

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE



THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN'S LEAGUE

NAWL
2023/2024



REGULATIONS
2023 EDITION

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Pages
I. Title-The National Amateur Women League	3
II. Entries.....	4
III. Organization of Competitions.	6
IV. Withdrawals.....	9
V. The National Amateur Women League Organizing Committee	9
VI. Protest and Deposits.....	10
VII. The National Amateur Women League Disciplinary Committee	11
VIII. FFB Appeals Committee.	15
IX. Matches Played in Accordance to the Laws of the Game.	16
X. Duration, Extra Time, and Penalty Kicks.....	16
XI. Field of Play, Stadia, Kick- Off time, Balls.	17
XII. Responsibility of each Entity involved.....	18
XIII. Eligibility of Players, List of Players.	19
XIV. Doping Control.	21
XV. Regulations of Sporting Equipment	21
XVI. Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials.	22
XVII. Media, Advertising and Merchandising, Tickets.	22
XVIII. Financial Regulations.	23

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

XIX.	Protocols.....	23
XX.	Copyrights.....	24
XXI.	Matters Not Provided for in these Regulations	24



THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

PREAMBLE

- A. The National Amateur Women League (NAWL), the Highest level of Women's Football in Belize, is sanctioned by the Football Federation of Belize and serves as the showcase event for top female footballers of the country as well as a qualifying competition for the UNCAF Female Football Club Championship.
- B. The Competition shall consist of two Season (2023/2024 Opening Season (held between September to December) & 2023/2024 Closing Season (held between January to June) which shall consist of a Qualifying Phase, Semi-final and Final.
- C. Any rights in the present regulations not ceded to a participating Club in the Qualifying or Final Phases shall belong to the League.
- D. On entering the Competition, the participating Clubs, players, and officials shall automatically undertake to:
 - 1. Observe the regulations, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by the FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF, FFB, NAWL as well as the applicable national laws.
 - 2. Accept that all the administrative, disciplinary, and refereeing matters concerned with the Competition will be settled by the decisions of the Organizing Committee (OC) in compliance with these regulations.
 - 3. Observe the Principle of Fair Play.
 - 4. The Organizing Committee for NAWL shall decide on all competition-related matters not provided for in these regulations.
- E. The championship club shall represent Belize in the UNCAF female interclub tournament held on a date and venue to be announced by UNCAF with most accumulated points over the two seasons.

I. TITLE - THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE (NAWL)

- 1. The National Amateur Women Football League is the Division One Amateur competition for adult women in the FFB. It shall be contested by women football clubs or clubs with women football teams which demonstrates capability to successfully participate in a nationwide football competition.
- 2. It will be played twice each year between the months of January and December. Every participating club is expected to field its strongest eligible set of players available in every match.
- 3. The Champion will receive the first-place trophy and 30 gold medals. The second place shall receive the second-place trophy and 30 silver medals.
- 4. The members of the NAWL Awards Committee shall be appointed by the OC of the

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

NAWL. The committee shall prepare the guidelines for choosing these awards. Other awards that will be given (inaccordance with established criteria) includes **ONLY 3 Awards**

- a. Most goal scored (**Golden Boot**) (player with highest number of goals scored per match)
- b. Most valuable player (**Golden Ball**)
- c. Best Goalkeeper (**Golden Glove**) (who gets most goalkeeper of the match votes per match played)

II. ENTRIES

1. Women Football Clubs and Football Clubs with adult female teams registered with the Football Federation of Belize via the FIFA Connect Platform and headquartered within Belize are invited to participate in The National Amateur Women League.
2. All amateur female football clubs must be in possession of an FFB Club license for the clubs' first teams to be registeredto participate in competitions sanctioned by the Football Federation of Belize.
3. Presentation of the following shall constitute the baseline for the attainment of an FFB Amateur Football Club license:
 - a. A business name Certificate of registration;
 - b. A list of names of club officials;
 - c. List containing at least eighteen (18) names of female club team players, coach, and manager;
 - d. If the club team is registered by a person other than the owner, a club registration authorization letter from the club owner(s).
4. All players, nationals or foreign, must be in possession of a FIFA ID number obtained by registration via the FIFA Connect platform to be registered with the first team of an FFB registered football club. Female Football Clubs shall submit a list with names, copy of picture ID and player license application forms. This list shall serve as the club team registration document for the NAWL and will qualify players listed for player licenses for the duration of the NAWL. These expire on December 31 every year.
5. The eligibility of the FFB registered player to be rostered as a club team member in any given amateur season shall be determined by the club registration rules as set by the competition's Organizing Committee (OC).
6. A foreign non-amateur player whose contract with her former club in her former association has expired for more than thirty (30) days shall be allowed to register with the FFB as an amateur after FFB TMS manager has determined that all obligations with former association have been discharged and ITC requested and delivered.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

7. Club team registration for NAWL shall consist of the following:
 - a. Submittal of the list of all FFB-licensed players with jersey number assignments.
 - b. Copies of players' license applications. ***Waived for 2023***
8. Any club that fails to completely fulfil any of the above club registration requirements shall not be certified as a registered club for the competition in question.
9. The OC for NAWL shall submit completed club registration packets to the General Secretariat for review and concurrence before publishing the competition match schedule.
10. No more than twelve (12) and no less than ten (6) club teams will be allowed to participate in this competition.
11. For domestic competitions, FFB-licensed clubs are allowed to register a maximum of twenty-three (23) FFB-licensed players of which only five (5) or less may be non-Belizean nationals. Each club's team registration roster may differentiate between U-20, foreign and domestic players. In general, every club shall submit to the FFB Secretariat its final list of twenty-three (23) players one week before the first scheduled match.
12. Each club is encouraged to register at least five (5) U-20 players who should be deployed in accordance with club match objectives. The official rosters prepared by the FFB Secretariat for any given match shall indicate which players are under the age of twenty (20).
13. Players born on or after January 1st, 2008, are ineligible for rostering on a club team for match duty.
 14. Each club must register a technical staff with the following roles:
 - a. Certified Head Coach (Minimum C License)
 - b. Assistant Coach
 - c. Fitness Coach
 - d. GK Coach
 - e. Physiotherapist
 - f. Doctor
 - g. Team Manager
 15. Club teams will not be allowed to participate or continue to participate in NAWL without a coach registered with the FFB.
 16. The NAWL OC will determine the right of entry of any other clubs.
 17. The winner of the competition is the club which emerges as The NAWL Champion.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

The competition shall be played in three (3) phases:

- a. The Qualifying Phase
- b. The Semifinal Phase
- c. The Final Phase

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

A. The Qualifying Phase

- 1) The teams taking part in the tournament will play each other. The OC will prepare the schedule of games whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration.
- 2) The system of play will be League System where each team will play each other twice. This means until every team has played the same number of games.
- 3) Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero (0) point for a defeat.
- 4) The ranking of teams will be determined as follows:
 - a) Greatest number of points obtained in all matches.
 - b) Greatest Goal difference in all matches.
 - c) Greatest number of goals scored in all matches.
 - d) The result of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams
 - e) The team that most exemplifies Fair Play by having the lowest number of negative points accrued from accumulated yellow and red cards. Three (3) negative points accrue for each Red Card and one (1) negative point for each Yellow Card.
 - f) The (4) four top teams in the Qualifying Phase shall advance to the Semifinal round.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

B. The Semifinal Phase

- 1) The Semifinal Round of the competition shall be played between the top 4 clubs of the Qualifying Phase. The OC shall publish the order of the competing teams in the semifinal round. This seeding order shall determine which team will be designated as the home team in the Semifinal.
- 2) The Semifinal Phase shall consist of a home and away:
- a. The Semi-Finals:
- i. The Semi-Finals shall consist of two series, SF1 and SF2, which shall each consist of two matches each.
- ii. The OC shall use the criteria of Article 111.A.4 above to determine the seeding order among the four teams that have qualified for the Semi-final Phase.
- iii. Series SF1 and SF2 shall be contested by four teams with seeding designations that were determined at the conclusion of the Qualifying Phase of the season.
- iv. ALL clubs must ensure that all financial obligations are met before qualifying for each phase of the tournament. This includes qualifying for the Semi-final round. Clubs failing to meet their financial obligations will not advance to the next phase of the tournament. This will allow for the next qualified team to replace the qualified club.
- v. In each series, the higher seeded team shall be listed first as the home team using the following Criteria:
- | | Semifinals |
|------|-----------------|
| SF_1 | 4 vs 1 / 3 vs 2 |
| SF_2 | 1 vs 4 / 2 vs 3 |
- 3) The winners of the two series in the semi-finals advance to the finals and will contest the finals.
- 4) If at the conclusion of 90 minutes of the (final) match of a given series, both teams have the same goal difference, an extra time of thirty (30) minutes consisting of two fifteen (15) minute periods shall be played. If the score is level after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

A. The Final Phase

- 1) The Final Round of the competition shall be played between the top 2 clubs in the Semi-Finals.
- 2) The Final Phase shall consist of a home and away round:
 - a. The Finals
 - ii. The Finals shall consist of two games between the two teams that advance from the Semi-Final Round.
 - iii. The higher seeded team shall be designated as the home using the following criteria:

	Home	vs	Away
F1	Winner of SF 2	vs	Winner of SF 1
F2	Winner of SF 1	vs	Winner of SF 2

- 5) If at the conclusion of 90 minutes of the (final) match, both teams have the same goal difference, an extra time of thirty (30) minutes consisting of two fifteen (15) minute periods shall be played. If the score is tied after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner.
- 6) The winners of the Final series shall be declared Champion of the Season.

IV. WITHDRAWALS

1. Clubs that have entered the competition are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated. After entering the competition, a club that fails to participate shall be penalized as specified below, except in circumstances of force majeure as determined by the match officials.
2. If a withdrawal takes place:
 - a. After registering for any given season of the competition but on or before the day of the draw for the Qualifying Phase, a fine of \$500.00 plus forfeit of the registration fee shall be levied.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

- b. After the draw but on or before the date of the first match of the Qualifying Phase of any season of the Competition a fine of \$1,000.00 in addition to forfeiting the registration fee shall be levied.
 - c. Anytime during the Qualifying Phase of a given season of the competition a fine of \$1,500.00 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
 - d. After the Qualifying Phase of a given season but before the start of the Final Phase of the competition a fine of \$2,000.00 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
 - e. Anytime during the Final Phase of any given season of the competition a fine of \$2,500.00 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
3. Clubs that withdraw prior to qualifying phase or clubs which are excluded from playing in the Qualifying Phase of any season may be replaced by another Club.
4. If a team does not report for a match - except in cases of force majeure recognized by the NAWL OC or refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall forfeit the match and can be disqualified from the competition. The guilty team shall be disqualified from participating in the next two NAWL Competitions.
5. The FFB Secretariat shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and are fully complied with.

V. THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE COMPETITION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

1. The Organizing Committee (OC) for NAWL shall be responsible for the organization of this competition.
2. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
 - a. Disseminating the competition regulations as approved and ratified by the FFB.
 - b. Judging Protest validity
 - c. Replacing Clubs that have withdrawn and recommending new clubs.
 - d. Dispatching Match Commissioners, Referee Assessors, and other officials
 - e. Fixing the venues and dates and approving the stadiums
 - f. Choosing the official football and the stipulated technical material
 - g. Determining kick-off times

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

- h. Dealing with any matter that should arise and is out of the responsibility of another body under the terms of these regulations.
- i. Contracting match officiating services through the FFB Referee Department
- J. Convening seminars to familiarize clubs with specific provisions of competition regulations
- k. Resolving cases of force majeure
- 1. Submit such reports as directed by the NAWL Commissioner

VI. PROTEST AND DEPOSITS

1. Protests are objections to infringements of the governing regulations of a competition (state and markings of the pitch, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs etc.)
2. Unless otherwise mentioned in these regulations, protests shall first be submitted in writing to the Match Officials within two (2) hours of the match and followed up with a full written report within forty-eight (48) hours, including copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the FFB Secretariat.
3. Protest the eligibility of players shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner or Match Officials at conclusion of the match. It shall be followed up with a written report with details of the grounds for the protest not later than forty- eight (48) hours after the end of the match in question.
4. Protest for reasons outlined in paragraph 3 must be accompanied by a check in the amount of BZE\$100.00 payable to the FFB Secretariat Protests not submitted in accordance with the procedures outlined above shall be deemed invalid.
5. Clubs may not bring disputes with the NAWL before a Court of Justice, and they shall undertake to submit any such disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of FFB.
6. No protest may be made against the referee's decision regarding facts connected with play; such decisions are final. Protests against referees' violations of the provisions in the regulations, and misapplication of the Laws of the Game. A referee assessor's report shall be made available to the OC for reference in the event an assessor is assigned to a match. The Match Commissioner's report shall render a 'poor, fair, good, excellent' qualification on each of the three dimensions of referee performance i.e., match management, adherence to competition regulations, and strict adherence to application of the Laws of the Game.
7. All Protests shall be initially examined by the Match Commissioner who shall determine if the Regulations are clear on the associated remedies or punitive measures. The protest will then be (submitted to) lodged with the NAWL Disciplinary Committee who shall convene to adjudicate on a protest submission within 24 hours. It shall then submit its recommendations to the Chairman of the OC. The

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

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

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

VII. THE NAWL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The NAWL Disciplinary Committee (NAWLDC) shall have responsibility to take disciplinary action against any natural or legal person involved in any transgression related to NAWL.
2. The scope of application of the disciplinary measures of the Disciplinary Committee shall include the following natural and legal persons:
 - a. football clubs
 - b. officials
 - c. players
 - d. licensed match and players' agents
 - e. anyone with an authorization from FFB, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by NAWL.
 - f. spectators in cases of infringement of these regulations, unsporting behavior, or instances of violations specified in the (FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Code 2019 and) FIFA Disciplinary Code on the part of the entities listed above, The Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, teams, team officials, spectators or coaches.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

3. Both natural persons (flesh-and-blood) and legal persons (clubs, associations, leagues) are punishable by the following disciplinary measures:
 - a. warning
 - b. reprimand
 - c. fine
 - d. return of awards
4. The following disciplinary measures are applicable only to people:
 - a. caution
 - b. expulsion
 - c. match suspension
 - d. ban from dressing rooms and/or technical bench
 - e. ban from entering a stadium
 - f. ban on taking part in any football-related activity
5. The following disciplinary measures are applicable only to legal persons (clubs, associations, leagues):
 - a. transfer ban
 - b. playing a match without spectators
 - c. playing a match on neutral territory
 - d. ban on playing in a particular stadium
 - e. Annulment of the result of a match
 - f. expulsion
 - g. forfeit
 - h. deduction of points
 1. take action, in accordance with FFB's Disciplinary Code and/or FIFA Disciplinary Code, against any person or club which may violate the competition regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
6. An expulsion, whether of a player or a team official, automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled and/or forfeited. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.
7. A player shall be cautioned if she commits any of the following offences during a match (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 17 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code):
 - a. unsporting behavior (various factors)
 - b. dissent by word or action
 - c. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
 - d. delaying the restart of play
 - e. failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

- f. entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
 - g. deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
- 8. Players accumulating two (2) cautions (yellow cards) in two different matches shall be suspended from the subsequent match. Such a player shall remain suspended until the respective fine has been paid. An economic sanction of \$10.00 shall be levied against a player who receives a caution in a match. If she receives a subsequent caution in the same match, an additional caution fine of \$15.00 shall be levied on her. The \$25.00 fine payable for the expulsion then supersedes the cumulative fines for two yellow cards. Single yellow cards cautions are not carried over to the next stage of the competition, i.e. from Qualifying phase to semi – finals or finals.
- 9. A player shall receive a direct red card if she commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 of FIFA Disciplinary Code):
 - a. serious foul play; use of excessive force
 - b. violent conduct; spitting and biting an opponent or any other person
 - c. denying the opposing team, a goal, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within her own penalty area)
 - d. denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
 - e. using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures.
- 10. A player who receives a direct red card due to misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials shall be suspended, in addition to the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, as follows:
 - a. one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball)
 - b. two (2) matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force)
 - c. two (2) matches for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official
 - d. three (3) matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official
 - e. six (6) matches for spitting and/or biting an opponent or a person other than a match official.
 - f. Twelve (12) months for fighting on the field of play or within confines of stadium. Only those players who restrain their own teammate or restrain both combatants simultaneously shall be deemed as attempting to stop a fight. All other players are prohibited from entering combat zone on the penalty of one- year suspension on doing so. Any player which leaves the

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

substitute bench to aid her teammate shall also be suspended for one year. Any spectator who enters the field of play during a fight shall be subjected to a stadium ban of one year.

11. Players receiving three expulsions (red cards) in any given season shall be suspended from participation for the rest of the season... Any player who receives a direct red card shall be subjected to a fine of \$25.00. This amount shall be added to any other fines she may have incurred as a result of (NAWL) Disciplinary Committee decision.
12. Any player who has received a caution in a match and subsequently receives a direct red card shall, in addition to being expelled from the match, carry the caution through to a subsequent match.
13. When deciding, the cognizant Disciplinary Committee shall refer to the reports made by the referees, match commissioner, referee assessor, general coordinator, and other FFB officials present. It may also refer to television and video recordings. They may be used as evidence but only as far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and shall not affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play. Decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee shall be communicated in writing to the Club owners and players.
14. Any club team with five (5) individuals with an accumulated caution and expulsion tally of at least five (5) shall be guilty of team misconduct which shall result in a fine of \$50.00 being levied on the club. If a club suffers expulsion of five or more players, the club shall forfeit the match with a score of 3:0 if the score at the time is better than 3:0 (i.e., 4:2, 5:3 etc.) and by the score at the time of forfeit if it is equal or worse than 3:0 (i.e., 4:0, 5:0, 6:0).
15. A player engaged in misconduct against match officials resulting in a direct red card shall be, in addition to the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, suspended for:
 - a. at least four matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official (subject to art. 53, 54 and 57-60); b)
 - b. Six (6) months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official.
 - c. at least 12 months for spitting at a match official or fighting on the field of play. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others, or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.
16. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure recognized by the OC, the team shall forfeit the match with three points awarded to opponent with a score line of 3-0. Force majeure notwithstanding, the absent team shall notify the match commissioner of the conditions preventing team transit to match venue.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

17. If a team refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall forfeit the match and three points shall be awarded to its opponent with a score of 3-0. If the persisting team had already reached a higher net score at the time the guilty team left the field, the higher score shall be regarded as the official score.
18. If the suspension of a match is the result of negligence on the part of the host team or the stadium authorities, the stadium where the match was interrupted will remain suspended until the factors leading to match interruptions are remedied. The host team shall forfeit the match by a score of 3-0 and shall reimburse all expenses incurred by the visiting team in travelling to the match venue.
19. All economic sanctions levied against clubs for cautions and expulsions must be paid to the FFB Secretariat before the next scheduled match, pending payments shall cause the affected player to become ineligible for match duty.

VIII. FFB APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The FFB Appeals Committee shall hear appeals from aggrieved parties against decisions passed by the (NAWL) Disciplinary Committee based on a point of law.
2. The procedure to be applied by the Appeal Committee is defined in the FFB Disciplinary Code and the FFB Statutes.
3. The Appeal Committee shall reach its decisions based on the documents and other means of evidence contained in the (NAWL) Disciplinary Committee's file. However, the Appeal Committee may, if necessary, resort to further evidence which it considers relevant.
4. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee are final. The decision shall be conveyed in writing by the Chairman of the Appeals Committee stating the decision and bearing the signatures of all members present.

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

1. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA.
2. In cases of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.
3. A maximum of seventeen (17) people shall be allowed on the team bench; five (5) team officials and twelve (12) substitutes. The names of these people and their respective functions must be indicated on the form provided by the match officials

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

prior to the commencement of the match. A maximum of six (6) substitutes shall be allowed for each match.

4. The Referee designated for a given match shall make a presentation at the technical meeting to emphasize to club representatives that his function is to arbitrate in strict conformance with the laws of the game.

X. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

1. Each match shall last for ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes with an interval of no more than fifteen (15) minutes between each period.
2. If applicable, clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e., after forty-five (45) and (90) minutes respectively. This shall also apply in the event of extra time being played (15 minutes in each extra time period).
3. At the end of each period (regular or extra time), the referee will indicate to the fourth official the minimum number of minutes he has decided to allow for time lost. Allowance for lost time in each period shall be communicated to the public by the fourth official using the substitution cards or electronic display board and by the public address announcer if available.
4. If a match is interrupted before the completion of normal playing time or extra time due to reasons of force majeure, the OC shall review the causes and make its decision on the outcome of the match in accordance with the following:
 - a. If the match is interrupted before the completion of the first half, during the half-time interval or up to the seventy-fifth (75th) minute of play, the match shall be replayed in its entirety. A repeat match, if possible and mutually agreeable, shall be arranged for the following day, thus avoiding considerable extra expense for the visiting team. If the match still cannot be played on the second day, the OC shall reschedule the match for another date.
 - b. If a match is interrupted after seventy-five (75) minutes of play, the OC shall consider the beneficiary of the current score status, the visiting team willingness to wait another day to finish match, and the mutuality of club's position on completing the match before ruling to record current score as official score, this shall be dictated only by the case where competitive fair play is served in the best manner.
 - c. In all cases where the OC is satisfied that a game has been interrupted due to one or both clubs' misconduct the OC shall declare a forfeit against the offending club if only one club is responsible. If both clubs are responsible, the game shall be replayed in its entirety and each club fined

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

a sum of \$150.00 and may escalate proceedings to the Disciplinary Committee.

- d. In case a game is interrupted owing to the conduct of fans of both teams and of spectators attending the match, the OC shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

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

1. Clubs hosting competition matches shall ensure that the stadium facilities fulfill FIFA's requirements and comply with the standards of safety and security required for international matches, the field of play and the accessory equipment shall comply with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game. The fields and the facilities shall be in optimum condition.
2. The matches of NAWL may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, it must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for artificial turf or the International Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is provided by FIFA.
3. Clubs shall guarantee that the field of play chosen meet the requirements of the Laws of the game. They must pass inspection by the NAWL/FFB
4. In cases where games are played at night, stadiums must possess lighting suitable for night matches. Lighting must pass inspection by the FFB. The average luminosity at an elevation of 5 feet within the playing area shall be between 600 and 800 lux.
5. All matches shall be administered and controlled in addition to the regulations contained herein as well as in accordance with the Match Day Procedures, which shall be published by the League office at least 24 hours before the scheduled match. Every instance of deviation, as noted by match commissioner, from the published match day procedures by clubs or match officials shall incur a fine of \$100,00.
6. The kick-off times shall be fixed by the OC after clubs' submission of best time. Any club failing to commence at the scheduled kick-off time, except under conditions of forcemajeure, shall be fined a sum of \$100.00.
7. Referees, during the technical meeting, must emphasize the need for matches to commence at the appointed time, if possible. He shall state the reason/s for all late starts in his match report and advise the Coach of the offending team/s of the consequences of his reporting such irregularities.
8. Clubs MUST use balls bearing any one of the following designations:
 - a. "FIFA QUALITY" logo
 - b. "FIFA QUALITY PRO" logo
 - c. "INTERNATIONALMATCHBALL STANDARD"

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

Such a designation on a football indicates that it has been tested officially and found to be following specific technical requirements.

9. The host club must provide balls that are fit for play throughout the match and the referee must state in his match report the unsuitability of the match balls, if applicable, and must also notify the club team officials of his intention to do so.
10. Competition football supply support may be provided by the FFB.

XII. RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

Qualifying phase, semifinal phase, and final Phase

1. Each club that hosts a match shall be responsible for:
 - a. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadium, if necessary, in collaboration with the relevant authorities. Specifically, the law-and-order guarantee shall be in the form of the presence of at least three (3) police officers during preliminary round matches, at least four (4) police officers during the semifinal and finals.
 - b. If applicable, undertake to arrange adequate liability insurance cover in respect of the stadium in which the match is due to be held
 - c. Comply with the guidelines and instructions issued by the **NAWL** for Match Day
 - d. Monitoring fan attendance and ticket sales
 - e. Assembling players listed on match roster at a designated area for inspection by match officials at least 60 minutes before kickoff time.
 - f. Designating the club representative to attend the technical meeting scheduled for twenty-four (24) hours before kickoff time. Failure of a club to present itself at a technical meeting within ten (10) minutes of its commencement shall incur a fine of \$25.00.
2. Each visiting club will be responsible:
 - a. Planning for their own travel, accommodations, and meal expenses to and from the host club and any cost for their delegation.
 - b. Starting the scheduled game at the scheduled time
 - c. Assembling players on match roster at a designated area for the proper conduct of player inspection by the Match Officials at least 75 minutes before scheduled kick off time.
3. Each participating club shall be responsible for:
 - a. The behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players). Club officials who are ejected from the technical area shall be fined \$30.00 in addition to additional disciplinary measures taken by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - b. If applicable, health, accident, and travel insurance coverage for its full

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

- delegation.
 - c. Returning any information requested by The NAWL OC by the dates specified.
 - d. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by the League in a timely manner.
 - e. Assigning a coach to make player and team performance evaluations during matches to nominate MVP.
4. Commercial Reference to Event and Advertising Provisions
- a. Participating teams shall agree, as a condition of their participation, that the terms "NAWL", "THE NAWL COMPETITION", "THE DIVISION I AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE", commonly used to identify the competition and their equivalent, abbreviated, or as translated into other languages, may only be used by such clubs in a sporting context with no commercial implications. FFB owns the copyright for all these terms.
 - b. The participating team shall also agree to abide by any advertising provisions issued by the League

XIII. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, LIST OF PLAYERS

1. Clubs will be permitted to register a maximum of twenty-three (23) FFB-licensed players. Of these twenty-three players, a maximum of five (5) players can be non-nationals. The five (5) non-nationals can be used on the match roster for a given match day provided that only three (3) are on the field of play at any time. Only the players listed on the game day match roster published by the FFB Secretariat shall be eligible to participate in each match. Any alteration to the game day match roster after the third match shall result in a fine of \$15.00 being levied on the guilty club.
2. At least five (5) of the registered players are encouraged to be nationals who are less than 20 years of age (U-20).
3. Player underage of eighteen (18) are subject to submittal of the FFB Parental Consent Form.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

4. Players registered on the club team must be licensed with the FFB to make them eligible to play in any League match for the current season. Licensure with FFB shall be established by assignment of a FIFA ID number to every player via FIFA Connect registration platform. No exceptions.
5. All players presented for a club's team competition registration shall be deemed ineligible to play if the club has failed to complete all club registration requirements. Offending clubs shall forfeit all matches in which an ineligible player was fielded.
6. Once registered with a club a player can only transfer to another club during the registration window as provided by FIFA TMS registration period.
7. Under no circumstances must a player play with two different clubs in the same season.
8. Players must show a picture identification card, FFB Player license/provisional FFB licensed player list to the Match Commissioner, Fourth Official; (Driving license, SSB Card, etc.) if requested.
9. After arrival at the venue, each club's head of delegation shall, upon request, submit to the Match Commissioner the final roster of twenty-three (23) players and the identification card required in paragraph (6) above for verification.
10. A player is expected to use the same number on their uniform throughout the competition. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in a fine of \$5.00 being levied on the club.
11. Any team found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. The victory and the result and three points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as a score of 3-0.
12. All registered players must comply when called upon for National Team duty. Clubs will be notified via an official request from the federation of their player(s) called to the National Team. Players will be notified of their call-up via a press release after communication and dialogue has been completed by the FFB and the clubs. Failure of a player to respond to the call to national team duty without a medical report declaring her unfit for national team duty shall result in player's being sanctioned by the FFB. A player will only be excused if the NAWL tournament is in the qualifying round of six, semi-final round and finals of the NAWL tournament. The player may not be allowed to register with the FFB until six (6) months have lapsed. If a player's non-response is due to adverse consequences caused by the club, the club shall be fined \$100.00 and ordered to release player without prejudice to national team duty. If the club continues to defy the FFB's order to release player, the club's license shall be revoked resulting in automatic deregistration from current competition.

XIV. DOPING CONTROL

1. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and/ or mental condition of a player, with a view to improving his athletic and mental performance. It is prohibited.
2. The OC reserves the right to arrange random doping tests at all the matches in the competition.
3. Any player or club that refuses to take a doping test requested by the NAWL OC or the Anti-Doping Organization Committee of Belize or falsifies the result of a test or attempts to do so or is found guilty of having taken prohibited substances whether intentionally or not will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. The ADOC will administer their findings and results with repercussions if the player is found guilty.
4. Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as stated in paragraph (4) above, will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
5. In addition, reference is made to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, which contain the list of prohibited substances and methods.
6. If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Guidelines, a player is tested positive for using banned substances, she shall be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in the competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from the FFB Disciplinary Committee.

XV. REGULATIONS ON SPORTING EQUIPMENT

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

1. Uniform Color-Each Club must register its official colors (home and away) with the OC of NAWL. The home uniform shall be of a different design and color than the away uniform. The host team shall have its alternate uniform available in case of a conflict as determined by the referees. Each team shall have at least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.
2. Where there is a conflict in the colors worn by any two teams for any match, the HOME team shall be required to change. However, should the visiting team not be wearing its registered away colors thus causing the home team to change, the visiting team shall be fined \$75.00.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

3. Player's name - Players may be identified by means of their surname or an abbreviation or nickname on the back of their shirts above the number. The player's name shall correspond with the name and number on the players' list.
4. Sponsor Advertising - Teams may only wear colors registered with the NAWL. However, the advertising of any slogans of a political, religious or racist nature or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.

XVI. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

1. The referee chosen to officiate in the competition shall be of such competence deemed adequate by the FFB Referee Department. The officiating team shall arrive at the match venue at least two hours before kick-off time to attend the technical meeting convened by the match commissioner. If the referee team anticipates a late arrival to technical meeting due to causes beyond its control, the referee shall notify the match commissioner of the circumstances.
2. Subject to the conditions and quality factors specified in the applicable referee service contract drawn up between the League and the Referees Department, the FFB Referees Committee shall appoint the referees, two (2) assistant referees and fourth official who can best provide the required quality of service for each match.
3. Where one match official cannot perform his duties as appointed, the most competent official will take that position.
4. The Referee Department may prepare power point presentations aimed at familiarizing players of the different clubs with the laws of the game. This presentation should be sent to the FFB Secretariat for subsequent dissemination to the clubs. The presentation should include sample questions that evaluate the players' knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the Game.
5. After each match the Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor and the referee shall complete their designated official FFB report forms. They shall send their reports immediately following the match to the FFB Secretariat, but at no time later than twenty-four (24) hours following the match.

XVII. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING, TICKETS

1. Marketing, Radio, Television, international Broadcasting rights for the Competition are fully vested with the FFB.
2. A Club may not offer souvenir sales of NAWL identified merchandise, without the written permission of the FFB.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

3. Technical Film / Tapes - Permission to make technical films/tapes, exclusively reserved for the use of a participating Club concerned, must be obtained from the Secretariat of the FFB
4. Tickets for the Visiting Teams - The Host Club shall provide twenty-eight (28) tickets for the visiting team.

XVIII. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Football Federation of Belize will be covering the following for the Opening and Closing Season of the NAWL tournament for 2023/2024 edition.

1. Up to \$500.00 BZD towards transportation
2. Cash Prize: Champion - \$2,000 and Sub-Champion - \$1,000.00
3. Match officials' payments
 - Referee
 - Commissioner
 - Police assistance
4. The participating clubs will be responsible for
 - Securing venue for match
 - Any additional Police Officers

XIX. PROTOCOLS

1. During the competition the following flags should be flown or displayed inside the stadium if available:
 - a. Belize
 - b. Fair Play
2. The National Anthem and the FIFA Anthem, must be played during the parade of the teams into the field of play.
3. Each player of the starting eleven (11) of each team shall walk no more than thirty (30) feet into the field and fanned out. The Belize National Anthem shall be played immediately after the presentation of teams. Failure to play the Belize National Anthem by the host club shall incur a fine of \$50.00.
4. The teams shall shake hands with the match officials and each other and proceed immediately to take a team photograph.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR WOMEN LEAGUE

5. The club teams shall shake hands with the match officials and players at the conclusion of the match.

XX. COPYRIGHT

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

XXI. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE REGULATIONS

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


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

For the Executive Committee of the FFB,

This 25 day of Sept, 2023



President
Sergio Chuc



General Secretary
Earl Jones

