



DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

2021/2022

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DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

“**The Association**” or “the **GFA**” shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association.

“The **Board**” means the Board of Directors of the GFA.

“**Club**” or “**Club Member**” has its definition contained in the GFA Rules.

“**Day(s)**” shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays unless the Regulation specifies calendar days.

“**DCU**” means the Disciplinary Control Unit.

“**Disciplinary Decision**” means a decision issued by the DRO or the Disciplinary Committee.

“**Domestic Competitive Match**” shall mean all competitions within the League the Player is registered with.

“**General Secretary**” shall mean the General Secretary of The Association.

“**The GFLA**” means the Gibraltar Football League Association.

“**The GFLA National League**” means the Gibraltar Football League.

“**GFA Representatives**” means any person appointed by the GFA to represent the GFA in a GFA event.

“**GFA Regulations**” or “**the Regulations**” means these Regulations and all other GFA Regulations, regulations, codes, policies and guidelines or other documents which are binding on Members and/or Participants as may be introduced and amended from time to time.

“**Futsal**” is football played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game that have been drawn up by FIFA.

“**Legal Persons**” means entities or bodies not being individuals.

“**Manager**” means the Official of a Club responsible for selecting a team “**Match**” means a football match sanctioned by the Association or an Affiliated Member.

“Match Agent” means a natural person employed to arrange matches and is licensed in accordance with FIFA regulations.

“Match Delegate” means an individual appointed to furnish a report on a Match.

“Match Officials” means referees and assistant referees and includes reserve officials and fourth official.

“Affiliated Member” of the Association shall mean all National Bodies, Provincial Associations, leagues, clubs and AGM Members who have affiliated directly to the FAI or to their respective governing body;

“Member” any member of the GFA, as this term is defined in the Statutes

“National Club Cup Competitions” shall mean those competitions designated as such by the Association as amended from time to time.

“Natural Persons” shall mean an individual human being as distinct from a corporate body or entity “Official” means any official, Manager, technical official, director, secretary, servant or representative of an Affiliated Member.

“Participant” means a Player, Official, Manager, Match Official, Match Agent, Player Agent and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned by The Association or by any Affiliated Member.

“Player” means a person who is registered with an Affiliated Member and/or the Association in accordance with these Regulations;

“Players’ Agent” means a natural person who, for a fee, on a regular basis introduces a Player to a club with a view to employment or introduces two clubs to one another with a view to concluding a transfer contract, and is licensed in accordance with FIFA regulations.

“Statutes” mean the statutes of the Gibraltar Football Association from time to time in place and in force.

SECTION 1

SCOPE OF DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

1. These Regulations apply:
 - a) to every match and competition under the jurisdiction of the GFA;
 - b) if the Regulations, codes or rules of the GFA are violated;
 - c) to Appeals from all affiliated bodies.

2. The following are subject to these Regulations:
 - a) All Members of the GFA (as this term is defined in the Statutes of the GFA (the “Statutes”));
 - b) Officials;
 - c) Participants;
 - d) Anyone with an authorization from the GFA, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other football activity or event under the jurisdiction of the GFA (“GFA Representatives”);
 - e) Spectators

3. With regards procedure, these Regulations do not apply to club licensing which has an independent and separate disciplinary and appeals system as provided for under club licensing Regulations.

4. These Regulations do not apply to Doping Offences which are sanctioned by the GFA under a separate set of Regulations.

5. If there are any omissions in these Regulations, the disciplinary bodies or the GFA Board shall decide in accordance with the GFA’s custom or, in the absence of custom, in accordance with the Regulations as a whole.

6. In order to protect the integrity of competitions, amendments made to disciplinary sanctions during the course of any competition shall not apply for the duration of the said competition.

7. Every Club is responsible for the actions of its Participants and spectators. In particular, clubs are required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators threatening or assaulting Match Officials, Officials and/or Players while in the vicinity of their playing ground.
8. Except where otherwise provided for, time limits referred to in these Regulations shall begin from the day after receipt of notification.

SECTION 2.

OFFENCES

MATCH AND COMPETITION REPORTS/CARDS

9. Disciplinary offences may be reported in a Match Official's Report. Match Officials may be requested to clarify their report or obliged to attend the Disciplinary Hearing if requested by the disciplinary bodies.
10. Disciplinary offences may be reported in a Match Delegate's report. Match Delegates may be requested to clarify their report.
11. It shall be an offence for any person to intentionally complete a match card/team sheet/report inaccurately.

MISCONDUCT BY PLAYERS

12. Including the automatic suspension incurred, the overall suspension imposed on any Player receiving a direct red card shall be as follows (unless otherwise determined by the respective GFA Disciplinary Bodies after taking into account all factors surrounding the incident(s)):
 - a) at least one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal- scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
 - b) at least one match for unsporting conduct.
 - c) At least two matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of the use of excessive or brute force);
 - d) at least three matches for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, striking, butting, elbowing, punching, kicking etc. Touching is not an assault) an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;

- e) at least six matches for assaulting by spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.
 - f) At least 12 months for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting, striking, butting, elbowing, punching, kicking etc. Touching is not an assault) a Match Official and £100 fine.
 - g) An assault occasioning actual bodily harm on a Match Official a sinedie suspension with no review to be considered under a period of five years and a £200 fine.
 - h) An assault causing serious bodily harm. Permanent Suspension.
13. In all instances mentioned in 12 above, the DRO has the discretion to reduce the stipulated sanction, depending on the severity of the act in question. An additional fine may also be imposed in all cases.
 14. The right is reserved to punish an infringement which has escaped the Match Official's attention.
 15. A Player whom the Match Official has reported as having committed an assault on a Match Official before, during or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed.
 16. All suspensions imposed by Affiliated Members relating to assaults on Match Officials must be notified by them immediately to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the GFA and to all other relevant bodies.

MISCONDUCT BY OFFICIALS

17. The overall suspension imposed on any Official shall be for:
 - a) at least one match for unsporting conduct;
 - b) at least three matches for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, striking, butting, elbowing, punching, kicking etc. Touching is not an assault) an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;
 - c) at least three months for assaulting by spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.
 - d) at least 12 months for assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting, striking, butting, elbowing, punching, kicking etc. Touching is not an assault) a Match Official;

- e) an assault occasioning actual bodily harm on a Match Official a sinedie suspension with no review to be considered under a period of five years and a £200 fine.
 - f) An assault causing serious bodily harm. Permanent Suspension
18. An Official whom the Match Official has reported as having committed an assault on a Match Official before, during or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed.
 19. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
 20. The right is reserved to punish an infringement, which has escaped the Match Official's attention.
 21. All suspensions imposed by Affiliated Members relating to assaults on Match Officials must be notified by them immediately to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the GFA and to all other relevant bodies.

MISCONDUCT BY CLUBS

22. Clubs found to have breached any GFA, UEFA or FIFA Regulations are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with these Regulations and therefore may be sanctioned as such in accordance with Regulations 74 to 76 hereto.

MATCH OFFICIALS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

23. Match Officials are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with these Regulations and GFA Referee Regulations. Match Officials shall be sanctioned as a minimum in accordance with Regulation 17 but the disciplinary bodies may impose any other sanction, they deem appropriate.
24. Sanctions issued against Match Officials must be notified immediately to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the GFA, the Referees Committee and to all other relevant bodies.
25. In cases of reported assaults on a Match Official, the reporting referee shall be furnished with a copy of the decision of the disciplinary body.
26. Where a Participant has been found to have assaulted a Match Official and the disciplinary body hearing the case has failed to impose the minimum sanction provided for in these Regulations, the Match Official shall be entitled to appeal the decision in accordance with the relevant Regulations.

27. Where a Participant has been reported for an assault on a Match Official and the disciplinary body found that no assault took place, the Match Official shall be entitled to appeal this decision in accordance with the relevant Regulations of appeal.

BRAWL/FIGHTING

28. Involvement in a brawl/fight is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six matches.
29. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a brawl/fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

UNIDENTIFIED AGGRESSORS

30. If it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s) of an offence, the body may sanction the Club Member to which the aggressors belong.

TEAM MISCONDUCT

31. The following constitute misconduct by a team and are sanctioned by a fine:
 - a) when at least five Players are cautioned or sent off from the field of play during one match (three in the case of futsal);
 - b) when at least three Players are sent off during one match;
 - c) when several Players together make threats or show force against a Match Official.

INCITING HATRED OR VIOLENCE

32. A Participant who publicly incites others to hatred or violence may be sanctioned with a suspension and/or a fine.

PROVOKING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

33. Any Participant who provokes the general public shall be suspended for two matches and sanctioned with a fine.

INELIGIBILITY

- 34.** If a Player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team shall be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a fine. A sanction may also be imposed on a Player and/or the person in charge of the team if they knew or ought to have known of the ineligibility.
- 35.** If a Player takes part in an official GFA friendly match despite being ineligible, his team shall be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a fine.
- 36.** Players actively registered with more than one Club, unregistered players and suspended players are deemed to be ineligible.
- 37.** Ineligibility sanctions shall only be instigated if the matter is officially reported by the match official or match delegate in their respective match reports, or by the club directly affected, to the DRO within 24 hours of the alleged ineligibility.

FAILURE TO PLAY AND ABANDONMENT

- 38.** If a team fails to play a match, it shall be sanctioned with a fine and shall forfeit the match.
- 39.** If a competitive match, after it has started, cannot be continued either because the number of players in any one team falls below the required minimum number of players or because one of the teams either abandons the field of play or, after the half-time interval, fails to take the field of play, the team shall be sanctioned with Abandonment and considered to have lost the match. The other team shall be considered to have won the match if it has no fault for the match not having been played in full.
- 40.** If a Match Official has to abandon a match due to the conduct of members of a team, including their Officials, the offending team may forfeit the match and the team and/or Officials may be sanctioned.
- 41.** If a Match Official has to abandon a match due to unforeseen circumstances and at no fault of either team, the following shall apply:
 - a)** The match shall be rescheduled by the GFA;
 - b)** The match shall be replayed from the minute that the match was abandoned;
 - c)** The result, cautions, suspensions, substitutions and all other relevant factors shall remain the same as if the match had been played normally;

- d) Both teams shall present the same team-sheets as the original match;
 - e) Any changes to the original starting line-up shall constitute a substitution;
 - f) If players listed in the team-sheet are unavailable to play on the re-scheduled day, the respective team must, by no later than 48 hours prior to kick-off, send a written letter to the GFA providing reasons for his absence.
 - g) Absent players from the starting 11 may only be replaced by named substitutes;
 - h) Absent players from the named substitute list cannot be replaced.
42. As an exception to 41(h) above, absent Home-Grown Players may be replaced by other Home Grown Players not previously listed on the team-sheet.
43. In serious cases, the team shall also be disqualified from the competition in progress and may be disqualified from future competitions.
44. Any Player selected to play in any International or any other match arranged by the GFA or its Affiliated Members and who without good and sufficient cause refuses to comply with the arrangements for the playing of the match, or fails to play in such match, may be adjudged to be guilty of misconduct, and such Player, or any Club which may be deemed to have encouraged such Player to such misconduct, may be dealt with as the Disciplinary Bodies shall deem appropriate.

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR

45. Any Participant who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, may be sanctioned with a suspension and/or fine and/or a ban on performing any football related activity.

RACISM

46. Any Participant, who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a derogatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other racist and/or contemptuous act, shall be subject to disciplinary sanction. The relevant disciplinary body shall consider and have the power to impose a suspension, fine and/or other

sanction as deemed appropriate. In the case of individuals, the minimum suspension shall be for a period of five matches.

47. If spectators engage in racist behaviour, including chanting or displaying racist slogans at a match, the relevant disciplinary body shall sanction the Affiliated Member which these spectators support. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or other club/affiliate the host club/affiliate may be sanctioned.
48. Spectators engaging in racist behaviour may be subject to a disciplinary sanction.

INTIMIDATION / THREATS

49. Anyone who intimidates a Match Official with serious threats shall be sanctioned with a fine and a suspension.

COERCION

50. Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressurize a Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely shall be sanctioned with a fine and a suspension.

DISCRIMINATION

51. The GFA shall not tolerate sexual or racially-based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal, and such behaviour shall result in disciplinary action.

BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE

52. Any Member or Participant who has brought the game of football or the GFA into disrepute by any means, written, verbal, by action or otherwise shall be sanctioned with a suspension and/or fine and/or a ban on performing any football related activity or other sanction deemed appropriate.

DISPARAGING COMMENTS

53. Public comment (including but not limited to social media posts) of the following nature may result in disciplinary sanction:
 - a) Comments which are offensive or threatening in any way and/or;
 - b) Comments causing damage to the game or the GFA or GLFA or bringing the game or the GFA or GLFA into disrepute and/or;

- c) Unsubstantiated allegations or comments which question any person or bodies integrity or are disparaging in any way.

FORGERY / FALSIFICATION

- 54. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in contractual or legal relations shall be sanctioned with a suspension of at least six matches.
- 55. If the perpetrator is an Official, the body shall impose a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least twelve months.
- 56. A fine may also be imposed.

CORRUPTION

- 57. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body or employee of the GFA, a Match Official, a Player or an Official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate the Regulations of the GFA or UEFA shall be sanctioned:
 - a) with a fine, and/or;
 - b) with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity and/or;
 - c) with a ban on entering any stadium.
- 58. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) shall be sanctioned in the same manner.
- 59. In serious cases and in the case of repetition, sanction 56(b) may be imposed for life.
- 60. In any case, the disciplinary bodies may order the confiscation of any assets involved in committing the infringement which are within the remit of the GFA or of any assets which may be due to the offender from the GFA for any other football activities. These assets shall be used for football development programmes.

DOPING

- 61. The GFA Anti-Doping Regulations as amended from time to time regulate doping offences.

MANIPULATING MATCH RESULTS

- 62.** Anyone who conspires to influence the result of a match in a manner incompatible with sporting ethics shall be sanctioned with a suspension and a fine. The disciplinary body may also impose a ban on taking part in any football-related activity; in serious cases this sanction shall apply for life.

BETTING / GAMBLING

- 63.** All clubs, officials, team officials and other member of team staff, player, match official or other person under the jurisdiction of these rules must refrain from any behaviour that damages or could damage the integrity of matches and competitions, and must cooperate fully with the Gibraltar FA at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour. Therefore:
- a)** No club, official, Team Official or other member of Team Staff, player, match official or other person under the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar FA shall gamble in any way on a football match anywhere in the world.
 - b)** No club, official, Team Official or other member of Team Staff, player, match official or other person under the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar FA shall engage in gambling of any description on football.
 - c)** No club, official, Team Official, other member of Team Staff, player, match official or other person under the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar FA shall knowingly behave in a manner, during or in connection with a match in which the Party has participated or has any influence, either direct or indirect, which could give rise to an event in which they or any third-party benefits financially through gambling.
 - d)** No club, official, Team Official or other member of Team Staff, player, match official or other person under the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar FA shall directly or indirectly offer or receive a bonus or any other inducement to or from another club, official, player, match official or any other person to influence the result of a match or otherwise affect the conduct of a match.
- 64.** Any club, official, Team Official or other member of Team Staff, player, referee, match official or any other person under the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar FA who does not immediately and voluntarily report to the Gibraltar FA any behaviour he is aware of that may fall within the scope of article 62 may be subject to disciplinary action under these rules for failing to report such behaviour.

COMPLAINTS

65. Any complaint made in writing may be investigated by the Disciplinary Regulatory Officer and may result in disciplinary sanction if not otherwise provided for. Any complaint made regarding match fixing after the relevant competition stage has finished, will have no impact on the sporting result of the competition or match in question and will not require a match to be replayed.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

66. The home club/team is liable for any improper conduct among all spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight and depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.
67. The visiting club/team is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight and depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances. Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium are regarded as the visiting supporters, unless proven to the contrary.
68. Improper conduct includes but is not limited to violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, use of smokebombs, flares or fireworks, displaying insulting slogans in any form, uttering insulting sounds, racist behaviour or invading or encroaching onto the pitch.
69. The liability described in par. 66 and 67 also includes matches played on neutral grounds.

PLAYER INTERFERENCE

70. A Club or Participant who approaches, either directly or indirectly, a player who is still under contract with a Club, with a view to induce or assist him to leave his Club without the knowledge or prior written consent of the player's current Club shall be sanctioned with Misconduct in accordance with Rule 22.

OTHER OBLIGATIONS

71. Members should ensure no one is involved in their management who is under sanction or has been found guilty of an offence of corruption, forgery, serious misconduct or other serious behaviour or other offences which would bring the game into disrepute.

SECTION 3.

SANCTIONS

CULPABILITY

72. Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed intentionally or negligently.

INVOLVEMENT

73. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is subject to disciplinary proceedings.
74. The disciplinary body shall take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce a sanction accordingly. It shall not go below the minimum sanction applicable.

SANCTIONS APPLICABLE

75. The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:
- a) caution;
 - b) expulsion;
 - c) match suspension;
 - d) ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
 - e) ban from entering a stadium;
 - f) ban on taking part in any football-related activity.
76. The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:
- a) transfer ban;
 - b) annulment of the result of a match;
 - c) exclusion;
 - d) forfeit;

- e) abandonment
- f) deduction of points;
- g) demotion to a lower division;
- h) suspension from membership of the GFA.
- i) Withholding of prize money.
- j) Expulsion from membership of the GFA

77. In addition to the sanctions listed above the following sanctions are applicable to both natural and legal persons;

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a fine;
- d) the return of awards.
- e) Temporary suspension.
- f) Removal from post (specific to GFA Representatives)

WARNING

78. A warning is a reminder of the substance of a disciplinary Regulation allied with the threat of a sanction in the event of a further infringement.

REPRIMAND

79. A reprimand is an official written pronouncement of disapproval sent to the perpetrator of an infringement.

FINES

80. The body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment and the level of the fine if not otherwise provided for in Schedule 1 of these Regulations or in specific competition Regulations.

- 81.** Clubs may be ruled to be liable for unpaid fines imposed on their Players or Officials. The fact that the person subject to the fine has left the Club is irrelevant.
- 82.** Rule 81 above will come into effect if the respective fine has not been paid within the stipulated period. Under such circumstances, the DRO shall determine whether the Club should be liable to pay the fine and communicate his decision to the Club in writing.
- 83.** If the DRO decides that the Club should pay the fine, the Club shall be allowed to contest this decision before the respective Disciplinary Body in writing, by no later than 5 days from receiving the notification by the DRO in rule 82 above.
- 84.** Fines less than £250 which are not paid within the time period specified in the decision shall automatically be increased by a penalty of 10% (ten percent). The penalty shall be applied on the original fine every four calendar weeks until the fine and penalty are paid in full.
- 85.** Fines greater than £250 relating to Managers and/or Players and/or Officials which are not paid within the time period specified in the decision may result in the individual being suspended by the DRO until such time as the fine is paid, provided reasonable notice and warning has been issued. No hearing shall be afforded in this case.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

- 86.** A Temporary Suspension must be communicated in writing, and must contain the period of suspension, as well as any other details relevant to the same.

REMOVAL FROM POST

- 87.** Only GFA Representatives may be removed from their post. This sanction is specific to GFA Representatives, and may be imposed in the following circumstances:
 - a)** Receipt of more than 2 warnings within a 24 month period;
 - b)** Receipt of more than 1 reprimand within a 12 month period; or
 - c)** Misconduct which is considered to be of a serious nature and/or behaviour which brings the GFA or Gibraltar Football into disrepute.

RETURN OF AWARDS

88. The person or body required to return an award shall return all of the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy etc.).

CAUTION (YELLOW CARD)

89. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a Player or Official during a match to sanction offences as identified by the Laws of the Game. Cautions shall result in fines. Fines may be applied on an accumulative basis. A caution in any game must be reported to the League concerned and a record must be kept by that League. No caution or mandatory suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions may be appealed.
90. Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion and, consequently, an automatic suspension. The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded. Players and Officials may also be further sanctioned in respect of any other matters reported by the Match Officials relating to a caution.
91. The following also incur mandatory suspensions:-
 - a) If a Player accumulates 5 (five) recorded cautions in any competition during the season, he/she will be suspended automatically for a period covering 1 match to be served in the team's next competitive match;
 - b) If a Player accumulates a further 5 (five) recorded cautions in any competition during the season, he/she will be suspended automatically for a period covering 2 matches to be served in the team's next competitive match;
 - c) If a Player accumulates a further 3 (three) recorded cautions in any competition during the season, he/she will be suspended automatically for a period covering 3 matches to be served in the team's next competitive match
 - d) If a Player accumulates a further caution in any competition during the season, he/she will be warned as to his/her future conduct and will be suspended automatically for a period covering 1 match for each caution received to be served in the team's next competitive match;
 - e) If a Player accumulates a total of 16 (sixteen) recorded cautions in any competition during the season, the player shall be required to attend a Disciplinary hearing in accordance with these Regulations.

- f) If an Official accumulates 3 (three) recorded cautions in any competition during the season, he/she will be suspended automatically for a period covering 1 match to be served in the team's next competitive match;
 - g) If an Official accumulates a further 3 (three) recorded cautions in any competition during the season, he/she will be suspended automatically for a period covering 2 matches to be served in the team's next competitive match;
 - h) If an Official accumulates a further 1 (one) recorded caution in any competition during the season, he/she will be suspended automatically for a period covering 3 matches to be served in the team's next competitive match.
 - i) If an Official accumulates a further caution in any competition during the season, he/she will be warned as to his/her future conduct and will be suspended automatically for a period covering 1 match for each caution received to be served in the team's next competitive match.
 - j) If an Official accumulates a total of 10 recorded cautions in any competition during the season, he/she shall be required to attend a Disciplinary hearing in accordance with these Regulations
 - k) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a Season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.
 - l) Similarly, in Youth Competitions, cautions, expulsions and suspensions will only be served in the competition where the Player and/or Official is registered. In the case of the U-18 Competition, the same Rules as the Senior Competitions will apply.
- 92.** For the purposes of Rule 91 above, cautions will accumulate as follows:
- a) Cumulatively in the Gibraltar National League, the Gibtelecom Cup and the Pepe Reyes Cup;
 - b) Cumulatively in the Intermediate League and the Intermediate Cup
- 93.** For the purposes of Rule 91 above, suspensions shall be served as follows:
- a) Cumulatively in the Gibraltar National League, the Gibtelecom Cup and the Pepe Reyes Cup;

b) Cumulatively in the Intermediate League and the Intermediate Cup

- 94.** For the purposes of 91-93 above, the Player shall be ineligible to participate in any competition until the respective suspension has been served.
- 95.** If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
- 96.** If a Player is guilty of an offence as defined by the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld and incurs the relevant suspension, fine and point as referred to above.
- 97.** Prior to the commencement of each playing season, a Player's accumulated cautions total shall be reduced to zero. Any outstanding suspensions must be served in accordance with Regulation 119.
- 98.** A suspension imposed under Regulation 91(a) shall not apply to the Final of any National Club Cup Competitions and replays if applicable.

EXPULSION

- 99.** An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off must immediately return to his team's dressing room.
- 100.** Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players including substitutes. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions offences as defined by the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.
- 101.** A direct or indirect red card incurs a one match automatic suspension. This automatic suspension is not subject to appeal unless in the case of wrongful dismissal or mistaken identity.
- 102.** In all GFA National competitions, an expulsion automatically incurs a one match suspension in his team's next competitive match.
- 103.** If it is not possible to impose the automatic one match suspension on a Player in the current season, the automatic one match suspension shall be served in his team's next competitive match.

- 104.** Any additional suspension arising from the expulsion shall be served in accordance with Regulation 120.
- 105.** In all friendly matches sanctions imposed shall be applied as directed by the body making the decision.
- 106.** An Official dismissed from the technical area by the Match Official must take no further part in the match by managing, directing, assisting or communicating with his team in any way.
- 107.** The automatic suspension applies notwithstanding the pending decision of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 108.** Should the same Player be dismissed again in the same season including the automatic suspension the following minimum suspension shall apply:-
- a)** 2nd sending off - suspended for 1 match (automatic)
 - b)** 3rd sending off- suspended for 2 matches (automatic plus 1)
 - c)** 4th sending off- suspended for 4 matches (automatic plus 3)
 - d)** 5 or more dismissals - suspended for 6 matches (automatic plus 5)
- 109.** A Player who has been sent off in a match will be notified, through his club, of the offence reported by the Match Official, and at the same time advised that he will be subject to a decision of the appropriate disciplinary body.
- 110.** In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a Player sent off in a match, the Player concerned and his Club must, within 48 hours of receiving the Match Official's report, submit in writing to the Disciplinary Control Unit, particulars upon which the claim is founded including the identity of the person responsible. The particulars must also include a signed statement by the Player reported by the Match Official that he was not responsible for the offence reported. If the DRO is satisfied that the claim warrants further investigation, a Disciplinary Committee shall be convened to meet before any automatic penalty is due to take effect. If the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that mistaken identity has been proved in a case, the record of the offence will be transferred to the appropriate offender, who shall be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with the provisions of the current procedures. Video or independent authoritative evidence must be produced by person(s) seeking the appeal.

- 111.** An expulsion automatically incurs an automatic suspension even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or annulled. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

MATCH SUSPENSION

- 112.** A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play. Punishments awarded shall not apply to international matches whether competitive or friendly. However, the Disciplinary Body shall in its discretion have the right to communicate a decision to UEFA and/or FIFA.
- 113.** The suspension is imposed in terms of matches and/or time periods.
- 114.** Suspensions of 12 months duration or longer must be notified immediately to the Disciplinary Control Unit of the GFA and to all other relevant bodies by any Affiliated Member handing down such a suspension. Such suspension shall be accompanied by a copy of the Match Official's Report. No such suspension can be amended or cancelled without the express approval of the GFA and not before 12 months of the suspension has elapsed.
- 115.** If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of the match. If the match is postponed as a result of the existing COVID-19 protocols, the suspension(s) shall be served at the next available match.
- 116.** If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension shall be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
- 117.** A Player must be eligible to have played in a match in order to have the suspension served.
- 118.** Any suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of the season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- 119.** Suspensions can only be served on the terms as determined by the decision of the Disciplinary Bodies taking into account the competition Regulations applicable. A suspension may be deemed not served by a Disciplinary Body if a match has been rearranged for the primary purpose of enabling a Player to complete a suspension.

120. All of the foregoing suspensions are the minimum penalties. The Disciplinary Bodies or Leagues may impose suspensions above this minimum depending on the nature of the offences committed.
121. All suspensions, except where otherwise provided for in these Regulations, may be appealed in accordance with the Regulations of the GFA.
122. Players or other technical staff, including managers under suspension are not permitted to be included in the list of Officials on the technical bench. Breaches of this regulation will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for further possible sanction.
123. Officials suspended by the Disciplinary Committee shall have the terms of the suspension clearly outlined to them in the notice of suspension.

BAN FROM DRESSING ROOMS AND/OR SUBSTITUTES BENCH

124. A ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' benches deprives someone of the right to enter team's dressing rooms and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitutes' bench.

STADIUM BAN

125. A stadium ban prohibits someone from entering the confines of the stadium specified in the ban.

BAN ON TAKING PART IN FOOTBALL-RELATED ACTIVITY

126. Any Member or Participant may be banned from taking part in all or any part of football-related activity. The Disciplinary Body issuing such a ban shall ensure the extent and remit of the ban is clearly provided for in the decision.

TRANSFER BAN

127. A transfer ban prevents a club from registering any player during the period in question.

PLAYING A MATCH WITHOUT SPECTATORS

128. The obligation to play a match behind closed doors requires a Club Member to have a certain match played without spectators.

ANNULMENT OF THE RESULT OF A MATCH

129. The result of a match is annulled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

EXCLUSION FROM A COMPETITION

130. Exclusion is the deprivation of the right of a Member to take part in the current and/or a future competition.

DEMOTION TO A LOWER DIVISION

131. A club may be demoted to a lower division (where applicable).

DEDUCTION OF POINTS

132. A club may have points deducted from those already attained in the current or a future competition.

FORFEIT

133. Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the match by 0-3.
134. If the goal difference at the end of the match in question is greater than 0-3, the result on the pitch is upheld.
135. Teams who forfeit a game will be fined as follows:
- a) In Senior competitions, £700;
 - b) In Futsal competitions, £100;
 - c) In Youth, Intermediate and Women's competitions; £100.
136. A Team that forfeits a match as a result of abandonment or failure to play, for a total of 2 matches during a season shall automatically lose its Domestic Licence and as such be expelled from GFA Competitions. For the purposes of this rule, a forfeit resulting from a Home-Grown Player Rule breach (as contained in the Gibraltar National League Rules) shall not count. Further disciplinary action for misconduct may apply.

ABANDONMENT

137. Teams sanctioned with Abandonment are considered to have lost the match by 0-3.
138. If the goal difference at the time of abandonment is greater than 0-3, the result on the pitch is upheld.
139. Teams who abandon a game will be sanctioned as follows:
- a) pay the costs of the Referees and Officials and incur a minimum fine, as follows:
 - i) National League - £1,000.00
 - ii) Cup Competition - £500.00
 - iii) Intermediate Competition - £500.00
 - iv) Youth Division - £150.00
 - v) Women's Division - £50.00
 - vi) Futsal Division - £100.00

SECTION 4. REGULATIONS RELATING TO SANCTIONS

COMBINED SANCTIONS

140. Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for may be combined.

PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTION

141. The body that imposes a match suspension, a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, the obligation to play a match without spectators, the obligation to play a match on neutral ground or a ban on playing in a certain stadium, may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.

142. Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six matches or six months and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.
143. The body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended.
144. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of from six months to two years.
145. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction imposed for the new infringement.

CALCULATION OF TIME SANCTIONS

146. The duration of a time sanction can be interrupted by rest periods during or between seasons.

LIMITATION PERIOD FOR PROSECUTION

147. Offences committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of two years. As a general Regulation, other offences may not be prosecuted after a lapse of ten years.
148. Prosecution for offences against children, betting or for corruption are not subject to a limitation period.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE LIMITATION PERIOD

149. The limitation period runs as follows:
 - a) From the day on which the perpetrator committed the offence;
 - b) if the offence is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent offence was committed;
 - c) if the offence lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.

INTERRUPTION

150. The limitation period no longer applies if the Disciplinary Committee commences proceedings before it has expired.

LIMITATION PERIOD FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS

151. The limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions is five years.
152. The limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

RECIDIVISM

153. Recidivism occurs if another offence of a similar nature is committed within:
 - a) one year of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a one-match suspension;
 - b) three years of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a two-match suspension;
 - c) ten years of the previous offence if that offence was related to match-fixing or corruption;

Recidivism counts as an aggravating circumstance.

SECTION 5.

DETERMINING THE SANCTION

GENERAL REGULATIONS

154. The body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of it provided it does not fall below the minimum sanction applicable.
155. Sanctions may be limited to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
156. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.
157. The body shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.

REPEATED INFRINGEMENTS

158. Unless otherwise specified, the body may increase the sanction to be imposed as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.

CONCURRENT INFRINGEMENTS

- 159.** If several fines are imposed against someone as a result of one or more offences, the relevant body bases the fine on the most serious offence committed first and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction.
- 160.** The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more stadium bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.
- 161.** The body that determines the fine is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of fines in cases of concurrent infringements.

PART 2 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

ORGANISATION

SECTION 6.

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITIES

MATCH OFFICIALS

- 162.** During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by Match Officials. These decisions are final.
- 163.** In certain circumstances however, disciplinary decisions for the purposes of Regulation 162 above may fall under the jurisdiction of the disciplinary bodies, where such decisions involve an obvious error. In such cases, decisions may be appealed in accordance with these Regulations.

DISCIPLINARY BODIES

- 164.** The organs for the administration of discipline are:
- a)** The disciplinary bodies of the GFA:
 - i.** the Disciplinary Committee;
 - ii.** the Appeal Committee; and
 - iii.** the National Dispute Resolution Committee (“NDRC”).
 - b)** The Disciplinary Regulations Officer (the “DRO”).
- 165.** Disciplinary matters relating to GFA competitions under the jurisdiction of another GFA disciplinary committee or body shall remain under the jurisdiction of that body until the disciplinary remit of that body is transferred to the GFA Disciplinary Bodies.
- 166.** Disciplinary matters relating to other competitions under the jurisdiction of another disciplinary committee or body shall remain under the jurisdiction of that body.

COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

- 167.** Decisions of certain bodies and competitions may be appealed to the CAS in Lausanne, Switzerland as provided under the Regulation of such bodies and competitions, however disciplinary decisions arising out of incidents which have occurred in Gibraltar competitions fall outside the jurisdiction of CAS, subject to the final decision of an independent Arbitration Panel constituted in accordance with the Arbitration Act.

SECTION 7.

JURISDICTION OF GFA DISCIPLINARY BODIES REGULATION DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 168.** The Disciplinary Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of the Regulations of the GFA and its competitions which do not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

- 169.** The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

- a)** sanctioning offences recorded in all Match Officials and Match Delegate reports not otherwise automatically dealt with;
- b)** sanctioning all breaches of these Regulations not under the jurisdiction of any other body;
- c)** sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention;
- d)** rectifying obvious errors in Match Officials' disciplinary decisions;
- e)** extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion;
- f)** imposing additional sanctions, such as additional suspensions or fines or other sanctions.

APPEAL COMMITTEE

- 170.** The Appeal Committee is responsible for:

- a)** Deciding appeals against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee and the NDRC, but not the Club Licensing bodies and bodies ruling on Doping Offences;

- b) Reviewing claims of wrongful dismissal and excessive punishment.

NATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

- 171.** The NDRC shall adjudicate on any of the following national cases :
- a) complaints and requests of players or coaches on matters of dispute between them and the Club with which they are or were engaged;
 - b) complaints and requests of Clubs on matters of dispute between a Club and players or coaches which are engaged or were engaged with such a Club;
 - c) complaints of players' intermediary against players or Member Clubs and with complaints of players or Clubs against players' agents;
 - d) complaints and requests of other club personnel on matters of dispute between them and the Club with which they are engaged, provided that such other club personnel have an employment contract with the club which has been registered at the Association;
- 172.** The NDRC shall also be competent to determine all disputes which arise between Clubs and/or the Association.
- a) In the case of complaints or requests by players, coaches, other club personnel and players' agents, the NDRC shall only take into consideration claims if these are submitted to the Association within the period of six (6) months from the date on which such claim has arisen and the complaint or request is accompanied by such a fee as is established by the Association
 - b) In the case of complaints or requests made by Clubs, the Board shall only take into consideration claims if these are submitted to the Association within the period of six (6) months from the date on which such claim has arisen and the complaint or request is accompanied by such a fee as is established by the Association.

The NDRC shall not adjudicate cases relating to disputes between Club Members and international players. Such cases shall be dealt with by FIFA in accordance with Article 22 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

Complaints filed before the NDRC shall bear no charge except those listed in the NDRC regulations and in cases where the taking of evidence leads to costs incurred by testimonies or expert reports. In such circumstances, the costs shall be borne by the claimant.

PLAYER STATUS COMMITTEE

- 173.** The Association shall have a Players Status Committee (the "PSC"), which shall be competent to determine all questions arising in connection with the status of a player of the Association as laid down in the Regulations of the Status and Transfer of Players of the Association.

Complaints filed before the PSC shall bear no charge, except in cases where the taking of evidence leads to costs incurred by testimonies or expert reports. In such circumstances, the costs shall be borne by the claimant.

SECTION 8.

JURISDICTION OF GFA DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS OFFICER

DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS OFFICER (DRO)

- 174.** The Disciplinary Regulations Officer is free to regulate its own procedure and is responsible for:
- a)** representing the GFA or nominating a person to attend on behalf of the DRO in all GFA disciplinary proceedings;
 - b)** conducting investigations and charging persons or bodies with breach of Regulations;
 - c)** Issuing Warnings, Reprimands and fixed Fines (as these terms are defined in these regulations) without the need of passing the matter on to the Disciplinary Committee, on the condition set at (d) below;
 - d)** In the case of Fines which amounts are not fixed within these Regulations, the DRO may only sanction a maximum fine of £500. Sanctions which , in the opinion of the DRO may result in greater amounts will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee;
 - e)** Imposing mandatory and automatic sanctions contained within these Regulations;
 - f)** lodging appeals against decisions of GFA disciplinary bodies;
 - g)** settling disputes where appropriate;
 - h)** directing that a matter is out of order.

SECTION 9.

COMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 175.** The GFA General Assembly appoints up to 5 persons to the Disciplinary Committee and 5 persons to the Appeal Committee. The members of these committees shall be made up of persons not otherwise Members of the GFA. Procedures shall be adopted to ensure members are appointed in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.
- 176.** The Disciplinary & Appeal Committee members shall be appointed for 4 years.
- 177.** Members of the Disciplinary Committee may be required to provide details of their professional background and a list of football interests and/or any conflicts of interest they may have.
- 178.** Each committee shall consist of a panel of three persons: one member of the legal profession and two other persons. The Chairperson of each Committee shall be chosen prior to the commencement of each hearing.

SECTION 10.

PROVISIONS

HEARINGS

- 179.** Hearings shall be arranged by the GFA Disciplinary Control Unit.
- 180.** If the circumstances so require, the secretariat may arrange for the deliberations and decision-making to be conducted via telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.
- 181.** All hearings shall be conducted in accordance with any protocols and procedures that may be adopted from time to time by the Disciplinary Control Unit.
- 182.** All attendees must sign an attendance form as requested. Any refusal to do so may result in an attendee being refused the right to attend the hearing at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

183. The DRO and/or Disciplinary Bodies may request the attendance of any persons at a hearing. Failure to comply with any reasonable request may result in disciplinary action if deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

MAJORITY

184. The Disciplinary and Appeals Committees shall decide by simple majority.

SECRETARIAT/ DISCIPLINARY CONTROL UNIT

185. The Disciplinary Control Unit (DCU) of the GFA provides the disciplinary bodies with a secretariat.
186. The DCU designates the secretary for every hearing.
187. The secretary takes charge of the administrative work and minutes the hearing.
188. The decisions issued by the Disciplinary and Appeal Committee and a copy of the relevant files shall be kept by the DCU for at least three years.
189. All communication from the DCU shall be conducted in English through the Secretary of the relevant party only. All communications from a Player or an Official to the DCU must be in English and sent by the Secretary of the Player's club unless the Player is no longer registered with a club.

PUBLICATION OF DECISION

190. The decision issued in each case shall be provided to all parties to the procedure.
191. The DCU may decide to publish decisions on the GFA website or to issue press releases in relation to decisions.

INDEPENDENCE

192. The disciplinary bodies of the GFA issue their decisions entirely independently; in particular, they shall not receive instructions from any other body of the GFA in relation to decision making.
193. A member of another body of the GFA may not stay in the meeting room during the disciplinary bodies' deliberations unless they have been explicitly summoned to attend.

INCOMPATIBILITY OF OFFICE

- 194.** With the exception of the DRO, the members of the disciplinary bodies may not be an employee of the GFA or belong to the GFA Board.

WITHDRAWAL

- 195.** Members of the disciplinary bodies of the GFA shall decline to participate in any hearing concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.

- 196.** This applies in the following cases (among others):

- a) if the member in question has a direct or indirect interest in the outcome of the matter;
- b) if he is associated with any of the parties;
- c) if he has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.

- 197.** Members against whom an objection might be raised shall notify the DCU and the Chairperson immediately. Each party may also raise an objection to a member. The DCU shall make a final decision in such a case.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- 198.** The members of the disciplinary bodies shall ensure that disclosures made to them remain confidential to the disciplinary body and the relevant staff of the DCU involved in the case.

- 199.** All proceedings and disclosures made in relation to a case remain confidential to the parties, the GFA, their representatives and/or persons or witnesses attending on their behalf. The privacy of the hearing and all matters pertaining to the proceedings shall be respected. This Regulation is subject to the exception in Regulation 185 and 186.

- 200.** Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the parties may be made public.

EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY

- 201.** Members of the disciplinary bodies of GFA may not be held personally liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

SECTION 11.

PROCEDURE OF DISCIPLINARY BODIES

INVESTIGATION

- 202.** The DRO investigates violations of GFA Rules, Regulations and decisions which are not otherwise automatically dealt with by the Regulations or are subject to the jurisdiction of other bodies.
- 203.** Such investigations are conducted by written and oral inquiries and by the examination of individuals if necessary. Expert opinion and/or reports from any department or any committee of the GFA may be sought and an inspection of documents or files may be necessary. The DRO may conduct any enquiry he deems necessary in order to fully investigate a case.
- 204.** The DRO may request the DCU to provide secretarial support in this regard.
- 205.** On completing his investigation the DRO shall decide if a charge for breach of a Regulation needs to be issued against anyone. In the event such a charge is brought, the case will be:-
- a) Dealt with by the DRO in accordance with Regulation 197 above; or
 - b) Submitted for consideration at a Disciplinary Committee hearing, if the DRO decides the matter falls outside the scope of his powers in these Regulations.
- 206.** A case may be reopened by the DRO if new evidence emerges, subject to the time limits set down in these Regulations.
- 207.** In cases related to betting and/or gambling, the DRO may, in his own discretion, request the immediate suspension of a Participant whilst an investigation is being carried out. In such circumstances, the DRO must submit its request in writing to the Disciplinary Committee, who will decide whether to grant the request, setting out the grounds under which the suspension is being requested (the "Suspension Request")
- 208.** The DRO must forward a copy of a Suspension Request to the affected club, and allow them 48 hours to contest the request in writing to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 209.** The Disciplinary Committee shall consider the Suspension Request and revert with a decision by no later than 72 hours after it has been submitted.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE - GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 210.** The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with disciplinary matters as follows:
- a)** on the basis of match reports;
 - b)** if a complaint or protest is lodged;
 - c)** reported violations of GFA Regulations;
 - d)** if, in the opinion of the DRO, the GFA Regulations have been breached.
- 211.** Proceedings are initiated by way of request from the DRO to the Disciplinary Committee following any of the matters arising under Regulation 205 above.
- 212.** Except where otherwise provided for, time limits referred to in these Regulations shall begin from the day after receipt of notification.

PROCEDURE

- 213.** The DCU must inform all parties to the case of the venue, date and time of the hearing and all parties are entitled to attend the hearing.
- 214.** Notification is not required in the case of cautions and expulsions.
- 215.** A Player shall not be afforded a personal hearing in respect of an individual caution except in the case of mistaken identity.
- 216.** Personal hearings shall not be permitted in respect of automatic or mandatory suspensions fixed by these Regulations.
- 217.** A party shall not be prejudiced if they do not wish to attend a hearing unless they have specifically been requested to attend by the Disciplinary Body and fail to do so.
- 218.** All parties involved in the hearing must confirm to the DCU in writing the name and the role within, or relationship to the party, of all persons who will be attending the hearing on their behalf, or at their request within time limits as stated in the notification. The Disciplinary Committee shall have discretion to permit the attendance of any persons not confirmed within the stated deadlines.
- 219.** The Disciplinary Committee, once appointed, can issue directions to the parties in respect of the hearing prior to proceedings commencing.

- 220.** All parties shall be notified by the DCU within three days by fax and/or electronic mail and/or registered post, of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. In urgent matters the Chairperson may issue or direct the DCU to issue an oral decision in advance of the written notification.
- 221.** A hearing can be postponed if the appointed Disciplinary Committee requires additional information prior to proceedings commencing or to allow technical or other issues to be addressed.

REMIT

- 222.** The Disciplinary Committee shall make its decision and may issue a sanction pursuant to these Regulations.
- 223.** The Disciplinary Committee may adjourn or suspend proceedings for further deliberation or to seek further or additional evidence or expert advice or where it is otherwise considered necessary to do so, provided an adjournment does not unduly prejudice any party. Following an adjournment the Disciplinary Committee must reconvene within ten days.
- 224.** The Disciplinary Committee shall consider all evidence that it deems relevant to the case.
- 225.** The Disciplinary Committee may hold hearings and take decisions in the absence of one or all of the parties.

APPEAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURE - GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 226.** An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee against a decision of the DRO and Disciplinary Committee except unless otherwise prohibited in these Regulations. Decisions of any Affiliated Member or other GFA body, with the exception of Club Licensing bodies and bodies ruling on Doping Offences, may also be appealed to the Appeal Committee subject to other applicable Regulations.
- 227.** No appeal may be lodged in respect of the following:
- a)** a warning;
 - b)** a reprimand;
 - c)** a match caution (except in the case of mistaken identity);
 - d)** an automatic suspension;
 - e)** a mandatory suspension;

- f) minimum sanctions imposed in accordance with Regulation 12 (a)
 - g) (h) and 17 (a) – (f);
 - h) the appointment of Referees, Assistant Referees or Fourth Officials to matches;
 - i) the scheduling or rescheduling of fixtures and re-arranged matches;
 - j) any other matter where the Regulations preclude an appeal.
- 228.** An appeal may be Ruled out of order by the DRO and appeal fees shall be returned in such cases if:
- a) it is a matter not open to appeal under these Regulations;
 - b) it is a decision adopted by the Board relating to football policy;
 - c) it is clear that such appeal was legitimately Ruled “out of order” by a lower body.
 - d) if it is not filed correctly in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations
- 229.** No appeal can be lodged against the decision of the DRO to Regulation an appeal out of order and such decision is final.
- 230.** Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their members and Participants, unless the person concerned submits a written objection to this. All appeals must be made by the Club Secretary unless permitted by the DRO in exceptional circumstances.
- 231.** All parties in an appeal shall be notified by the DCU within three days, by fax and/or electronic mail and/or registered post, of the decision of the Appeals Committee. In urgent matters, the Chairperson may issue or direct the DCU to issue an oral decision in advance of written notification.

DISMISSALS – WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

- 232.** A Player and his Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a Player from the Field of Play by demonstrating to The Association that the dismissal was wrongful. In order to demonstrate that a dismissal was wrongful for the purposes of this rule, the Player and his Club must establish that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

- 233.** A claim of wrongful dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.
- 234.** The Body that considers a claim of wrongful dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee and the dismissal from the Field of Play will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.
- 235.** The Club on behalf of the Player must, within 72 hours from the termination of the game, notify The DRO in writing of their intention to submit a claim. The claim will NOT proceed if this deadline is not met. The evidence upon which the claim is founded (which must include a video and/or DVD recording showing the incident must be submitted by the Player concerned or his Club, together with the relevant fee, within 48 hours following the incident.
- 236.** The fee for the claim shall be £250.00.
- 237.** The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate. It should be noted that where a claim is withdrawn after 5pm on the next working day following the game, any fee that has been submitted to The Association in respect of the claim WILL NOT be refunded.
- 238.** The Claim will be determined based on video and/or DVD and written evidence only. None of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented at the consideration of the claim.
- 239.** Players and Clubs should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by The Association.
- 240.** Once the claim is lodged with The Association it will confirm that the video and/or DVD shows the incident as reported by the Referee/Assistant Referee and the claim has conformed with the criteria.
- 241.** Prior to the commencement of the suspension, an Appeals Board will be convened to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video and/or DVD evidence submitted. The following procedures will be used unless the Appeals Board thinks it appropriate to amend them: The Board will review :-
- a)** The Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action.
 - b)** All statements and video and other evidence provided in support of the claim, including details of the Player ;

- 242.** After considering the evidence, the Board will decide whether the claim should be rejected or successful. A claim will only be successful where the Board is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.
- 243.** If the Board's decision is to reject the claim, it will, in every case, go on to consider whether or not the player's punishment should be increased. If the Board considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and / or amounts to an abuse of process, the Board shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment set out in these Regulations. In all other cases, the Player reported by the Referee shall serve the standard punishment as set out in these Regulations. In all cases where a claim is rejected the fee shall be retained.
- 244.** If the Board's decision is that the claim is successful, the standard punishment set out in these Regulations is withdrawn and the fee returned. The dismissal will not be counted for the purposes of these Regulations. The decision shall be conveyed to the DRO who shall communicate the decision to the Club by no later than 24 hours after the decision has been made.

DISMISSALS – EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT

- 245.** A Player and his Club may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a Player from the Field of Play by demonstrating to The Association that the circumstances of a particular dismissal were truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment applicable to that dismissal (as set out in these Regulations) would be clearly excessive. A claim cannot be brought under this regulation in respect of any dismissal which is the subject of a claim for wrongful dismissal under Regulation 227 above.
- 246.** Claims that the standard punishment is clearly excessive brought under this Regulation may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending off under Regulations 12(c) to 12(h) above.
- 247.** Any Claimant bringing a claim under this Regulation accepts that the sending off was correct according to the Laws of the Game and waives any right to challenge that sending off via a claim for wrongful dismissal under Regulation 225 above or by any other means whatsoever.
- 248.** The Club on behalf of the Player must, within 24 hours from the termination of the game, notify The DRO in writing of their intention to submit a claim. The claim will NOT proceed if this deadline is not met. The evidence upon which the claim is founded (which must include a video and/or DVD recording showing the incident from all available angles), must be submitted by the Player concerned or his Club, together with the relevant fee, by no later than 48 hours after the notification referred to above is made. The claim must

explain why the case is truly exceptional. The relevant fee, to be paid to The Association, for clubs in each league is as follows:

Gibraltar National League	£500.00
Intermediate League	£300.00

- 249.** If the claim is correctly filed, the DRO may then commence an investigation and forward on the claim to the Appeals Committee who will review the claim and decide accordingly.
- 250.** The Body that considers a claim of this type is concerned with only the question of whether the standard punishment should not be imposed in view of the truly exceptional facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee and the correctness of the dismissal from the Field of Play shall not be subject to any scrutiny by the Body and will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.
- 251.** If the claim is successful, the Appeals Committee may reduce the punishment as it deems fit and the fee will be refunded.
- 252.** if the claim fails, the Appeals Committee may uphold the current punishment, or increase it as it deems fit, and 50% of the fee will be refunded.
- 253.** If, in addition to the claim failing, the Appeals Committee finds that the claim was frivolous, the entire fee will be paid and, the punishment will be doubled.

Regulations for wrongful dismissal and excessive punishment as detailed above are intended to apply only in truly exceptional circumstances. The Bodies considering cases under these Regulations will be specifically instructed to approach them in this way. It is envisaged that, in the vast majority of dismissals, the standard punishments set out in these Regulations will be appropriate and will be applied. The facilities available under these Regulations are provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. They are not intended to encourage or lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments, and are reserved for truly exceptional cases.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

- 254.** Appeals from Disciplinary Decisions must be sent by email to the DRO within 48 hours of the date on which the written notification of the decision being appealed against was received by the appellant. For the avoidance of doubt time limits begin from 9am the day after receipt of the notification. Appeals must be addressed to the GFA Disciplinary Control Unit. The initial appeal documents must include a copy of the decision being appealed against, the Appeal Fee in accordance with Regulation 243 and must indicate the date

upon which such decision was received by the appellant, and must confirm that a notification of the submission of appeal and corresponding fee has been sent in accordance with these Rules.

- 255.** A letter of notification of the submission of an appeal to the GFA shall be simultaneously sent by email to the body whose decision is the subject of the appeal, unless the decision being appealed against is a decision of the GFA Disciplinary Committee. The letter of notification shall identify the decision which is the subject of the appeal.
- 256.** Appeals must be accompanied by an Appeal Fee of £1,000, made payable to the GFA. This fee shall be refunded only if the appeal is successful. Each party to the Appeal shall cover its own legal costs. The losing party shall also pay any additional costs directly associated with the Appeal.
- 257.** Within 24 hours of sending the initial appeal documents, the appellant must submit to the DCU, by hand or by email, all additional documentation, submissions and/or evidence upon which it intends to rely at the Appeal Committee hearing. The DCU shall determine the relevant parties to the appeal and shall copy all parties with all documentation, submissions and/or evidence as soon as possible.
- 258.** Any other party to the appeal must send to the DCU, by email, within 48 hours following receipt of notification of the appeal from the DCU, any documentation, submissions and/or evidence upon which it intends to rely at the Appeal Committee hearing. The DCU shall copy all parties with all documentation, submissions and/or evidence as soon as possible.
- 259.** Any documentation or submissions sent by email are only confirmed as being received once confirmation of receipt has been issued by the DCU by email. Confirmation of receipt is only an acknowledgement that the email has been received.
- 260.** All appeal hearings shall commence within fifteen days of receipt of the appeal by the DCU unless there are exceptional circumstances which require an extension of this time period. The DCU shall inform all parties to the appeal of the venue, date and time of the Appeal Committee hearing.
- 261.** The Appeal Committee, once appointed, can issue directions to the parties in respect of the hearing prior to proceedings commencing.
- 262.** All parties involved in the appeal must, at least three days before the hearing, confirm in writing, by post, fax or email to the DCU the name and the role within, or relationship to the party, of all persons who will be attending the hearing on their behalf, or at their request. Any person not confirmed within the stated deadlines will not be allowed to attend the hearing in any capacity.

- 263.** Any party involved in the appeal, which fails to attend an Appeal hearing if requested to do so by the Appeal Committee may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 264.** In cases of urgency, the Appeal Committee, or if the Appeal Committee has not yet been appointed, the DCU, may amend the time limits indicated above, with the exception of the time limit to file an appeal, in order to facilitate an expedited appeals process.

REMIT OF THE APPEAL COMMITTEE

- 265.** The Appeal Committee may choose to re-hear the case in question in its own discretion.
- 266.** The Appeal Committee shall consider all evidence that it deems relevant to the case.
- 267.** The Appeal Committee shall have the power to uphold or reject the appeal and/or to replace or vary the decision of the previous decision making body, provided the decision of the Appeal Committee is not in conflict with any of the Regulations of the GFA, which shall take precedence at all times. The Appeal Committee shall also have the power to send a case back to a previous decision making body to be re-heard, where appropriate in exceptional circumstances.
- 268.** The Appeal Committee may adjourn or suspend proceedings for further deliberation or to seek further or additional evidence or expert advice or where it is otherwise considered necessary to do so, provided an adjournment does not unduly prejudice any party. Following an adjournment the Appeal Committee must reconvene within ten days unless there are exceptional circumstances which require an extension of this time period.

CONCLUSION TO THE APPEALS PROCEEDINGS

- 269.** The Appeal Committee makes its decision, in principle, as a body of final instance.

THE NATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

- 270.** The NDRC procedure shall be set down in the NDRC Regulations as from time to time amended.

PLAYER STATUS COMMITTEE

- 271.** The Player Status Committee (the “PSC”) shall consist of a Chairman and two (2) Members.
- 272.** The Chairman shall be the President of the Association, who will then choose two other Members of his choice to complete the Committee.
- 273.** The members of the PSC shall have no connection whatsoever with the parties to the dispute.
- 274.** If the Chairman is unable to take cognizance of a case, the Vice President shall act as Chairman for that particular case.
- 275.** If any other member of the PSC is unable to take cognizance of a case, the Chairman shall choose an individual at his sole discretion for that particular case.
- 276.** The PSC is empowered to regulate its own procedure and is empowered to hear not only evidence provided by the parties to the dispute but also other evidence which it may deem relevant.
- 277.** The parties to the dispute shall take care to produce all the evidence at the hearing. The PSC shall allow postponements for the hearing of evidence only in exceptional circumstances.
- 278.** The Chairman shall ensure that the parties are given a fair hearing.
- 279.** If during a hearing it results that any of the parties had committed an infringement of the Regulations and regulations of the Association and about which the PSC is not empowered to give a decision, the PSC has the duty to bring this matter to the attention of the DRO.
- 280.** The PSC shall give its decision as early as possible after the parties have ended the presentation of their case.
- 281.** The Chairman of the Board shall have both an original and a casting vote.
- 282.** The DCU shall send a copy of the decision to the parties concerned as soon as practicable after the decision had been taken.

SECTION 12.

GENERAL PROCEDURAL REGULATIONS FOR GFA DISCIPLINARY BODIES

EVIDENCE / PROOF

- 283.** Any type of proof may be produced unless it violates human dignity or does not serve to establish relevant facts.
- 284.** The following are, in particular, admissible: reports from Match Officials, Match Delegates and referee observers, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions and unedited audio or video recordings.
- 285.** The disciplinary bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.
- 286.** The disciplinary bodies shall hear all witness evidence it considers relevant to the case. It is a matter for the disciplinary bodies to deem if a witness is relevant to the case in hand. The disciplinary bodies may refuse to hear a witness or to take evidence that is not considered relevant or which would otherwise unnecessarily delay the proceedings.
- 287.** The disciplinary bodies decide on the basis of the Regulations and the proof before them.
- 288.** The disciplinary bodies may request a party or any other body to submit information or documentation. Such a request shall be complied with.
- 289.** Facts contained in Match Officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
- 290.** Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of Match Officials' reports may be submitted for consideration by the disciplinary bodies.
- 291.** If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various Match Officials and Match Delegates and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the Match Officials' report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play; the Match Delegate's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.
- 292.** The disciplinary bodies may draw on principles and precedents already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED IN PROTESTS & DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

- 293.** Any party who is protesting or taking a case to a GFA Disciplinary Hearing, may request in writing and in English, appropriate information from anybody necessary to substantiate their case.

REPRESENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

- 294.** The parties may arrange to be assisted by a third party.
- 295.** Parties may be represented at a hearing by a third party, but should appear personally where requested to do so by the disciplinary body.
- 296.** The parties are free to choose their own assistance and representation.

OBVIOUS ERRORS

- 297.** A disciplinary body may, at its discretion, rectify any error or omission contained in its decision. Any request by a party for such a rectification must be submitted to the DCU within five days of receipt of the decision in question.

COSTS AND EXPENSES

- 298.** All parties shall bear their own costs unless otherwise directed.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

- 299.** The DCU shall notify a copy of each decision to all parties to the procedure.
- 300.** Decisions and other documents intended for Players or Officials may be addressed to the club, league, association or other body concerned.
- 301.** Decisions shall be communicated by fax and/or electronic mail and/or by registered post. A fax or electronic delivery report or registered post receipt is sufficient evidence that a decision has been properly notified.
- 302.** Notification by the DCU of cautions, accumulated points and expulsions shall be sent by fax and/or, electronic mail and/or registered post within two days of the disciplinary hearing if a hearing has taken place.
- 303.** Except where otherwise provided for, time limits referred to in these Regulations shall begin from the day after receipt of notification.

ENFORCEMENT OF DECISIONS

304. Decisions come into force as per the terms of the decision.

FORM AND CONTENTS OF THE DECISION

305. The decision contains:

- a) the composition of the committee;
- b) the names of the parties;
- c) the terms of the decision, including the date of coming into force;
- d) notice of the channels for appeal;
- e) where appropriate a summary of the facts and reasons for the decision.

306. The original decision is signed by the members of the Disciplinary Body and a copy of the signed decision shall be forwarded to all parties by the Disciplinary Control Unit.

FAILURE TO RESPECT DECISIONS

307. It shall be an offence not to comply with a decision of the disciplinary bodies, and any party that fails to respect such a decision may be fined.

308. In addition to imposing a fine, the disciplinary bodies of the GFA may grant a final deadline in which the party must comply with the decision. If the party does not comply with the decision within the final deadline, the disciplinary bodies may impose a further sanction, including an additional fine, deduction of points, relegation to a lower division, a transfer ban, or a ban on any football- related activity.

SCHEDULE 1

AUTOMATIC FINES

The following automatic fines will apply :-

1. A Caution (Yellow Card)	-	£6.00
2. A Sending Off (two Yellow Cards)	-	£12.00
3. A direct red card	-	£15.00

The above automatic fines must be settled in full by no later than 14 days from the date issued, failure of which will result in the Player not being eligible to play until the fine is settled. The penalty increase rate as set in these Regulations apply.

