GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

DOMESTIC CLUB LICENSING REGULATIONS

2026/2027 Edition

(for season 2027/2028)

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PART 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1) These Regulations apply to any Football Club Member of the Gibraltar FA, making an application ("Licence Applicant") to obtain a Gibraltar FA Domestic Club Licence ("DCL") for the season 2026/2027.

2) If a Football Club is granted a DCL, it shall be permitted to compete in the Gibraltar FA Senior Football Competitions.

3) These Regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties involved in the Gibraltar FA Domestic Club Licensing System and define in particular:

    a) the minimum requirements to be fulfilled by the Gibraltar FA in order to act as the Licensor for its Licence Applicants, as well as the minimum procedures to be followed by the GFA in its assessment of the Club Licensing Criteria;

    b) the Licence Applicant and the Gibraltar FA DCL required to enter the GFA Club Competitions;

    c) the minimum sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial criteria to be fulfilled by a Licence Applicant in order to be granted the GFA DCL by the GFA as part of the admission procedure to enter the GFA club competitions.

4) All Licence Applicants that have been granted a DCL must comply with the GFA Club Monitoring Requirements which are defined in these Regulations.

2. OBJECTIVES

1) These Regulations aim:

    a) to further promote and continuously improve the standard of all aspects of football in Gibraltar and to give continued priority to the training and care of young players in every Club Member;

    b) to promote participation in football and contribute to the development of women's football;

    c) to ensure that Club Members have an adequate level of management and organisation;

    d) to adapt Club Members' sporting infrastructure to provide players, spectators and media representatives with suitable, well-equipped and safe facilities;

    e) to protect the integrity and smooth running of the GFA Club Competitions;

    f) to safeguard each club's identity, history and legacy;

    g) to encourage cooperation between the GFA and Licence Applicants and enable the development of benchmarking for clubs in financial, sporting, legal, football social responsibility, personnel, administrative and infrastructure-related criteria throughout Europe;

    h) to embrace social responsibility in football; and

i) to promote a healthy relationship between Licence Applicants and supporters and increase accessibility in football.

PART 2
GFA DOMESTIC CLUB LICENSING SYSTEM

2A. INTERPRETATION

1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Administration Procedures" means a voluntary or mandatory process that may be used as an alternative to the liquidation of an entity, is often known as going into administration. The day to day management of the activities of an entity in administration may be operated by the administrator on behalf of the creditors.

"Agent/Intermediary" means a natural or legal person who, for a fee, or free of charge, represents players and/or clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement and such person is officially or should be officially recognised by FIFA.

"Agreed Upon Procedure" means An engagement for an external party to perform an audit ("the practitioner") in accordance with the procedures that have been agreed upon by the practitioner and the engaging party, where the engaging party has acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for the purposes of the engagement. The practitioner communicates the agreed-upon procedures performed and the related findings in the agreed-upon procedures report. The engaging party and other intended users consider for themselves the agreed-upon procedures and findings reported by the practitioner and draw their own conclusions from the work performed by the practitioner.

"Associate" means an entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership, which is neither a subsidiary nor has an interest in a joint venture and over which the investor of the Licence Applicant has significant influence.

"Club Licensing Criteria" means requirements, divided into four categories (sporting, personnel & administrative, legal and financial), to be fulfilled by a Licence Applicant for it to be granted the GFA Licence.

"Club Licensing System" means the minimum requirements the GFA must put in place for the verification of compliance with the Club Licensing Criteria as the basis for the issuance of the GFA Licence to a Licence Applicant. This includes the Core Process

"Club Monitoring Requirements" means requirements that may be established by the GFA and that need to be fulfilled by a Licensee.

"Costs of acquiring a player's registration" means payments made to third parties for the acquisition of a player's registration (excluding any internal development or other costs) and includes the following:

a) transfer fees (including training compensation and solidarity contributions) payable for securing the player's registration; and

b) other direct costs of obtaining the player's registration (including a transfer fee levy and fees to agents).

"Deadline for submission of the application to the GFA" means the date by which the GFA requires Licence Applicants to have submitted all relevant information for their applications for a GFA Domestic Club Licence.

"Event or condition of major economic importance" means an event or condition that is considered material to the financial statements of the Reporting Entity/Entities and would require a different (adverse) presentation of the results of the operations, financial position and net assets of the reporting entity if it occurred during the preceding financial reporting period.

"Financial Information" means Information in respect of the financial performance and position of the Club Member in the reporting periods ending in the years following commencement of the GFA club competitions.

"Football Club" means a legal entity fully responsible for a football team.

"GFA" means the Gibraltar Football Association.

"GFA Domestic Club Licence" means a Gold or Silver Certificate granted by the GFA confirming fulfilment of all minimum criteria by the Licence Applicant as part of the licensing process and Core Process for entering GFA club competitions.

"GFA senior club competitions" means the GFA National League, Rock Cup and any other competitions that may be deemed by the GFA to be senior club competitions from time to time.

"Group" means in relation to a legal person ("A"), means A and any person who is:

a) a parent undertaking of A;

b) a subsidiary undertaking of A;

c) a subsidiary undertaking of a parent undertaking of A;

d) a parent undertaking of a subsidiary undertaking of A; or

e) an undertaking in which A or an undertaking mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) has a participating interest.

f) a parent and all its subsidiaries. A parent is an entity that has one or more subsidiaries. A subsidiary is an entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership, that is controlled by another entity (known as the parent).

"Historic Financial Information" means information in respect of the financial performance and position of a football club or Club Member in the reporting periods ending in the years prior to commencement of the GFA club competitions.

"International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)" means standards and interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IAASB). These comprise of:

a) International Financial Reporting Standards;

b) International Accounting Standards; and

c) Interpretations originated by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) or the former Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC).

"International Standards on Auditing (ISA)/Review, Review Engagements (RSE) and Related Services (ISRS) is a reference to the standards issued by the International Auditing Assurance Standards Board ("IAASB") on:

a) Auditing (ISA) which are to be applied in audits of historical financial information;

b) Review Engagements (ISRE) which are to be applied in reviews of historical financial information;

c) Related Services (ISRS) which are to be applied to compilation engagements and engagements to apply agreed-upon procedures to information.

"Historic Financial Information" means information in respect of the financial performance and position of the Football Club in the reporting periods ending in the years prior to commencement of the GFA club competitions.

"Licence Applicant" means a Football Club that must be fully and solely responsible for the team participating in GFA and GFA senior club competitions which applies for the GFA Domestic Club Licence

"Licensee" means a Licence Applicant which has been granted the GFA Domestic Club Licence by the GFA.

"Licence Season" means the GFA football season during which the Licence Applicant has been granted a GFA Domestic Club Licence for.

"Licensor" means the GFA.

"List of Licensing Decision" means the list submitted to the GFA containing, among other things, information about the Licence Applicants that have undergone the licensing process and whether they have been granted or refused the GFA Domestic Club Licence by the GFA decision making bodies in the form established by GFA.

"Materiality" means any omissions, misstatements, misleading statements or statements of items or information which are material because they could individually or collectively influence the decisions of those responsible for considering such information. Materiality depends on the nature of the omission, misstatement, misleading statement or any other similar statements as well as the context and circumstances of the case.

"Minimum Criteria" means the criteria to be fulfilled by a Licence Applicant in order to be granted the GFA Licence.

"National Accounting Practice" means the accounting and reporting practices and disclosures that legal persons are required to comply with under Gibraltar Law.

"Participating Interest" means an interest held by an undertaking in the shares of another undertaking which it holds on a long-term basis for the purpose of securing a contribution to its activities by the exercise of control or influence arising from or related to that interest. A holding of 20% or more in the shares of an undertaking is presumed to be a participating interest unless the contrary is shown. An interest held on behalf of an undertaking is to be treated as held by it. The reference to an interest in shares includes:

a) an interest which is convertible into an interest in shares; and

b) an option to acquire shares or any such interest;

c) an interest or option that falls within scope of (a) or (b) notwithstanding that the shares to which it relates are, until the conversion or the exercise of the option, unissued.

"Parent Undertaking" has the meaning given in section 276 of the Companies Act 2014 as may be amended from time to time.

"Reporting Entity/Entities" means a Football Club and/or group of entities or some other combination of entities which must provide the GFA with information for the Domestic Club Licensing Process, the Core Process and for the purposes of complying with the GFA's Club Monitoring Requirements.

"Reporting Period" means a financial reporting period ending on a statutory closing date, whether this is a year or not.

"Significant Change" means a change which occurs and is considered material to the information previously submitted to the GFA or the Football Club's position. This may include, but is not limited to, any change in the Football Club's business, operations, assets, liabilities, ownership or capital of the Issuer and any subsidiary considered on a consolidated basis that would reasonably be expected to have a significant effect on the Football Club.

"Sponsorship Relationship" means the financial support for a football club's activity by an outside body (be it a person or organisation) for the mutual benefit of both parties.

"Stadium" means the venue for a competition match including, but not limited to, all surrounding properties and facilities (for example offices, hospitality areas, press centre and accreditation centre).

"Statutory Closing Date" means the annual accounting reference date of a Reporting Entity/Entities.

"Subsidiary Undertaking" has the meaning given in section 276 of the Companies Act 2014 as may be amended from time to time.

"Supplementary Information" means information to be submitted to the GFA in addition to the financial statements if the minimum requirements for disclosure and accounting are not met. The supplementary information must be prepared on a basis of accounting, and accounting policies, consistent with the financial statements. Financial information must be extracted from sources consistent with those used for the preparation of the annual financial statements. Where appropriate, disclosures in the supplementary information must agree with, or be reconciled to, the relevant disclosures in the financial statements.

"Training Facilities" means the venue(s) at which a Football Club's registered players undertake football training and/or youth development activities on a regular basis.

" Ultimate controlling party" means a natural or legal person who/which has, directly or indirectly, ultimate control of an entity.

"Undertaking" has the meaning given in section 277(1) of the Companies Act 2014 as may be amended from time to time.

2) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to one gender shall include a reference to the other genders.

3) In these Regulations, an obligation on a Licence Applicant, Licensee or Football Club not to do something includes an obligation not to allow that thing to be done.

4) In these Regulations reference to a "person" includes a natural person, corporate or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality) unless otherwise stated.

3. THE GFA

1) The GFA is a UEFA and FIFA Member Association and governs its Domestic Club Licensing System and for the purposes of these Regulations will be the Licensor.

2) As Licensor, the GFA must:

a) establish an appropriate Licensing Administration as defined in regulation 4;

b) establish at least two Decision-Making Bodies as set out in regulation 6;

c) set up a Catalogue of Sanctions as defined in regulation 74;

d) define the Core Process as defined in Schedule 1;

e) assess the documentation submitted by the Licence Applicants, consider whether this is appropriate and determine whether each criterion has been met and what further information, if any, is needed.

f) ensure equal treatment of all Licence Applicants and guarantee them full confidentiality with regard to all information provided during the licensing process and Core Process in accordance with regulation 20;

g) determine whether the GFA DCL shall be granted, refused or withdrawn.

4. THE LICENSING ADMINISTRATION

1) The Licensing Administration established by the GFA will be responsible for:

a) preparing, implementing and further developing the GFA Club Licensing System;

b) providing administrative support to the Decision-Making Bodies;

c) assisting, advising and monitoring the Licensees during the GFA football season;

2) At least one staff member or an external financial adviser must have a financial background and a diploma in accountancy/auditing recognised by the appropriate national body (e.g. national trade association), or must have several years' experience in the above matters (a "recognition of competence").

5. THE LICENSING MANAGER

1) The GFA will appoint a Licensing Manager who will be responsible for the Licensing Administration.

2) The Licensing Manager must not form part of either the Club Licensing First Instance Board or the Club Licensing Appeals Board.

3) The Licensing Manager may appoint a Deputy Licensing Manager, an expert for each of the Club Licensing Criteria and three more people to form part of the Licensing Administration.

4) The Licensing Manager must ensure that the necessary procedures relating to the GFA Domestic Club Licensing System as provided in these Regulations are carried out in the most efficient manner within the established time limits. Furthermore, the Licensing Manager and the staff of the Licensing Administration are subject to the rules on confidentiality as set out in these Regulations.

5) The Licensing Manager must inform the GFA of any event or changes occurring after the licensing decision that constitutes a significant change to the information previously submitted to the GFA, as soon as the Licensing Manager has been made aware of it, including a change of legal form or legal group structure.

6. THE DECISION-MAKING BODIES

1) The decision-making bodies that the GFA is required to establish are the First Instance Body ("FIB") and the Appeals Body ("AB") and they must be independent of each other.

2) The FIB and the AB is established by the GFA in accordance with regulations 7 to 19.

3) The FIB and AB must operate in accordance with these Regulations which may be amended from time to time.

7. POWERS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIB

1) The FIB will be the body of first instance in the GFA Domestic Club Licensing System that will govern all matters with which it is entrusted to govern in these Regulations in accordance with these Regulations.

2) The FIB has the power to grant or refuse the GFA DCL to a Licence Applicant.

3) The FIB may:

   a) impose a condition on a DCL;

   b) vary a condition imposed on a DCL; or

   c) cancel a condition on a DCL.

4) The FIB is also responsible for deciding whether a GFA DCL should be withdrawn in accordance with regulation 10 below.

5) The FIB may also make any decision or do anything that is reasonable, proportionate and deemed necessary in order to ensure that during the Licence Season a Licensee is complying with the Licensing Criteria set out in these Regulations and any conditions which may have been imposed on its DCL.

6) If the FIB:

a) refuses to grant a Licence Applicant a GFA DCL;

b) Decides that a GFA DCL should be withdrawn;

the Licence Applicant or Licensee (if the FIB decides that a DCL should be withdrawn) has the right to appeal, in writing, to the AB within 7 days of the date of the FIB's decision and is allowed to submit any evidence it deems relevant to the Appeal.

8. DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

1) Applications for a DCL will be determined in accordance with the Core Process set out in Schedule 1.

2) If the FIB is satisfied that the Licence Applicant has fulfilled the requirements set out in these Regulations, the GFA DCL will be granted to the Licence Applicant.

3) If the FIB is not satisfied that the Licence Applicant has fulfilled the requirements set out in these Regulations, the GFA DCL will not be granted to the Licence Applicant and the rights set out in regulation 7(6) above will apply.

4) An application under these Regulations must:

a) be made in such manner, or form or verified in such a way as the FIB may direct; and

b) contain, or be accompanied by, such other information as the FIB may reasonably require.

5) At any time after the application for a DCL is received and before it is determined, the FIB may require the applicant to provide it with such further information as it reasonably considers necessary to enable it to determine the application.

6) The GFA may determine that an application is incomplete and therefore not process it if it considers it appropriate to do so.

7) The Licence Applicant may withdraw the application for a DCL, by giving the FIB notice, at any time before the FIB determines it.

8) In considering:

a) an application for a DCL under these Regulations;

b) whether to refuse or withdraw a DCL; or

c) whether to impose or vary a condition on a DCL,

the FIB may have regard to any person appearing to it to be, or to be likely to be, in a relationship with the firm given permission which is relevant.

9. IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS

1) In this regulation "condition" means a condition imposed under regulation 7(3).

2) The FIB may exercise its powers under regulation 7(3) above if it appears to the FIB that:

a) The football club has failed, is failing, or likely to fail, to satisfy the Licensing Criteria or any of its obligations set out in these Regulations;

b) Exercising its power:

i. is necessary in order to avoid or reduce significant risk to any of the objectives of the GFA set out in these Regulations; and

ii. would be reasonable and proportionate having regard to all the circumstances.

3) A condition may, in particular be imposed:

a) so as to require a football club concerned to take specified action; or

b) so as to require a football club concerned to refrain from taking specified action.

4) A condition may take effect on or after the granting of a DCL, as the FIB considers appropriate.

5) A condition may be expressed to expire at the end of such period as the GFA may specify, but the imposition of a condition that expires at the end of a specified period does not affect the GFA's power to impose a new condition.

6) A condition may refer to the past conduct of the football club concerned (for example, by requiring the football club to review or take remedial action in respect of past conduct).

7) If the FIB decides to impose or vary a condition, it must provide the football club concerned with a written notice of its intention to do so, within a reasonable time frame, and provide the reasons for imposing or varying such a condition prior to determining an application or finalising its decision to impose or vary such a condition, whichever occurs later.

10. WITHDRAWALS

1) The FIB shall have the power to withdraw a GFA DCL only when:

a) any of the conditions for the issuing of the GFA licence are no longer satisfied by the Licensee; or

b) the Licensee violates any of its obligations under these Regulations.

2) If the FIB decides to exercise its power set out in sub-regulation (1) above, the FIB must notify the Licensee of its intention, in writing, by no later than 7 working days before the date of withdrawal.

11. THE FIB COMPOSITION

1) The members of the FIB shall be elected by the GFA.

2) The FIB will be comprised of five (5) members as follows:

   a) a Chairman;

   b) two Deputy Chairmen; and

   c) two other members,

   of which at least one member must be, or must have been within the last five years, a financial expert (a registered statutory auditor under the Financial Services Act 2019 or a qualified chartered accountant recognised by an appropriate national professional body), and the other must be a barrister or solicitor enrolled in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar under the Supreme Court Act.

3) The members referred to in sub-regulation 2 above may each nominate an alternate member who must be approved by the GFA and adhere to the qualification requirements of the member for whom that person acts as an alternate.

4) An alternate has the same functions as a member but may only attend and vote at a meeting of the FIB if the member for whom the alternate serves as an alternate is unable to attend the meeting or is prevented from participating in proceedings at that meeting due to conflict-of-interest reasons.

5) A member or alternate holds office in accordance with terms and conditions determined by the GFA on appointment or as varied by the GFA from time to time.

6) The GFA may re-appoint as a member or alternate a person who is (or has been) a member or alternate, except where that person was removed in accordance with regulation 12(3) below.

7) The GFA shall have the right to substitute temporarily any member or alternate of the FIB who for any reason whatsoever is temporarily unable to discharge their duties. In the case of a substitution, the GFA shall ensure that the substitute adheres to the qualification requirements of the substituted member as established in these Regulations. Should the GFA fail to make a substitution when so required, the FIB shall still be able to perform its functions provided it has the required quorum (defined below).

8) The FIB must be independent to the AB.

12. RESIGNATION & REMOVAL OF THE FIB MEMBERS

1) Members or alternates of the FIB may resign at any time by giving written notice to the GFA of at least one (1) month.

2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation 1 above, the members of FIB may not resign once they have been notified of when the GFA Domestic Club Licensing process will begin in accordance with the Core Process set out in Schedule 1 and may only resign by giving the GFA written notice of at least one (1) month, after the GFA Domestic Club Licensing process has ended.

3) The GFA, after consulting the other members of the FIB, may remove a member on the grounds of:

   a) incapacity;

   b) gross misconduct;

   c) being convicted of an indictable offence;

   d) being otherwise unable or unfit to continue.

4) If a FIB Member is removed in accordance with sub-regulation 3 above, the GFA will elect a new member within 14 days from the date of the removal in accordance with these Regulations.

13. PROCEDURE & MEETINGS OF THE FIB

1) The quorum at any meeting of the FIB is at least three members (including any members who are present by electronic means).

2) If the Chair is absent from or unable to preside at a meeting:

   a) At least one of the Deputy Chair, acting as the Chair, must preside at the meeting; or

   b) If neither of the two Deputy Chair can preside at the meeting, the Chair's alternate (if one has been appointed).

3) In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, the person authorised to act as Chair (such as the Deputy Chair or the alternate), has a second and casting vote.

4) The Chairman of the FIB (or a Deputy Chairman, if he is acting as Chairman) has an original vote and a casting vote in case of a tie.

5) The GFA must appoint a Secretary to assist the FIB in its duties and who shall be responsible for administrative matters. The Secretary may be a staff member of the GFA.

6) The Secretary must not vote.

14. IMPARTIALITY & CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE FIB

1) The members of the FIB must not belong simultaneously to another Judicial Body of the GFA (as this term is defined in the GFA Articles).

2) A member of the FIB or a member of that persons family (spouse, children, parent or siblings) must not have any association, that could cause a conflict of interest, with any Licence Applicant or Club Member.

3) A member of the FIB must act impartially in the discharge of their duties and abstain if there is any doubt as to their impartiality regarding the Licence Applicant or if that member has a conflict of interest.

4) A member of the FIB must not belong simultaneously to the executive body of the GFA.

5) A member of the FIB must not belong simultaneously to the management personnel of an affiliated club.

6) A member of the FIB must not act simultaneously as licensing manager;

7) Each member of the FIB shall be bound by the Equal Treatment Provisions set out in regulation 20 below.

15. THE POWERS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AB

1) The AB shall decide on all Appeals referred to in regulation 7(6) above.

2) The AB decides on Appeals submitted in writing and makes a final decision on whether a licence should be granted, refused or withdrawn.

3) The AB makes its decision based on the decision of the FIB and all the evidence provided by the Appellant with its written request for an Appeal and by the deadline set by the AB.

4) The AB's decision will be final and binding. No appeal can be lodged before any State or arbitration court against the decisions of the AB.

5) Appeals may only be lodged by:

   a) a Licence Applicant who received a refusal from the FIB;

   b) a Licensee whose GFA DCL has been withdrawn by the FIB; or

   c) the GFA.

6) The AB must be independent to the FIB.

16. THE AB COMPOSITION.

1) The members of the AB shall be elected by the GFA.

2) The AB will be comprised of no less than three (3) members, who must be as follows:

   a) a Chairman;

   b) a Deputy Chairmen; and

   c) another member,

   of which at least one member must be, or must have been within the last five years, a financial expert (a registered statutory auditor under the Financial Services Act 2019 or a qualified chartered accountant recognised by an appropriate national professional body), and the other must be a barrister or solicitor enrolled in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar under the Supreme Court Act.

3) The members referred to in sub-regulation 2 above may each nominate an alternate member who must be approved by the GFA and adhere to the qualification requirements of the member for whom that person acts as an alternate.

4) An alternate has the same functions as a member but may only attend and vote at a meeting of the AB if the member for whom the alternate serves as an alternate is unable to attend the meeting or is prevented from participating in proceedings at that meeting due to conflict-of-interest reasons.

5) A member or alternate holds office in accordance with terms and conditions determined by the GFA on appointment or as varied by the GFA from time to time.

6) The GFA may re-appoint as a member or alternate a person who is (or has been) a member or alternate, except where that person was removed in accordance with sub-regulation 18(3).

7) The GFA shall have the right to substitute temporarily any member or alternate of the AB who for any reason whatsoever is temporarily unable to discharge their duties. In the case of a substitution, the GFA shall ensure that the substitute adheres to the qualification requirements of the substituted member as established in these Regulations. Should the GFA fail to make a substitution when so required, the AB shall still be able to perform its functions provided it has the required quorum (defined below).

17. IMPARTIALITY & CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE AB.

1) The members of the AB must not belong simultaneously to another Judicial Body of the GFA (as this term is defined in the GFA Articles).

2) A member of the AB or a member of that persons family (spouse, children, parent or siblings) must not have any association, that could cause a conflict of interest, with any Licence Applicant or Club Member.

3) A member of the AB must act impartially in the discharge of their duties and abstain if there is any doubt as to their impartiality regarding the Licence Applicant or if that member has a conflict of interest.

4) A member of the AB must not belong simultaneously to the executive body of the GFA.

5) A member of the AB must not belong simultaneously to the management personnel of an affiliated club.

6) A member of the AB must not act simultaneously as licensing manager;

7) Each member of the AB shall be bound by the Equal Treatment provision set out in Regulation 20 below.

18. RESIGNATION & REMOVAL OF THE AB MEMBERS.

1) Members or alternates of the AB may resign at any time by giving written notice to the GFA of at least one (1) month.

2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation 1 above, the members of AB may not resign once they have been notified of when the GFA Domestic Club Licensing process will begin in accordance with the Core Process set out in Schedule 1 and may only resign by giving the GFA written notice of at least one (1) month, after the GFA Domestic Club Licensing process has ended.

3) The GFA, after consulting the other members of the AB, may remove a member on the grounds of:

   a) incapacity;

b) gross misconduct;

c) being convicted of an indictable offence;

d) being otherwise unable or unfit to continue.

4) If an AB Member is removed in accordance with sub-regulation 3 above, the GFA will elect a new member within 14 days from the date of the removal in accordance with these Regulations.

19. PROCEDURE & MEETINGS OF THE AB.

1) The quorum at any meeting of the FIB is at least three members (including any members who are present by electronic means).

2) If the Chair is absent from or unable to preside at a meeting:

a) At least one of the Deputy Chair, acting as the Chair, must preside at the meeting; or

b) If neither of the two Deputy Chair can preside at the meeting, the Chair's alternate (if one has been appointed).

3) In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, the person authorised to act as Chair (such as the Deputy Chair or the alternate), has a second and casting vote.

4) The Chairman of the AB (or a Deputy Chairman, if he is acting as Chairman) has an original vote and a casting vote in case of a tie.

5) The GFA must appoint a Secretary to assist the AB in its duties and who shall be responsible for administrative matters. The Secretary may be a staff member of the GFA.

6) The Secretary must not vote.

20. EQUAL TREATMENT.

1) The GFA must ensure the equal treatment of all Licence Applicants during the licensing process and Core Process.

2) The GFA guarantees Licence Applicants full confidentiality with regard to all information submitted during the licensing process and Core Process.

3) Each person involved in the licensing process and Core Process established in these Regulations shall, sign a confidentiality agreement before assuming their tasks.

4) The confidentiality agreement will consist of a signed written declaration that the person involved in the Licensing and Core Process will not, in any manner whatsoever, divulge to anybody, any information (including the contents of any document) that they may become aware of.

5) The confidentiality agreement referred to in this regulation must be submitted to the Licensing Manager.

6) Any person who contravenes this regulation or the confidentiality agreement signed shall be in breach of their duty of confidentiality towards the GFA, Club Members (if applicable), Licence

Applicants (if applicable) and/or any individual concerned (if applicable) and therefore guilty of an offence of gross misconduct.

7) The person guilty of such an offence:

a) shall be dismissed by the GFA from any office or position held by that person within the GFA and prohibited from holding any office or position within the GFA for a period of three (3) years; and

b) the GFA and/or, if applicable the aggrieved Club Member, Licensee or individual concerned shall have a claim against such persons for any damages suffered as a result of the breach.

21. THE LICENCE APPLICANT.

1) A Licence Applicant may only be a Football Club i.e. a legal entity fully responsible for a (first) football team wishing to participate in national (GFA) competitions, and duly registered as a Club Member with the Gibraltar FA, as this term is more specifically defined in the Gibraltar FA Statutes.

22. THE LICENCE APPLICANT'S GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

1) The Licence Applicant must provide the GFA with:

a) all necessary information and/or relevant documents as set out in these Regulations and the Core Process to fully demonstrate that the licensing obligations and criteria set out in these Regulations are fulfilled;

b) any other documents deemed relevant for the application to obtain the GFA DCL;

c) all information on the Reporting Entity/Entities in respect of which sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial information is required to be provided;

d) information on any event occurring after the submission of the licensing documentation to the GFA representing a Significant Change to the information previously submitted. Such information must be promptly notified to the GFA (including a change of the licence applicant's legal form, legal group structure or identity).

2) Any change to the legal form, legal group structure (including a merger with another entity or transfer of football activities to another entity) or identity (including headquarters, name or colours) of a licence applicant during this period to the detriment of the integrity of a competition or to facilitate the licence applicant's qualification for a competition on sporting merit or its receipt of a licence is deemed as an interruption of membership or contractual relationship (if any) within the meaning of this provision.

3) In the event that a Licence Applicant is serving a suspension from competing in UEFA Club Competitions, they will only be eligible to apply for a DCL. For the avoidance of doubt, the Licence Applicant may only apply for a UEFA Club Licence once the suspension has been fully served.

4) In the event that a men's first team squad reach the GFA Rock Cup semi-final, the Licence Applicant will be permitted to amend their application to the UEFA Club Licence application.

23. THE GFA DCL

1) The GFA DCL will be awarded in accordance with these Regulations.

2) In order to participate in the GFA men's and women's senior club competitions, the Licence Applicant must obtain the GFA DCL.

3) These Regulations specify the criteria that will need to be fulfilled in order for a GFA DCL to be granted.

4) A Licensee must, during the Licence Season, continue to comply with these Regulations and any conditions imposed on the GFA DCL.

5) The DCL may be withdrawn by the FIB during the season if the Licensee is unable to complete the season. Under such circumstances, the Licensee will be unable to apply for a GFA DCL for two full seasons following its revocation.

6) The GFA DCL is granted for one season only and will expire automatically without prior notice at the end of the season for which it was issued.

7) The GFA DCL is not transferable.

8) The GFA DCL will also entitle Football Clubs to enter the GFA futsal, and youth competitions, subject to satisfying any further criteria that may, from time to time, be in force.

PART 3
DOMESTIC CLUB LICENSING CRITERIA

24. GENERAL.

1) The criteria defined in this Part 3 must be fulfilled by Licence Applicants in order for the GFA DCL to be granted.

2) A Licence Applicant must further fulfil all the requirements, on an ongoing basis, of the relevant GFA club competition regulations to be admitted to the relevant GFA club competition. The admission process falls under the sole jurisdiction of GFA and its competent bodies. The competent bodies of GFA make the final decision regarding the admission of a Licence Applicant or Licensee to participate in any GFA club competition.

SPORTING CRITERIA

25. SPORTING CRITERIA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME *GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT ONLY*.

1) The Licence Applicant must have a written youth development programme approved by the GFA. The GFA must verify the implementation of the approved youth development programme and evaluate its quality.

2) This education programme must include at least the following:

a) Objectives and youth development philosophy;

b) Organisation of youth sector (organisational chart, bodies involved, relation to Licence Applicant, youth teams, etc.);

c) Personnel (technical, medical, administrative, etc.) and required minimum qualifications;

d) Infrastructure available for youth sector (training and match facilities, other);

e) Financial resources (available budget, contribution by the Licence Applicant, players or local community, etc.);

f) Football education programme for the different age groups (playing skills, technical, tactical and physical);

g) Education programme on the Laws of the Game;

h) Education programme on anti-doping;

i) Education programme on integrity and anti-racism;

j) Medical support for youth players (including medical checks and maintaining medical records);

k) Review and feedback process to evaluate the results and the achievements of the set objectives; and

l) Validity of the programme (at least 3 years but maximum 7 years).

3) The Licence Applicant must also ensure that:

a) every youth player involved in its youth development programme has the possibility to follow mandatory school education according to Gibraltar Law; and

b) no youth player involved in its youth development programme is prevented from continuing their non-football education.

26. COACH EDUCATION

1) The Licence Applicant must declare that they will release players, aged 8-19, to provide Coach Education with support for approximate 20 hours a season.

27. SPORTING CRITERIA YOUTH TEAMS*GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT ONLY*.

1) The Licence Applicant must at least have the following youth teams within its legal entity, another legal entity included in the reporting perimeter or a club affiliated to its legal entity, which teams must participate in competitions organised by the GFA and/or the Junior GFA:

a) at least two youth teams under the age of 10 or organised football activities for under-10s;

b) at least two youth teams within the age range of 10 to 21.

28. WOMEN'S FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

1) The licence applicant must support women's football by implementing measures and activities aimed to further develop, professionalise and popularise women's football such as:

   a) entering a first and/or youth team in official competitions;

   b) providing support to an affiliated women's football club;

   c) organising other women's football initiatives as defined by the licensor;

   d) Support the GFA's player pathway as per the GFA's strategy and support the GFA's senior National Team elite development programme; or

   e) encouraging and supporting the development of female referees by identifying and appointing at least one female referee to officiate in domestic youth competitions (U8–U12), with a view to progressing to the Women's League upon completion of the relevant training. Where possible, the appointed referee should be available to officiate at least one (1) match per month.

29. MEDICAL CARE OF PLAYERS.

1) The Licence Applicant must ensure that all Coaching staff hold an up-to-date Basic Life Support qualification recognised in Europe, prior to the commencement of each season.

2) The licence applicant must establish and apply a policy to ensure that all players (including Women) above the age of 12 undergo a yearly medical examination in accordance with the relevant provisions defined by its licensor in line with the UEFA Medical Regulations and domestic legislation.

3) The licence applicant must ensure that all players eligible to play for its first squad are covered by health insurance in accordance with the relevant national legislation.

4) The licence applicant must appoint a designated and suitably qualified individual to act as the lead contact for the medical care of players, including matters relating to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

5) The licence applicant must have an Emergency action plan (EAP) and AED provision.

6) The licence applicant must provide a declaration that they comply with the GFA Club Licensing Medical Standards and Implementation Guidelines.

30. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS.

1) All players of the Licence Applicant, from the age of 10 and above, participating in both Men's & Women's competitions, must be registered with the GFA in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

31. WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS.

1) All professional players of the Licence Applicant, participating in both Men's & Women's competitions, must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

32. LOANS OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

1) The licence applicant must respect the provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players with regard to loans of professional players participating in both Men's & Women's competitions.

33. REFEREEING MATTERS AND LAWS OF THE GAME.

1) The Licence Applicant must attend a session or event for refereeing matters and Laws of the Game organised by the GFA during the year prior to the Licence Season.

The Licence Applicant must ensure that all members of its men's and women's squads (players, coaches and other technical staff) attend a session or event for refereeing matters and Laws of the Game organised by the GFA during the year prior to the Licence Season.

2) The Licence Applicant must ensure that all coaches in grassroots football attend a Preseason presentation from referee department prior to season starting.

34. RACIAL EQUALITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PRACTICE.

1) The Licence Applicant must establish and apply a policy to tackle racism and discrimination in football in line with GFA's 10-point plan on racism as defined in the GFA Safety and Security Regulations.

35. MATCH FIXING & INTEGRITY

1) The Licence Applicant must attend a session or event for Match Fixing awareness and Integrity organised by the GFA during the year prior to the Licence Season.

2) The Licence Applicant must ensure that all members of its men's, women's and futsal squads (players, coaches and other technical staff) attend this session or event must attend this session or event.

36. SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

1) The licence applicant must establish and implement a social & environmental sustainability strategy in line with the UEFA Football Sustainability Strategy 2030 and relevant UEFA guidelines, for at least the areas of equality and inclusion, anti-racism, child and youth protection and welfare, football for all abilities, and environmental protection.

37. CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION AND WELFARE

1) The licence applicant must establish and implement a policy to protect, safeguard and ensure the welfare of youth players and ensure they are in a safe environment when participating in activities organised by the licence applicant.

2) The Licence Applicant must confirm that Coaches and Staff have completed the relevant safeguarding and first aid courses.

3) The Licence Applicant must ensure that all youth coaches attend a Safeguarding workshop, run by the Licensor, every 2 years. Attendance will contribute to the Coach's CPD.

4) The Licence Applicant must complete form 1.4B "Football Club Safeguarding Children Policy" GFA 1 - Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.pdf (gibraltarfa.com)

5) The Licence Applicant must upload the completed "Football Club Safeguarding Children Policy" onto their website and provide the Licensor with a link.

6) The Licence Applicant must submit a copy of the Club's code of conduct for players, coaches & parents.

7) The Licence Applicant must ensure that the Safeguarding Officer and Head of Youth attend at least two out of the three Safeguarding workshops arranged by the GFA throughout the year.

38. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

The licence applicant must establish and implement a policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all people following and contributing to football activities organised by the licence applicant.

39. FOOTBALL FOR ALL ABILITIES

1) The licence applicant must establish and implement a policy to make following and contributing to football activities organised by the licence applicant accessible and enjoyable for everyone, irrespective of disability or disabling factors.

40. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1) The licence applicant must establish and implement a policy to improve its environmental footprint and sustainability in relation to the organisation of events, infrastructure construction and management.

INFRASTRUCTURE CRITERIA

41. STADIUM FOR UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS

1) The Licence Applicant must have a Stadium available for playing UEFA club competitions matches which must be based within the territory of the GFA and approved by the GFA in accordance with the UEFA Stadium Infrastructure Regulations.

2) If the Licence Applicant is not the owner of the Stadium, it must provide a written contract with the owner(s) for its use.

3) It must be guaranteed that the Stadium can be used for the Licence Applicant's UEFA home matches during the Licence Season.

4) The Stadium must fulfil all minimum requirements defined in the UEFA Stadium Infrastructure Regulations and be classified at least under UEFA Stadium Category 2.

42. TRAINING FACILITIES –AVAILABILITY AND MINIMUM INFRASTRUCTURE

1) The Licence Applicant must have training facilities available for regular training throughout the year.

2) If the Licence Applicant is not the owner of the training facilities, it must provide a written contract with the owner(s) for their use.

3) It must be guaranteed that the training facilities can be used by all teams of the Licence Applicant during the Licence Season, taking into account its youth development programme.

4) As a minimum, the infrastructure of the training facilities must include outdoor and indoor facilities, the specificities of those facilities (i.e. number and size of football pitches), dressing rooms, a medical room (with defibrillator and first aid kit), floodlighting, any other relevant requirements identified by the GFA.

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA

43. BOARD / COMMITTEE.

1) The Licence Applicant must have a Board of Directors or a Committee consisting of at least the following posts:-

   a) President, Chair or a Managing Director;

   b) Vice-President or Vice-Chair;

   c) Club Secretariat;

   d) Treasurer or Finance Officer.

44. PHYSIOTHERAPIST *GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT*.

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed at least one Health and Care Profession Council ("HCPC") registered Physiotherapist or Sports Therapist, who is responsible for the treatment and rehabilitation for the Men's & Women's first squad during training and matches. This person should liaise with the medical doctor regarding all medical matters.

2) The HCPC registered Physiotherapist must hold all of the following minimum qualifications:

   a) Must be Gibraltar Medical Registration Board ("GMRB") and HCPC registered with a degree in Physiotherapy;

   b) Must possess the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; and

   c) Must possess a valid Basic life support / Pitch side first aid qualification, as approved by the GFA Chief Medical Officer.

3) The Sports Therapist must hold all of the following qualifications:

   a) A Graduate sport therapist with an accredited UK degree;

   b) A member of a recognised UK Sport Therapy professional body;

   c) Must possess the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; and

   d) Must possess a valid Basic life support / Pitch side first aid qualification, as approved by the GFA Chief Medical Officer.

4) The HCPC registered Osteopath must hold all of the following minimum qualifications

   a) Must be GMRB and HCPC registered with a degree in Osteopathy;

b) Must be Gibraltar Medical Registration Board ("GMRB") and HCPC registered with a degree in Osteopathy;

c) Must possess the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; and

d) Must possess a valid Basic life support / Pitch side first aid qualification, as approved by the GFA Chief Medical Officer.

5) He must be duly registered with the GFA.

45. HEAD COACH OF THE MEN'S FIRST SQUAD

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified head coach who is responsible for football matters of the first squad.

2) The head coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) A valid UEFA B Coaching licence; **(GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

b) A valid UEFA C Coaching Licence **(SILVER LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

c) Valid UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (a) above;

d) A non-UEFA Coaching Award which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (a) and (b) above;

e) Started or registered for an education course for the diploma required under (a) or (b) above.

3) The head coach must be:

a) registered with the GFA; and

b) fit and proper to be a head coach.

46. ASSISTANT COACH OF MEN'S FIRST SQUAD.

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified coach who assists the head coach in all football matters of the first squad.

2) The assistant coach of the first squad must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) A valid UEFA C Coaching Licence; **(GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

b) A valid UEFA Level 1 Award in Coaching Football; **(SILVER LICENCE)**

c) Valid UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent or higher to the one required for the GFA Licence under (a) above;

d) A non-UEFA Coaching Award which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (a) in respect of a Gold Licence or (b) in respect of a Silver Licence above

e) Started or registered for an education course for the diploma required under (a) in respect of a Gold Licence or (b) in respect of a Silver Licence above.

3) The assistant coach of the first squad must be:

a) registered with the GFA; and

b) fit and proper to be an assistant coach.

47. GOALKEEPER COACH

1) The licence applicant must have appointed a qualified goalkeeper coach who assists the head coach in goalkeeping matters of the first squad.

2) The goalkeeper coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) Second highest available valid GFA goalkeeper licence; or

b) Valid GFA B goalkeeper certificate.

48. HEAD COACH OF WOMEN'S FIRST SQUAD

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified head coach who is responsible for football matters of the women's first squad.

2) The head coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) A valid UEFA B Coaching licence; **(GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

b) A valid UEFA C licence **(SILVER LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

c) Valid UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (a) or (b) above;

d) A non-UEFA Coaching Award which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (a) and (b) above;

e) Started or registered for an education course for the diploma required under (a) or (b) above.

3) The head coach must be:

a) registered with the GFA; and

b) fit and proper to be a head coach.

49. ASSISTANT COACH OF WOMEN'S FIRST SQUAD

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified coach who assists the head coach in all football matters of the first squad.

2) The assistant coach of the first squad must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) A valid UEFA C Licence; **(GOLD LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

b) A valid FLA Coaching Award **(SILVER LICENCE REQUIREMENT)**

c) Valid UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent or higher to the one required for the GFA Licence under (a) or (B) above;

d) A non-UEFA Coaching Award which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (a) in respect of a Gold Licence above

e) Started or registered for an education course for the diploma required under (a) or (b) above.

3) The assistant coach of the first squad must be:

a) registered with the GFA; and

b) fit and proper to be a head coach.

50. GOALKEEPER COACH OF WOMEN'S FIRST SQUAD

1) The licence applicant must have appointed a qualified goalkeeper coach who assists the head coach in goalkeeping matters of the Women's first squad.

2) The goalkeeper coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) Second highest available valid GFA goalkeeper licence; or

b) Valid GFA C goalkeeper certificate.

Article 50 would come into force for the 2029/30 season.

51. YOUTH COACHES

1) For each mandatory youth team, the licence applicant must have appointed at least one qualified coach who is responsible for all football matters related to that team.

2) At least three youth team head coaches must each hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications, issued by a UEFA member association in accordance with the UEFA Coaching Convention:

a) Valid UEFA Elite Youth A coaching licence;

b) Valid UEFA B or UEFA Youth B coaching licence if the licensor is not a signatory of the UEFA Coaching Convention at Pro level;

c) Valid UEFA recognition of competence equivalent to the licence required under a), b) and c) above as applicable.

d) Started an education course for the diploma required under (a), (b) or (c) above. Simple registration for the required diploma course is not sufficient for the purposes of these Regulations.

2) The youth coaches must:

a) Be Police vetted

b) Be Safeguarding qualified

c) Be First Aid qualified

d) not have been sanctioned by a GFA disciplinary body with a suspension exceeding 3 months within the last 3 years

e)

52. HEAD OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified head of the youth development programme who is responsible for running the daily business and the technical aspects of the youth sector.

2) The head of the youth development programme must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications:

a) Valid UEFA Elite Youth A coaching licence;

b) Valid UEFA B coaching licence;

c) Valid UEFA recognition of competence equivalent to the licence required under a) or b) above as applicable;

d) Started an education course for the diploma required under (a), (b) or (c) above. Simple registration for the required diploma course is not sufficient for the purposes of these Regulations.

3) The head of youth development programme must :

a) Be Police vetted

b) Be Safeguarding qualified

c) Be First Aid qualified

d) not have been sanctioned by a GFA disciplinary body with a suspension exceeding 3 months within the last 3 years

The head of the youth development programme must be duly registered with the GFA.

53. YOUTH TEAM MEDIC

1) The licence applicant must have appointed at least one doctor, physiotherapist, sports therapist or osteopath recognised as such by the appropriate national health authorities who is responsible for the medical care of the youth teams.

2) The qualification of the medical doctor must be recognised by the Gibraltar Health Authority.

3) He/She must be duly registered with the GFA.

54. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID OFFICER

1) The licence applicant must have appointed a mental health first aid officer who is responsible for the welfare and mental health of the licence applicant's players, club officials, personnel and administrative staff.

2) The Mental Health First Aid Officer must:

a) Be Police vetted

b) Be Safeguarding qualified

c) Be First Aid qualified

d) not have been sanctioned by a GFA disciplinary body with a suspension exceeding 3 months within the last 3 years

55. SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

1) The licence applicant must have appointed a safeguarding officer who is responsible for the safeguarding of the licence applicant's players, club officials, personnel and administrative staff.

2) The Safeguarding Officer must:

a) Be Police vetted

b) Be Safeguarding qualified

c) Be First Aid qualified

d) not have been sanctioned by a GFA disciplinary body with a suspension exceeding 3 months within the last 3 years

56. MEDIA OFFICER

1) The licence applicant must have appointed a media officer who is responsible for the licence applicant's media duties for men's and women's teams.

2) The Media Officer must complete the GFA media accreditation process.

3) The Media Officer must be:

a) Police vetted

b) Safeguarding qualified

57. PHOTOGRAPHERS

1) The licence applicant must inform the licensor of any photographers it has appointed.

2) The Photographers must complete the GFA media accreditation process.

3) The Photographers must be:

a) Police vetted

b) Safeguarding qualified

58. SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICER

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a supporter liaison officer to act as the key contact point for supporters.

2) The Supporter Liaison Officer will regularly meet and collaborate with the relevant club personnel on all related matters.

59. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR WOMEN'S FIRST SQUAD

1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed an Administrative Officer for its Women's First Squad.

60. DUTY OF REPLACEMENT DURING THE SEASON.

1) If a function defined in Regulations 43 – 59 above becomes vacant during the Licence Season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of 60 days, the function is taken over by a person who holds the required qualification.

2) In the event that a function becomes vacant due to an illness or accident, the GFA may grant an extension to the 60 day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume their duties.

3) The Licensee must promptly notify the GFA of any such replacement.

LEGAL CRITERA

61. DECLARATION IN RESPECT OF PARTICIPATION IN GFA CLUB COMPETITIONS.

1) The Licence Applicant must submit to the GFA a written, legally valid declaration confirming the following:

a) It recognises as legally binding the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, UEFA, the GFA, as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the UEFA/FIFA Statutes;

b) It will only play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by the GFA;

c) At international level, it will seek permission from the GFA prior to participating in non-GFA matches;

d) It will promptly inform the GFA about any Significant Change, Event or condition of major economic importance;

e) It will abide by and observe these Regulations;

f) It will be accountable for any consequences of an entity included in its legal structure not abiding by and observing these Regulations;

g) It is complying with the Business Trade and Professions (Registration) Act and is properly registered with the Ministry of Employment and is therefore allowed to contract professional players (if applicable);

h) it is an active member of the Gibraltar Football League Association ("GFLA") as this term is defined in the GFLA Articles of Association;

i) All submitted documents are completed and correct;

j) It authorises the GFA Domestic Club Licensing Administration and the Domestic Club Licensing Decision- Making Bodies (i.e. the FIB and AB), the GFA Administration, and the GFA Organs for the Administration of Justice to examine any relevant documents and seek information from any relevant public authority or private body in accordance with Gibraltar Law;

k) It will not make defamatory statements against the GFA, in particular it will not make defamatory statements that will bring either the game or the GFA into disrepute;

l) It will not make frivolous or vexatious claims against the GFA;

m) It will not deceive the GFA or provide untruthful or misleading information. Equally it will also not omit the truth from the GFA.

n) It acknowledges that the GFA reserves the right to execute compliance audits.

2) The Declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory of the Licence Applicant and include it as part of its application for a DCL.

62. MINIMUM LEGAL INFORMATION.

1) The Licence Applicant must submit a copy of its current, valid statutes, as well as an extract from a public register, containing the following minimum information;

a) Complete Legal Name;

b) Registered Address or Address of Headquarters;

c) Legal Form;

d) List of authorised Signatories;

e) Type of required signature (e.g. individual, collective).

f) Official contact details;

g) Address of its official public website;

h) Name and direct contact details of its main official contact person for club licensing matters;

i) Copy of current, valid statutes; and

j) Extract from public register.

63. LEGAL GROUP STRUCTURE AND ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY.

1) The Licence Applicant must provide the GFA with the information on the legal group structure as part of its application for the DCL, duly approved and signed by management.

2) The GFA must be informed of any changes there may have been to the legal group structure during the period between the statutory closing date and the submission of the chart to the GFA.

3) This document must clearly identify and include information on

a) the Licence Applicant;

b) any subsidiary of the Licence Applicant;

c) any associated entity of the Licence Applicant;

d) any direct or indirect controlling persons of the Licence Applicant (i.e., any party that has 10% or greater direct or indirect ownership of the Licence Applicant, or 10% or greater voting rights**)**, up to and including the ultimate controlling parties;

e) any party with significant influence over the Licence Applicant;

f) any other Football Club, including any of the parties or persons identified in (a) to (e) of any other football club or any key management personnel of any other Football Club who may have any ownership interest, voting rights, and/or any involvement or influence whatsoever in relation to the governance of the Licence Applicant's financial and operating policies;

g) the key management personnel of the licence applicant and, if different, the registered member.

4) For the purposes of sub-regulation (3)(f), "a party with significant influence" means a person (natural or legal) who has the ability to influence financial and operating policy decision-making. Significant influence may be gained by share ownership, statute or agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, a party or in aggregate parties with the same ultimate controlling party (excluding UEFA and the GFA) is also deemed to have significant influence if:

   a) it provides within a reporting period an amount equivalent to 30% or more of the licensee's total revenue; or

   b) the party concerned has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the board of the Licence Applicants directors.

5) Licence Applicants must also inform the GFA of Sponsorship Relationships and must provide copies of sponsorship agreements and/or details of the said sponsors where contributions from a natural or legal person, or in aggregate between related parties (i.e. parties who are connected by a pre-existing business relationship or common interest), may exceed £10,000, during the Licence Season.

6) The Licence Applicant must provide the GFA with details of any change of owner or director of the Licence Applicant in the last twelve months.

7) If deemed relevant, the GFA may request the Licence Applicant to provide additional information other than that listed above.

8) The following information must be provided in relation to all entities included in the legal group structure;

   a) Name of legal entity;

   b) Type of legal entity;

   c) Main activity of legal entity;

   d) Percentage of ownership interest (and, if different, percentage of voting power held);

e) Share capital;

f) Total assets;

g) Total Revenues; and

h) Total equity;

64. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY, ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY AND PARTY WITH A SIGNIFANCT OR DECISIVE INFLUENCE

1) The licence applicant must provide the GFA with a document which contains information on:

a) The ultimate controlling party of the licence applicant;

b) The ultimate beneficiary of the licence applicant, i.e. a natural person on whose behalf an entity or arrangement is owned or controlled or a transaction is conducted; and

c) Any party with a significant or decisive influence over the licence applicant.

2) The following information must be provided in relation to each of the parties identified in Article 64 (1) above as at the date of submission of this information to the licensor:

a) Name and, if applicable, legal form;

b) Main activity;

c) Percentage of ownership interest and, if different, percentage of voting rights in respect of the licence applicant;

d) If applicable, key management personnel; and

e) Any other football club in respect of which the party, or any of its key management personnel, has any ownership interest, voting rights or membership or any other involvement or influence whatsoever.

3) The licence applicant must confirm whether any change has occurred in relation to the information indicated in the Article 64 (1) and (2) above during the period covered by the annual financial statements up to the submission of the information to the licensor.

4) If a change has occurred as indicated in Article 64 (3) above, it must be described in detail by the licence applicant in the information to the licensor. As a minimum the following information must be provided:

a) The date on which the change occurred;

b) A description of the purpose of and reasons for the change;

c) Implications for the licence applicant's financial, operating and sporting policies; and

d) A description of any impact on the licence applicant's equity or debt situation.

5) If deemed relevant the GFA may request the licence applicant to provide additional information other than that listed above.

6) The licence applicant must confirm that the declaration on the ultimate controlling party, ultimate beneficiary and party with a significant or decisive influence is complete, accurate and in compliance with these regulations. This must be evidenced by way of a brief statement and signature by the executive body/authorised signatories of both the licence applicant and the licence applicant's ultimate controlling party.

65. OWNERS & DIRECTORS.

1) Each Relevant Person, as this term is defined in the Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations stipulated in the GFA Disciplinary Regulations, must sign and submit a Declaration in accordance with Schedule 14 and 15 of GFA Handbook and comply with the provisions in those Regulations.

66. LEGAL DISPUTES.

1) The Licence Applicant must confirm in writing, that it has not had three or more successful claims brought against it before the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber, the Gibraltar FA National Dispute Resolution Chamber and/or CAS within the last 12 months from the date of submission of the Legal Criteria, as more specifically set out in the Core Process at Schedule 1 hereto;

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

67. ANNUAL BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORTING.

1) The Licence Applicant must provide a financial budget comprising of, as a minimum requirement, the estimated cash flows for at least 12 months following the year end date of the financial statements prepared in accordance with regulation 67(2), including opening and closing cash balance, and containing, where applicable, the following information:

a) Estimation of cash inflow for the next 12 months, including but not limited to:

i. Sponsorship;
ii. Investment income;
iii. Debt and/or equity financing;
iv. Ticket sales;
v. UEFA Champions League, Europa League and Europa Conference League Participation Funding;
vi. Prize Sharing Funds (derived from the local club prize sharing scheme);
vii. UEFA Solidarity Payments (including Youth and UEFA National Player club benefit);
viii. GFA Funding (Pillars program including prize monies, Gibraltar FA club compensation for national players, support and incentives);
ix. Transfer fees; and
x. Any other Inflow (providing detail)

b) Estimation of cash outflow for the next 12 months, including but not limited to:

i. Staff Costs
ii. Player salaries
iii. Coach salaries
iv. Bonuses
v. Pay As You Earn taxes and Social Insurance payments
vi. Purchase of assets or equipment expenses
vii. Other administrative costs
viii. Transfer fees

ix. Fines; and
x. Interest payable.

c) Any other entity included in the legal group structure (Regulation 63 above) which generates/receives income and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of the Licence Applicant's principal activities must also provide a financial budget.

2) Annual financial statements in respect of the statutory closing date prior to the deadline for submission of the list of licensing decisions to UEFA must be prepared and submitted.

3) Annual financial statements must be audited by an independent auditor as defined in Annex 1 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations where the Licence Applicant receives. Applies for, or is eligible to receive UEFA solidarity or other UEFA-derived funding. Where this is not the case, the Licence Applicant shall submit financial statements accompanied by an independent accountant's report (more often known as a Compilation Report).These will be prepared in accordance with Gibraltar financial reporting standards and applicable Gibraltar Law and the independent accountant must be registered as a statutory auditor in Gibraltar under Gibraltar Law (currently under the Financial Services Act 2019).

4) Annual financial statements, including comparative amounts for the prior period, must be prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards or national accounting standards (as applicable) and must include:

a) A balance sheet;

b) A profit and loss account;

c) A cash flow statement for the reporting period;

d) A statement of changes in equity over the reporting period;

e) Notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes; and

f) A financial review by management.

5) The annual financial statements must meet the minimum disclosure requirements as set out in Annex 2 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations and the accounting principles as set out in Annex 3 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations. Comparative figures in respect of the prior statutory closing date must be provided.

6) If the minimum requirements for the content and accounting as set out in paragraph (5) above are not met in the annual financial statements, then the Licence Applicant must prepare supplementary information in order to meet the minimum information requirements that must be assessed by an independent auditor as defined in Annex 1 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations and an assessment report provided by the same auditor that signs the annual financial statements by way of agreed-upon procedures prescribed by the licensor to confirm the completeness and accuracy of the supplementary information.

7) If the annual financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements set out in Annex 3 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations, then the licence applicant must also submit to the GFA:

a) Restated financial statements that meet the accounting requirements set out in Annex 3 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations, covering the same reporting period and including comparative amounts for the previous comparative reporting period;

b) A declaration by the licence applicant's management that the restated financial statements are complete, accurate, and in compliance with the regulations; and

c) An assessment report provided by the same auditor that signs the annual financial statements by way of agreed-upon procedures prescribed by the GFA in respect of the completeness and accuracy of the restated financial statements.

8) Any other entity included in the legal group structure (Regulation 68 above) which generates/receives income and/or performs services and/or incurs costs in respect of the License Applicant's principal activities must also provide detailed financial statements.

9) The Licence Applicant must demonstrate that it has no overdue payables towards social/tax authorities as set out at Article 23 (8) of the Gibraltar UEFA Club Licensing Regulations. To demonstrate this, the Applicant must either present a Tax Compliance Certificate or a current agreement with the income tax office for the settling of tax arrears, accompanied with a declaration from the Income Tax office that the Licence Applicant is up to date on its payments as per the agreement.

10) The Licence Applicant must submit a declaration signed by an authorised signatory which confirms:

a) The information presented in the budget and the financial statements present a true and fair view of the economic state of affairs of the company both prospective and historical.

b) That any judgements and estimates made are reasonable and prudent.

c) That proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company are being maintained.

d) That no entity within the legal group structure has been excluded from the reporting perimeter or provide justification for any such exclusion.

e) that, as at the date of submission of the domestic licence application, it had no overdue payables in respect of its employees (including players) and no overdue payables towards other football clubs.

f) that, as at the date of submission of the domestic licence application, it had no overdue payables towards UEFA or FIFA for sanctions or otherwise, should any such liabilities have arisen at any point preceding the licensing period.

g) that there are no outstanding monetary fines by the date in which the FIB convenes to review the Licence Applications and decide to grant or refuse the GFA Licence.

68. SOLIDARITY FUNDS

1) All clubs in receipt of Solidarity funds must:

a) Provide, as a separate note to the financial statements or by presenting all relevant expenses together, a breakdown of youth expenditure for the year being reported.
b) Provide a budget of youth expenditure for the upcoming Licence Season.
c) Operate a separate bank account, or sub account (with separate account number), for Youth Solidarity funds and utilised only for youth related expenditure.

69. WOMEN'S TEAM FINANCES

1) All clubs with women's football activities must:

a) Provide, as a separate note to the financial statements or by presenting all relevant expenses together, a breakdown of women's football expenditure for the year being reported.
b) Provide a budget of women's football expenditure for the upcoming Licence Season.
c) Operate a separate bank account, or sub account (with separate account number), for women's football funds and utilised only for women's football related expenditure.

70. NO OVERDUE PAYABLES TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUBS

1) The Licence Applicant must prove that as at 31 March preceding the Licence Season it has no overdue payables (as defined in Annex 4 of the Gibraltar Football Association (UEFA) Club Licensing Regulations) towards other football clubs as a result of transfers undertaken by the 28 February preceding the licence season.

2) Payables are those amounts due to football clubs as a result of:

a) transfers of professional players (as defined in the *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*), including any amount payable upon fulfilment of certain conditions;

b) players registered for the first time as professionals, including any amount payable upon fulfilment of certain conditions;

c) training compensation and solidarity contributions as defined in the *FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players*;

d) any joint and several liability decided by a competent authority for the termination of a contract by a player.

3) The Licence Applicant must prepare and submit to the GFA a transfers table unless the transfers information has already been disclosed to the licensor under existing national transfer requirements and the licensor is able to extract and assess all the required information as described in (4) and (5) below. It must be prepared even if there have been no transfers/loans during the relevant period.

4) The Licence Applicant must disclose:

a) All new player registrations (including loans) as a result of transfer agreements concluded in the 12-month period up to 28 February, irrespective of whether there is an amount outstanding as at 28 February;

b) All transfers for which an amount is outstanding at 28 February (whether they relate to the release or registrations of players and irrespective of when the transfers were undertaken);

c) All transfers subject to any amounts disputed as at 28 February (as defined in Annex 4).

5) The transfers table must contain the following information as a minimum (in respect of each player transfer):

   a) Player name and date of birth;

   b) Date of the transfer/loan agreement;

   c) Name of the football club that formerly held the registration;

   d) Transfer (or loan) fee paid and/or payable (including training compensation and solidarity contribution) even if the payment has not been requested by the creditor;

   e) Other direct costs of acquiring the registration paid and/or payable;

   f) Any other compensation paid or payable in the scope of a transfer agreement;

   g) Amount settled (as defined in Annex 4 before 28 February and payment date(s);

   h) Balance payable as at 28 February including the due date(s) for each unpaid element and, if applicable, amounts settled between 28 February and 31 March together with the settlement dates as well as any remaining overdue payable as at 31 March (rolled forward from 28 February), together with explanatory comment;

   i) Amounts deferred as at 28 February (as defined in Annex 4), including the original and new due date(s) for each deferred element, and the date when a written agreement between the parties was concluded;

   j) Amounts disputed as at 28 February (as defined in Annex 4), including the case references and a brief description of the positions of all involved parties; and

   k) Conditional amounts (contingent liabilities) not yet recognised in the balance sheet as at 28 February.

6) The licence applicant must reconcile its liabilities as per the transfers table to its underlying accounting records.

7) The licence applicant must confirm that the transfers table is complete, accurate and in compliance with these regulations. This must be evidenced by way of a brief statement and signature by the executive body/authorised signatories of the licence applicant

71. Net Equity Rule

1) The licence applicant must report in its annual financial statements or interim financial statements (whichever close as at the 31 December preceding the deadline for submission of the application to the licensor and preceding the deadline for submission of the list of licensing decisions to UEFA) a net equity position which:

   a) is positive; or

   b) has improved by 5% or more since the previous 31 December.

2) Net equity means the residual interest in the assets of the entity after deducting all its liabilities as set out in its annual financial statements or interim financial statements as applicable. If a licence applicant's assets exceed its liabilities, then the licence applicant has a net asset

position, i.e. positive equity. If a licence applicant's liabilities exceed its assets, then the licence applicant has a net liability position, i.e. negative equity.

3) For the purpose of compliance with this criterion, net equity can include subordinated loans that, for at least the following 12 months:

   a) are subordinated to all other existing and future liabilities;

   b) bear no interest or do not require the payment of interest; and

   c) are not secured by any of the licence applicant's assets or in respect of which the right to enforce the security has been waived.

4) If a licence applicant does not comply with Article 71 1 (a) or (b) as at 31 December preceding the deadline for submission of the list of licensing decisions to UEFA, the licence applicant can submit a new audited balance sheet dated 31 March at the latest in order to demonstrate that one of the conditions in Article 71 1) a) or (b) has since been fulfilled. In such case, the revised equity level at the new audited balance sheet date will be used for the purposes of determining whether the licence applicant's equity position has improved under Article 71 1) (b) in the subsequent licence season.

5) The licensor's assessment must be in accordance with Annex 5 of the GFA UEFA Club Licensing Regulations.

6) Exceptionally, a licence applicant can request an alternative assessment date if:

   a) it has an annual accounting reference date of 31 May, in which case it may prepare interim financial statements for a six-month period ending 30 November and use such interim financial statements for the purposes of the net equity rule; or

   b) it has an annual accounting reference date of 30 November, in which case its annual financial statements for the reporting period ending 30 November may be used for the purposes of the net equity rule.

   c) In such exceptional cases i. or ii., all references to 31 December in the net equity rule should be understood as 30 November.

72. Quarterly Financial Monitoring

1) The Licensee must declare to the Licensor, that it has no overdue payables:

   a) In respect of Employees (including players) remuneration and associated obligations.

   b) Towards social/tax authorities.

   c) Towards other football clubs.

2) This confirmation must be provided on a quarterly basis, specifically by the end of the following months: September, December, March, and June. The declaration must be duly signed by an authorised representative of the Licensee.

73. WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS PRIOR TO THE LICENSING DECISION.

1) Within the seven days prior to the start of the period in which the licensing decision is to be made by the FIB, the Licence Applicant must make written representations to the GFA.

2) The Licence Applicant must confirm the following:

   a) That all documents submitted to the GFA are complete and correct;

   b) Whether or not any Significant Change in relation to all the licensing criteria has occurred;

   c) Whether or not any events or conditions of major economic importance have occurred, that may have an adverse impact on the Licence Applicant's financial position since the date of the Budget and most recent financial statements. If any events or conditions of major economic importance have occurred, the management representations letter must include a description of the nature of the event or condition and an estimate of its financial effect, or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made, with the reasons provided;

   d) Whether or not the Licence Applicant or any parent company of the Licence Applicant is seeking or has received protection from its creditors pursuant to laws or regulations within the 12 months preceding the Licence Season.

3) Approval by management must be evidenced by way of a signature on behalf of the executive body of the Licence Applicant.

PART 4
MISCELLANEOUS

74. CATALOGUE OF SANCTIONS.

1) In the event of a Licence Applicant not satisfying any of the criteria as set out in these Regulations, the GFA Licence may not be granted.

2) In the event of a Licensee violating these Regulations other than the non-fulfilment of the Club Licensing Criteria (e.g. submission of falsified documents, attempting to mislead or deceive the GFA, non-respect of deadlines, sanctions against individuals, etc.), the FIB may discipline the Licensee in accordance with the Disciplinary provisions and measures that it deems appropriate and which are set out in GFA's Disciplinary Regulations.

3) In the event that a Licence Applicant submits an item(s) late, the following will apply:

   a) If the Licence Applicant is applying for the UEFA Club Licence the Licence Applicant may receive a fine of £100 per day whilst any item remains outstanding; or

   b) If the Licence Applicant is applying for the DCL the Licence Applicant may receive a fine of £50 per day whilst any item remains outstanding.

75. THE CORE PROCESS

1) The GFA defines the Core Process for the verification of the Domestic Club Licensing Criteria set out in Part 3 of these Regulations in Schedule 1.

76. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

1) The GFA defines the assessment methods in these Regulations

PART 5
FINAL PROVISIONS

77. LANGUAGE OF CORRESPONDENCE

1) All correspondence between the GFA and the Licence Applicant or Licensee must be in English.

78. SCHEDULES

1) All Schedules to these Regulations form an integral part thereof.

79. COMPLIANCE AUDITS

1) The GFA and/or its nominated bodies/agencies reserve the right to, at any time, conduct compliance audits of the Licence Applicant or Licensee.

2) Compliance audits aim to ensure that the Licence Applicant or Licensee, has fulfilled their obligations as defined in these Regulations and that the GFA DCL was correctly awarded at the time the final decision is made.

80. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1) Any breach of these Regulations may be penalised by the FIB or the GFA in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Regulations, whichever is appropriate and in a manner that the GFA deems appropriate.

81. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

1) The GFA Domestic Club Licensing Administration shall make decisions and adopt, in any form it deems appropriate (including by way of giving directions, circular letters etc.), measures to implement the provisions set out in these Regulations.

SCHEDULE 1

CORE PROCESS

STEP	REQUIREMENT	DEADLINE DATE
1		1st February 2027

	The Licensing Administration invites Clubs to notify the GFA in writing of their intention to apply for a GFA Licence	
2	The Licensing Administration receives formal notification from Clubs interested in applying for a GFA Licence	5th February 2027
3	The Licensing Administration produces and distributes the GFA Licence Application Forms / Templates to Licence Applicants	5th February 2027
4	The Licence Applicant submits the completed Application Forms / Templates and supporting documentation for the Legal Criteria to the Licensing Administration	15th February 2027
5	The Licence Applicant submits the completed Application Forms / Templates and supporting documentation for the Sporting and Personnel & Administrative Criteria to the Licensing Administration	5th March 2027
6	The Licence Applicant submits the completed Application Forms / Templates and supporting documentation for the Infrastructure Criteria to the Licensing Administration	12th March 2027
7	The Licence Applicant submits the completed Application Forms / Templates and supporting documentation for the Financial Criteria to the Licensing Administration	9th April 2027
8	The Licensing Administration reviews the submitted documentation for all criteria and prepares written feedback to each Licence Applicant advising on further information being required or existing documentation being amended / rectified	16th April 2027
9	The Licence Applicant re-submits documentation following advice of Licensing Administration	23rd April 2027
10	The Licence Administration prepares report on each GFA Licence Application for the First Instance Board (FIB) and submits documentation to FIB	30th April 2027
11	The FIB reviews the GFA Licence Applications and decides on grant/refusal of the GFA Licence.	6th May 2027
12	Written decision is sent to each Licence Applicant.	7th May 2027

13	The Licence Applicant submits an appeal to the FIB's decision.	14th May 2027
14	The Licensing Administration records the Domestic Licences granted and refused for the season and informs UEFA of the FIB's decisions.	14th May 2027
15	The Licensing Administration informs the Appeals Board (AB) of the existing Appeals and forwards the FIB Decision and relevant Appellant documentation to the AB.	14th May 2027
16	The AB sits and reviews appeals and decides on grant/refusal of Licence Applicant Appeal.	20th May 2027
17	AB's written decision is sent to Appellant.	21st May 2027
18	The Licensing Administration updates the Domestic Licences granted and refused for the season, informing UEFA of the AB's decisions.	28th May 2027