



## **CLUB LICENSING POLICY OF THE GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (THE "GFA")**

The GFA's Club Licensing and Club Monitoring Policy (the "Policy") has been developed by the GFA's Club Licensing Unit for its Club Licensing and Club Monitoring Process (the "Process").

Its main aim is to assist in the GFA's development into a professional set-up, and ensure that the level of Club football in Gibraltar is high, not only on the field of play, but also from an administration and infrastructure perspective.

The objective of the Policy is to serve as the backbone of our Club Licensing System (the "System"), as well as;

1. To ensure the System is effectively run;
2. To promote and improve football standards in Gibraltar;
3. To implement well established infrastructure within our Clubs;
4. To ensure our Clubs implement realistic and protective financial measures to make them sustainable;
5. To ensure our Clubs are dealt with in an efficient and timely manner; and

The Policy covers UEFA Licensing Standards which will be adapted accordingly to be relevant to Gibraltar, establishing a set of standards that are central to our football development.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **1. EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEM**

The core ideals of the System are Independence and Confidentiality, especially in relation to the decision making process. It is fundamental that Club Licenses are fairly and rightly awarded to Applicants, so that their participation in UEFA European Competitions are deserved, not just on sporting merits, but on their internal structure too.

On this basis, the CLU endeavours to always have in force a solid set of National Club Licensing Regulations each season, which are subject to review and approval on a yearly basis. It is our commitment to continually improve the effectiveness of the System by adhering to the above objectives, and learning from season to season. It is therefore imperative that the CLU ensures our Clubs are kept up to date with the latest Regulations, and are always available to answer any queries and support them in any way they may require during the Process.

Any amendments to the Regulations and corresponding licensing application packs will be carefully explained to Clubs at training workshops and bilateral meetings during each season, as well as communicated to the respective GFA bodies in a timely manner.

### **2. PROMOTE AND IMPROVE FOOTBALL STANDARDS**

As a new UEFA Member Association, the GFA must become a professional set-up as soon as possible. The level of professionalism of the GFA will be reflected by the performance and set up of its Member Clubs. For this reason, the GFA will encourage Coaches and Managers to strive for improvement by offering professional courses, which will in turn, serve to develop our youth players and raise the quality of our football.

### **3. TO IMPLEMENT WELL ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN OUR CLUBS**

Our Clubs are now competing for UEFA European Competition slots, and it is inevitable that this will create newfound support and following from fans, both at home and abroad. Similarly, players will expect a higher level of professionalism and commitment from both their Clubs and the GFA. The Policy therefore covers the appointment of personnel to ensure fans are closely linked to their Clubs, and that there is proper infrastructure and facilities in place for Players to use.

### **4. TO ENSURE OUR CLUBS IMPLEMENT REALISTIC AND PROTECTIVE FINANCIAL MEASURES TO MAKE THEM SUSTAINABLE**

The System helps Clubs improve their economic capability and encourages transparency and credibility. With strong disciplinary measures in place, the System makes Clubs aware of their financial responsibilities, and this is crucial for their

long-term sustainability.

## **5. TO ENSURE CLUBS ARE DEALT WITH IN AN EFFICIENT AND TIMELY MANNER**

Communication between the GFA, the CLU and Clubs is key to ensure the System works. It is therefore imperative that all clubs are dealt with in an efficient and timely manner, as failure to do so would result in the poor performance of our CLU. For this reason, the CLU will continually monitor, assess and review the System and Process, so that the quality of service is always of a high level.

### **MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM**

The CLU will manage the System to the best of its ability. All Clubs who wish to apply for a Club Licence will receive the CLU's full support throughout the entire Process. As a minimum, all First Division Clubs will be encouraged to apply.

The success of the System is largely dependent on the commitment of Clubs to attain the documentation required, as well as the CLU's commitment to offer its resources and know-how whenever required.

In addition, in order to maintain the credibility of club licensing in Gibraltar, it is vital that all those involved within the CLU will behave in an ethical manner and respect the core values of confidentiality and independence. These are included in the Club Licensing Regulations, and failure to adhere to this standard will result in disciplinary action being taken accordingly.

Signed and approved this 1st day of February 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ivan Robba', written in a cursive style.

**Mr Ivan Robba**  
General Secretary

