciplinary Code until the entry into force of the FFB Disciplinary Code (when it will apply subsidiarily). In particular, the Appeals Committee may conduct any appeal procedures in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
3. The Appeals Committee will reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and the other means of evidence contained in the Disciplinary Committee's file. The Appeals Committee may additionally, at its sole discretion, also consider additional evidence, including television and video recordings, which it considers relevant.
4. Any party intending to appeal must inform the Appeals Committee, via the FFB General Secretariat, of its intention to do so in writing within three days of notification of the relevant decision.
5. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal must transfer an appeal fee of \$300 BZD to FFB's bank account and submit confirmation of such transfer before expiry of the time limit for submitting the appeal. Such confirmation must be e-mailed to the FFB General Secretariat.
6. If the aforementioned requirements have not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
7. Decisions pronounced by the Appeals Committee are final and binding.

C. Protests

1. For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory match equipment, eligibility of players, stadium installations and footballs.
2. Anyone wishing to lodge a protest must transfer a protest fee of \$100 BZD to FFB's bank account and submit confirmation of such transfer before expiry of the time limit for submitting the protest. Such confirmation must be e-mailed to the FFB General Secretariat.
3. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests must be submitted in writing to the FFB Match Commissioner within two hours of the match in question and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the FFB General Secretariat within 24 hours of the end of the match, otherwise they will be disregarded.



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4. Protests regarding the eligibility of players registered for matches must be submitted in writing to the FFB General Secretariat no later than 48 hours before the match in question.
5. Protests regarding the state of the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g., goals, flag posts or footballs) must be made in writing to the referee before the start of the match by the head of delegation of the team lodging the protest. If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team must immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protests must be confirmed in writing to the FFB Match Commissioner by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
6. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match must be made to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed. The protest must be confirmed in writing to the FFB General Coordinator by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match.
7. No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the FFB Disciplinary Committee may impose a sanction.
8. If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest will be disregarded by the competent body. Once the final match of the Competition has ended, any protest described in this article will be disregarded.
9. FFB will pass decisions on any protests lodged.

D. Disciplinary Procedures - Players

1. Notwithstanding the above provisions, any player cautioned or sent off from the field of play by the Referee will be subject to the sanctions specified in VII.D.2, VII.D.3 and VII.D.4. Such punishments are automatic and are not subject to appeal. These punishments may be augmented by the Disciplinary Committee and any such augmentation is subject to the appeals process previously defined.
2. Any player sent off the field of play, whether directly (a straight red card) or as a result of two cautions (two yellow cards) in the same match, is at a minimum, suspended for the next match.
3. Any player who accumulates two single yellow cards in two different matches in the Competition is suspended for the following match. Thereafter, each time a player accumulates two single yellow cards in two different matches, he will be suspended for the following match. All cautions shall be carried through to semifinal round.
4. Each yellow card received shall carry a fine of (\$10) ten dollars. Fines must be paid to the FFB or its authorized or Appointed Delegate before the player's subsequent match.
5. Each red card received shall carry a fine of twenty dollars. Fines must be paid to the FFB or its authorized or Appointed Delegate before the player's subsequent match.
6. Any substitute player, member of the technical staff or official that enters the field of play in an aggressive manner and/or without being summoned by the referee, may be sanctioned by the referee, and referred to the Disciplinary Committee for additional fines and/or sanctions.



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7. Unserved suspensions as a result of a red card will be carried over to the following edition of the Inter-District Championship in which a player is eligible to participate.

VIII. MEDICAL AND DOPING CONTROL

- A. FFB will not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player. Equally, FFB will not be held liable for any incident (e.g., death) linked to any injury or health problems of any participating player.
- B. Each Club will be responsible, though not obligated, throughout the Competition, for providing health, travel, and accident insurance coverage for all members of its delegation.
- C. In regard to non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a game, the referee will assume sudden cardiac failure until proven otherwise. The hand signal is the right-hand fist against the chest. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor and the medical emergency team (stretcher team) to immediately institute comprehensive resuscitation that includes the use of a defibrillator (AED) and CPR. It is the responsibility of the District Association to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan.
- D. During the match if there is a traumatic head injury and concussion to a player, and the player remains on the field of play, the referee will stop play for up to three (+) minutes. The hand signal is the right fist on the top of the head. Once the player has left the field of play, at the decision of the Club doctor, the player may return to play or be immobilized appropriately and transported off the field using the standard protocol.
- E. Further to the above, in regard to traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) assessment.
- F. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/or mental performance of a player, with a view to improving athletic and/or mental performance.

IX. MATCH OFFICIALS

- A. The Referees, Assistant Referees, and Fourth Officials (Match Officials) will be appointed for each match by the FFB. They will be selected from the official FFB list of eligible referees and will be neutral. The selections made by FFB are final and not subject to appeal.



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- B. If one of the Assistant Referees is unable to carry out his duties, such Assistant Referee will be replaced by the Reserve Assistant Referee, if a Reserve Assistant Referee (RAR) is appointed to the match in question. If no RAR is appointed to this match, the fourth official becomes the Assistant Referee (AR), and the AR becomes the fourth. In the case of *force majeure*, FFB will, at its sole discretion, be allowed to replace any Match Official with an official from any District.
- C. FFB's decisions will be final and not subject to appeal.

X. LAWS OF THE GAME

- A. All matches will be played under the *Laws of the Game* as approved by IFAB.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy between the different language versions of the *Laws of the Game*, the English language version will be considered authoritative.
- C. A maximum of seven substitute players and five Club officials are permitted on the substitute bench provided that their names and their functions are indicated on the official form provided by the FFB prior to the match. Note: a suspended player or official will not be allowed to sit on the substitute's bench.

XI DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS, MOMENT OF SILENCE

- A. Each match will last 90 minutes, comprising of two 45-minute periods with an interval of 15 minutes in between each half.
- B. In the Knockout Stage, if the aggregate score is tied at the end of regulation time, extra time will be played.
- C. If, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, extra time must be played as a result of the two teams being tied on total goals scored and total away goals scored following the second leg of a home and away knockout series, it will consist of two periods of 15 minutes each, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.



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- D. Should one team score more goals in extra time than the other, it will be declared the winner.
Away goals will not be applied as criteria for tie-break purposes in the extra time.
- E. If the Teams are still tied at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner in the ABABABABAB format.
- F. At the end of the two periods of regular playing time, the Referee will indicate to the Fourth Official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the number of minutes he has decided to allow for time lost. This applies also to the two periods of 15 minutes of extra time. Each allowance for lost time will be announced to the public by the Fourth Official using the display boards and by the public address announcer.
- G. If a match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any extra time because of any *force majeure* or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc., the following must be allowed:
1. The match is automatically suspended for the duration of 30 minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the match, unless the referee decides that the match can be resumed earlier.
 2. At the discretion of the Referee, another suspension of a maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of suspension will allow the match to be resumed. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been abandoned.
 3. In the event the match is abandoned, play will resume no later than three days after at the point where it was stopped and played to completion. If the match can still not be played on the third day, FFB will determine how and when the match will be completed. The expenses thus incurred by the visiting Club will be divided equally between the FFB and the two Clubs.
- H. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the match:
1. The match will recommence with the same players on the field and substitutes available as when the match was initially abandoned.
 2. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the Start List.
 3. The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was abandoned.
 4. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced.
 5. Any sanctions imposed before the match was abandoned remain valid for the remainder of the match.



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6. The kick-off time, date (foreseen for the following day(s)) and location will be decided by the FFB in consultation with the participating Clubs.
 7. Any matters requiring further decision will be treated by FFB.
- I. If the match cannot commence on-time due to *force majeure* or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc. the following procedures must be followed:
1. The match must first be delayed for a minimum of 30 minutes, unless the Referee decides that the match can commence earlier, before a decision to reschedule the match is taken.
 2. At the discretion of the Referee, another delay of a maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed if in his opinion this extra period of delay will allow the match to commence.
 3. Otherwise, at the end of this second 30-minute period, the Referee must declare the match to have been cancelled.
 4. In the case of a cancelled match, FFB will decide within two hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the match, whether the match can be rescheduled (taking sporting and organizational considerations into account), or whether any other action and decision is needed to continue with the Competition. Any disciplinary sanctions resulting from the cancelled match will remain in force.

XII. STADIUM

- A. Each Club organizing matches in the Competition will be responsible to ensure that the stadium and its facilities comply with the standards of safety and security required for national matches, including venue staffing levels. The fields of play, facilities and accessory equipment will be in optimum condition and must comply with the provisions stipulated in the *Laws of the Game* and all other relevant regulations.
- B. Unless stipulated otherwise in these Regulations, matches in the Competition must be played in a stadium which meets all the requirement of, and standards as stated in these Regulations. Participating Clubs must ensure that their stadium meets the aforementioned requirements and standards no later than 30 days prior to the first match.
- C. FFB will conduct stadium inspections:
1. If deemed necessary by FFB before or during the Competition.
 2. No later than 15 days prior to a match in any round for a stadium that will act as a substitute for the participant's home stadium, after initial inspections have already been conducted.
 3. If a substitute stadium must be utilized after inspections of the primary stadium have already been completed, and at any time after the commencement of the Competition, the cost of the inspection will be charged to the Club and/or the Association who requested this change.



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4. If a secondary or a follow-up inspection is required, the cost of the additional inspection(s) will be charged to the Club.

D. Home Stadium

1. The home stadium selected by the participating Club should be the regular stadium used by the Club for its home matches.
2. In the event that the Club's usual stadium does not meet the minimum criteria established in these Regulations and other FFB policy documents, the Club will be required to make all reasonable efforts, determined at the sole discretion of FFB, to cause the stadium to meet such standards at no cost to the FFB.
3. If after exhausting all reasonable efforts, the Club's usual stadium does not meet the minimum criteria, Clubs will be permitted to select an alternate stadium, which is subject to the approval by FFB, as their home stadium provided such stadium is located within the same District.
4. Any Club permitted or required, under the terms of these Regulations, to play a home match in a stadium not ordinarily their own, does so at entirely its own cost.
5. If no alternative stadium is available, then the Club will forfeit their entry into the tournament and FFB will decide on a replacement at its sole discretion.

E. Stadium Availability

1. Stadiums must be available to be used for the Competition on days and times as determined by FFB.
2. If a substitute stadium is used, FFB will request verification of compliance from the ownership ensuring its availability for the match dates.
3. Stadiums must be made available at least one day before each match for FFB officials to conduct walk-throughs, to install signage, branding and to conduct any other activity reasonably requested.
4. Stadiums must be made available to the visiting team for the purposes of training the day before the scheduled match unless such training would, in the view of the Referee, Match Commissioner or other FFB officials, cause excessive damage to the playing surface.
5. If the visiting Club cannot train on the match field, the home Club must advise the reasons why the field is not available, allow the visiting Club to do a walk around the field to get used to the stadium and make a field of comparable quality and surface available at no cost to them.

F. Field Surface and Condition

1. The matches of the Competition may be played on natural or artificial surfaces.
2. If the home Club considers the field unfit for play, FFB will be informed immediately, as well as the visiting team and the Match Officials before their departure. If the host Club fails to do



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this, it will be obliged to cover all of the expenses incurred for travel, board and lodging of the parties involved.

3. However, if prior to the match kickoff time the home Club is not able to rectify the pitch in accordance with the *Laws of the Game*, the home Club will forfeit the match. The victory, a score of 3-0 and the resulting three points will be awarded to the opposing team. The matter will also be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action.
4. If there is any doubt regarding the condition of the field once the visiting team and the Match Officials have already left for the host district, the Referee will decide whether the field is playable or not. If the Referee declares the field unplayable, the procedure to be followed is described in section X.K.
5. Each stadium must have sufficient space to allow the substitutes to warm up during the match.

G. Official Training

1. Weather permitting and based on the condition of the pitch, the visiting team will be given preference to the time they wish to train on Match Day -1 (MD-1). If stadium lighting is required for training, then it will be provided by the home Club at no extra charge to the visiting team.
2. If the match is to be played on an artificial pitch, then the visiting team will be permitted a minimum of a two-hour training session.

H. Stadium Security

1. For each match, the home Club will be responsible for developing a security plan which will provide for the safety of all participants including home Club, visiting team, and FFB staff, officials, and delegates from the time of arrival into the stadium until they depart. The plan will also provide for a safe environment for spectators attending the match including a separately secured access and seating area for the visiting spectators, and security checks of each individual and any bags they wish to bring into the stadium.
2. A briefing of this security plan must be provided by the home Club to the Match Commissioner at the Match Coordination Meeting.
3. Home Clubs will also ensure the ability to manage any controlled zones including areas reserved for Clubs, officials, guests, delegates, staff, media, or other groups as defined by FFB.
4. FFB reserves the right to require additional security be provided, at its own discretion, and participating Clubs agree to provide such cooperation as may be required at its own cost.
5. The home Club and its Association may be subject to disciplinary measures if appropriate security arrangements are not provided. Sanctions may include fines and/or suspensions.

- I. Smoking nor any flammable items are not permitted in the Competition areas such as the dressing rooms, the tunnel areas, the technical areas, and the pitch perimeter areas.



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XIII. KIT AND EQUIPMENT

- A. The Participating Clubs will comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations in force. The display of political, religious, or personalized messages or slogans in any language or form by players and officials on their playing or team kits, equipment (including kit bags, beverage containers, medical bags, etc.) or body is prohibited. The similar display of commercial messages and slogans in any language or form by players and officials is not allowed at any official activity organized by FFB (including in the stadiums for official matches and training sessions, as well as during official media conferences and mixed-zone activities). Any violations will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee.
- B. Uniform colors
 - 1. Each Club will provide the FFB with at least two different and contrasting colors (one predominately dark and one predominately light) for its official and reserve field kits (shirt, shorts and socks).
 - 2. Each club must travel with:
 - a. An additional field player and goalkeeper (which do not conflict with the field player's uniform colors) kits of different and contrasting colors.
 - b. A field player kit without a number in the event of damage to the primary uniform.
 - c. If players choose to wear additional undergarments such as thermals or lycras and these garments extend beyond the borders of the sleeves or shorts, then the color of this material must be the same color of the uniform part from where it extends.
 - 3. If, once arriving to the venue, the referee determines that the colors utilized by the teams could lead to confusion, he may decide, in consultation with other FFB officials onsite, to issue a change. In this case, the home team would be required to change if the visiting teams second kit does resolve the issue.
- C. If the Referee determines that a change needs to be made, he will consult with Match Delegates on the changes and then advise the Clubs accordingly.
- D. Player Names
 - 1. Players may be identified by their last name or an abbreviation or nickname on their shirts, as long as the name is listed on the Player Roster and the player is officially recognized by that name.
 - 2. The size of the lettering must comply with the requirements in the *FIFA Equipment Regulations*.



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- E. Only numbers between 1-99 will be displayed on the back of the jersey and on the shorts in accordance with the *FIFA Equipment Regulations* and must correspond to the number listed on the start list.
- F. Sponsor Advertising
 - 1. Teams must wear the uniform worn in their domestic league competitions. This may include, but must not exceed, such sponsor advertising as is normally displayed on the uniform for such games.
- G. Footballs
 - 1. The footballs used in the Competition will be selected and exclusively supplied by the FFB. The footballs will conform to the provisions of the *Laws of the Game* and the FIFA Equipment Regulations. They will bear one of the following three designations: the official “FIFA APPROVED” logo, the official “FIFA INSPECTED” logo or the “INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD” reference.
- H. Warm-up Bibs
 - 1. The bibs used by each team must be in contrasting colors to their uniform color and the opposing team’s uniforms and bibs.
- I. Other equipment
 - 1. The use of any communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst players and/or technical staff is not permitted during the match.

XIV. GENERAL CLUB AND TEAM COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

- 1. Clubs will abide by the general Inter-District Championship regulations in their communications with the media in general.
- 2. Clubs should make specific attempts in their communications with the public and in the media to respect competition norms and guidelines in terms of branding.
- 3. In principle, clubs and their officials, staff, players, and other designees should furthermore refrain from comments in the media which could be construed as negative regarding the organization or execution of the tournament, including but not limited to refereeing and logistical matters.
- 4. Clubs are permitted to use cameras, operated by a duly accredited and designated delegation members, to make a technical copy of the match from an adequate position.



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XV. AWARDS

- A. The Champion of the Competition will be entitled to be referred to as the “National Amateur Inter-District Championship” and will represent in the PLB Relegation league and/or other properly constituted Club competitions requiring the participation of the Inter-District Club Champion for a given year, if called upon to do so.
- B. The Competition Champion will receive a trophy from the FFB for its permanent possession and will also receive 30 Gold medals.
- C. The Competition Runner-up will receive 30 Silver medals.
- D. Referees for both final matches will receive commemorative medals.
- E. Additional medals may be produced upon request and at the cost of the requesting Club.
- F. Separate trophies will be given to individual award winners.
- G. A cash prize shall be agreed upon before the commencement of the Competition.

XVI. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- A. FFB is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the Competition, including any current or future rights of FFB’s names, logos, brands, music, medals, and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written approval of the FFB and must comply with any conditions imposed by these Regulations.
- B. All rights to the fixture list, as well as the matches in the Competition, are the sole and exclusive property of the FFB unless expressly granted to another party pursuant to these Regulations. FFB will have the right to exploit the intellectual property rights as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion.

XVII. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- A. Any matters not provided for in these Regulations and any cases of *force majeure* will be decided by the FFB. All decisions will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- B. In case of discrepancy in the interpretation of these regulations, the FFB interpretation will prevail.



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- C. Any waiver by the FFB of any breach of these Regulations (including of any document referred to in these Regulations) will not operate as, or be construed to be, a waiver of any other breach of such provision or of any breach of any other provision or a waiver of any right arising out of these Regulations or any other document. Any such waiver will only be valid if given in writing. Failure by the FFB to insist upon strict adherence to any provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations, on one or more occasions will not be considered to be a waiver of, or deprive the FFB of the right to subsequently insist upon strict adherence to that provision or any other provision of these Regulations, or any document referred to in these Regulations.
- D. Enforcement: these Regulations were approved by the FFB Executive on the 30 day of May 2022 and came into force immediately thereafter.

For the FFB Executive

Sergio Chuc
President



Earl Jones
General Secretary

