



# **WOMEN'S LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**2021/2022**

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# **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

- 1.1** The Women's League is a development league made up of the following:
  - a)** Senior League;
  - b)** Rock Cup Competition.
- 1.2** The League shall consist of one Division and one Cup competition format. Each division or cup shall be comprised of such number of teams as the GFA Technical Department may in its sole discretion deem appropriate.
- 1.3** The number of teams eligible to promotion to a higher division (if any) at the end of a season and the number of teams eligible to relegation to a lower division (if any) at the end of a season shall be a matter for the sole discretion of the Technical Department.
- 1.4** A club may not withdraw or resign from the League or Cup unless it has prior to the end of the then current season given written notice to the Technical Department of its intention to withdraw or resign at the end of said season. Failure to give said written notice or the withdrawal by a team from the League or Cup prior to the end of the then current season shall leave the club liable to a charge of misconduct.
- 1.5** A club failing to play any fixture without showing good and enough cause for so doing shall be guilty of misconduct and be dealt with accordingly by the Disciplinary Department of the GFA.
- 1.6** The trophies for the winner of each division of the Leagues and Cups shall be competed for annually and shall not become the property in any given season of the winning club.
- 1.7** The Technical Department shall keep with respect to each season a record of the details of the winners of each division of the League.
- 1.8** The Technical Department may at its sole discretion present to the clubs and their players who have won the league for each division or Cup and/or been runners up replica miniature cups, medals or other prizes.

- 1.9** When a player taking part in the final of the Competition is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct, the medal or other prize (if any) to which she may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of the Technical Department.

## **2. CONTROL OF THE LEAGUES AND CUPS**

- 2.1** The ownership, organisation, control and management of the Women's League shall be vested entirely and exclusively in the Gibraltar Football Association ("the GFA") via the Gibraltar FA Management Board acting through the Technical Department.
- 2.2** The Technical Department shall have the power to make, delete and amend the rules for the organisation, control and management of the Women's League ("the League") and Cup Competitions ("Cups") as it from time to time deems expedient.
- 2.3** All clubs participating in the League in any of its divisions or Cups shall be bound by and comply with the League/ Competition Rules as may from time to time be amended by the Technical Department.
- 2.4** In relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Technical Department shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate.
- 2.5** The GFA and Technical Department shall be exclusively entitled, or to authorise others, to use, sell or otherwise exploit all marketing and commercial rights associated with the League/ Cup Competitions without limitation.
- 2.6** In relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Technical Department shall have the power to take such penalties as it deems necessary and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate.
- 2.7** Clubs shall be bound by and comply with the terms of all contracts entered into by the GFA and Technical Department from time to time in relation to any marketing and/or commercial contract relating to the Competition.

### 3. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 3.1 Except to the extent that may be provided for in league Rules, the Laws of the Game as specified by the GFA and Technical Department to appertain to women's football in Gibraltar as amended from time to time and based on those issued by the International Football Association Board ("the Laws of the Game") shall apply to all fixtures played in the League.

### 4. LEAGUE AND CUP COMPETITION

#### MATCHES AND PLAYERS

- 4.1 A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 11 players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.
- 4.2 A match may not start if either team consists of less than 9 players.

#### SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES

- 4.3 In accordance with UEFA Development Guidelines:
- a) Each team may use all substitutes in the course of the match.
  - b) A team is permitted to make as many substitutes as it wishes during the first half.
  - c) Any number of substitutions is permitted during half time.
  - d) All substitutes are subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee, whether called upon the field of play or not.
  - e) All substitutes must wear a bib whilst on the bench or warming up in a substitute capacity. Bibs must be of a different colour to that of their kit.
  - f) **During the second half, a team is only permitted to stop the game for substitutions for a max of 3 times.**
  - g) Any player substituted in the second half may not re-enter the field of play.
  - h) All substitutions to be made with the permission of the Match Official and or Match Delegate.

**4.4** The maximum number of substitutes permitted on the bench shall be seven.

**4.5** A goalkeeper may change her place with any other player, provided that:  
-

- a) The referee is informed before the change is made;
- b) The change is made during a stoppage in the match

## **PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES SENT OFF**

**4.6** A player who has been sent off before the kick-off may only be replaced by one of the named substitutes.

**4.7** A named substitute who has been sent off either before the kick-off, or after play has started, may not be replaced.

**4.8** A player who is shown a red card and sent off must leave the field of play and surrounding areas and may not be allowed to remain by/on the spectators' stands.

## **TECHNICAL STAFF**

### **COACHING QUALIFICATIONS**

**4.9** The Head Coach of the team must hold an approved GFA Level 1 award in Coaching Football or equivalent minimum coaching qualification and have a validated First aid and safeguarding certificate.

**4.10** A Coach will only be allowed to be present in the technical area and GFA playing areas if he/she has completed a minimum and valid Coaching Level 1 certificate and a validated First aid and safeguarding certificate. Consideration may be given to a potential coach who has enrolled in a GFA approved course and is in the process of 'working towards' his/her certificate.

**4.11** The coach may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and he/she must return to their position immediately after giving these instructions.

**4.12** He/She and the other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided, and they must behave in a responsible manner.

**4.13** A coach or technical staff who has been sent off either before the kick-off, or after play has started, may not be replaced unless named, registered on COMET and allocated to that team-sheet. A coach or technical staff who is sent off must leave the field of play and surrounding areas and will not be allowed to remain by/in the spectators stands.

**4.14** A minimum of a Level 1 Football Coaching Qualification is required per Coach.

**4.15** A minimum of 1 qualified First Aider is required per team per fixture.

## **REFEREES**

**4.16** Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he/she has been appointed. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

**4.17** The referee may only change a decision upon realising that it is incorrect or, at his/her discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee, if he/she has not restarted play.

## **DURATION OF THE MATCH**

**4.18** The match lasts two equal periods of 45 minutes.

**4.19** Players are entitled to an interval at half-time.

**4.20** The half-time interval must not exceed 10 minutes.

**4.21** The duration of the half-time interval may be altered only with the consent of the referee.

**4.22** Up to a 2-minute water break per half may be introduced at the Referee's and Technical Department's discretion.

**4.23** Allowance is made in either period for all time lost through:

- a) Substitution(s);
- b) Assessment of injury to players;
- c) Removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment;

- d) Wasting time;
- e) Any other cause

**4.24** The allowance for time lost is at the discretion of the referee.

**4.25** If a penalty kick must be taken or retaken, the duration of either half is extended until the penalty kick is completed.

**4.26** The offside rule will be applied as from the halfway line.

**4.27** Players will assemble behind the spectators stand a few minutes prior to kick off alongside the referee who will walk both teams onto the pitch for line up.

**4.28** The Technical Department shall have power to vary the arrangements provided in this Rule if it is deemed necessary.

**4.29** When a match has been postponed or abandoned and neither club is at fault, the match must be replayed from the minute of abandonment on a date and time as decided by the Technical Department.

**4.30** Matches abandoned through the fault of a club shall be dealt with by the Technical Department as it sees fit in accordance with GFA Rules and shall leave the club liable to disciplinary proceedings.

## **5. PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUES & CUP COMPETITIONS**

**5.1** Only female players who are Player Members and only clubs who are Club Members of the GFA can compete in the League.

**5.2** A club can only have registered in any division of the League one team.

**5.3** No team shall be registered unless the appointed manager and/or other official(s) in charge of that team is or are professionally qualified to the minimum standard which the Technical Department and GFA may from time to time specify.

**5.4** In the event of a team playing any match without being under the constant direction or supervision of a manager or other official who is professionally qualified to the minimum standards required from time to time by the Technical Department and GFA the Club to which that team shall belong shall be liable to disciplinary proceedings for misconduct.



- 5.5 In the event of a club fielding an ineligible player in an official league fixture or cup competition the offending club and player shall be guilty of misconduct and the Technical Department in accordance with GFA Disciplinary Board shall be the sole authority to decide whether the match should be re-played or the points of the fixture awarded to the opposing team.
- 5.6 A breach of any provision of the League or Cup Rules shall leave a club liable to a charge of misconduct.
- 5.7 The GFA and Technical Department shall have the power to disqualify a club and/or one of its teams should it deem it appropriate upon said club being found guilty of a serious breach of the League or Cup Rules or of serious and/or repeated misconduct.

## **6. PLAYER MEMBER REGISTRATION & TRANSFERS**

- 6.1 A maximum of 20 players shall register to play for any team in the League or Cup Competitions, unless otherwise specified by the Technical Department.
- 6.2 No player may be registered with more than one club at any given point in time.
- 6.3 No player under 12 years old may register for any club.
- 6.4 A maximum of four 12-year-old players may be registered with any team with signed parental consent and acceptance by the Technical Department. (This number may be altered at the discretion of the Technical Department should they deem it appropriate and necessary).
- 6.5 A maximum of 4 non home-grown players may be registered with any team.
- 6.6 No player may re-register (whether by transfer or release) to play for a team for which said player has played for in the course of the same season.
- 6.7 The registration of a Player Member may be transferred prior to the 1st March in any season. These transfers will not be accepted unless all relevant documentation is submitted and processed by the Club a minimum of 72 hours before match day.

- 6.8** A club shall not be entitled to unreasonably withhold its consent to the transfer of a player provided always that at the time the transfer request is made, the player is not undergoing disciplinary action and/or completing a disciplinary punishment imposed by the said club for a breach of its club rules and/or these Rules.
- 6.9** The Technical Department and GFA shall have the power at any time to cancel the registration of a player upon application of the player or her registered club.
- 6.10** In the event of there being disagreement between players and clubs with regard to any matter relating to the transfer of a player the parties directly concerned in the dispute shall refer the matter to the Technical Department who may refer the matter to the GFA or arbitration if the Technical Department or GFA cannot successfully mediate in the dispute.
- 6.11** No club shall be entitled to register and/or field in any official match more than 4 persons/players who do not satisfy the provisions of the below Rule

The persons/players to whom the restriction contained in the above Rule shall not apply to are: -

A Home-Grown Player is a Player who is eligible for selection for the Gibraltar National Squad in accordance with the Article 6 of the FIFA Statutes which states as follows:

- a) Only a Player Member in possession of a British passport shall be eligible to play for the national squads in any international or other match arranged by the Gibraltar FA.
- b) In addition to being in possession of a British passport, the Player Member must fulfil at least one of the following conditions:
  - i. she was born in Gibraltar.
  - ii. Her biological mother or biological father was born in Gibraltar.
  - iii. Her biological grandmother or grandfather was born in Gibraltar; or
  - iv. She has lived continuously in Gibraltar for at least two years.
  - v. Each Team must prove, to the satisfaction of the GFA, that their Home-Grown Players satisfy the above requirements.

## **7. PLAYER MEMBER REGISTRATION STATUS**

- 7.1** Player Members must be registered with the GFA in accordance with the GFA Rule
- 7.2** Poaching is considered a significant offence by this Association and any league, club, or individual found to have committed a poaching violation shall be subject to a significant sanction as determined by the GFA Disciplinary Unit.
- 7.3** Such sanctions may include;
- a)** a financial penalty;
  - b)** loss of coaching privileges for a year,
  - c)** ban from applying for the next available UEFA Licence;
  - d)** ineligibility to participate in GFA authorized events,
  - e)** or any other appropriate sanction.
- 7.4** Any club, team or Coach who through their responsible officers or representatives, attempts at any time prior to the approved trials start date of any seasonal year to induce a registered player (or their parent or their guardian) of any team, or any team as a whole, club, or league under the jurisdiction of this Association to leave their current affiliation before the end of the current seasonal year will be considered a poaching violation.
- 7.5** Teams will not be permitted to change Clubs during the seasonal year.
- 7.6** If a coach moves from one club to another separate and distinct club during the seasonal year, the prohibitions shall be enforced for the remainder of that seasonal year and the following seasonal year. This rule does not apply under the following:
- a)** The coach's club dissolves.
  - b)** The appropriate prior club representative agrees in writing to the coach's move to a different club.
- 7.7** Contact initiated by a responsible representative of a club or team between a registered player or player's parents other than the player's registered club will be considered poaching.

- 7.8** The appropriate response by the responsible representative to player-initiated contact is to provide requested information. Any recommendation for the player to attend training, trials or any other team, club football event by the representative would be inappropriate and considered an attempt to induce a player to leave their present club.
- 7.9** A club advertising on their own website is not considered poaching. Attendance by the player at such events when initiated by the player or player's parents will not be considered as an official approach.

## **8. THE LEAGUE & CUP COMPETITIONS**

- 8.1** The matches in the League shall be played on a league basis according to the Laws of the Game as from time to time amended with three points awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- 8.2** If at the end of a season there is a tie in points for the first place in the division, a Play-off game will be organized to determine the Competition winners. In the case of this game ending in a tie, the match winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks.
- 8.3** The Referee appointed for an official league or cup fixture shall be the sole authority to decide all questions relating to the fitness or otherwise of the ground at the time of the scheduled kick-off of the said fixture.
- 8.4** If a fixture is cancelled it shall be played as directed by the Technical Department. If a fixture is abandoned due to weather conditions, the state of the pitch or the conduct of one or both teams and/or their supporters, the Technical Department shall have the sole discretion to determine what action is to be taken with reference the fixture.
- 8.5** In the event of a Referee failing to appear on a field of play five minutes before the scheduled kick-off time for a fixture the senior Assistant Referee appointed for the fixture shall officiate at his/her sole discretion to officiate a match with one or more of the appointed match officials absent provided always that he/she considers himself/herself capable of so doing.
- 8.6** The first named team in an officially appointed League or Cup match shall be known as the home team and may be required to be responsible for providing a match ball which complies with the requirements of the Laws of the Game as from time to time amended.

- 8.7** A designated team official in a fixture shall not later than 45 minutes prior to the time scheduled for the kick-off shall ensure that a completed team sheet is submitted on comet to said fixture.
- 8.8** No more than 4 GFA registered club officials and 7 substitutes shall be permitted to be present on the Technical Bench. All substitutes must wear different coloured bibs in accordance to the rules and regulations.
- 8.9** Up to a maximum of 7 substitutes may be used.
- 8.10** At least one Match Delegate will be present per game. This match official will be a representative of the Technical Department

## **9. ELIGIBLE CLUBS**

- 9.1** The Competition shall be open to all clubs.
- 9.2** The Technical Department may reject the entry of any club.
- 9.3** Each club desirous of competing shall with reference to the Competition complete an entry form and return it to the Technical Department or GFA together with such fee (if any) as may from time to time be prescribed.

## **10. CUP COMPETITION DRAWS**

- 10.1** All cup competition draws shall be made under normal GFA Guidelines

## **11. INABILITY TO FIELD A TEAM ON MATCH DAY**

- 11.1** If a Club Member is unable to field a team for any League Match or Cup Competition, the following procedure must be adopted:
- a)** The Club Member must write to the GFA and Technical Department by email by no later than 48 hours prior to the respective League or Cup Match, explaining the reasons for not being able to field a team and requesting a postponement;
  - b)** The GFA and Technical Department will, in its sole discretion, decide whether to re-schedule the League or Cup Match in question and communicate the decision to the Club Member by email within 24 hours of receiving the Club request.

- c) The GFA and/or Technical Department will also communicate its decision to the GFLA and its Fixture Secretary by email within 24 hours of such decision being taken.
- 11.2** The GFA and Technical Department will only consider re-scheduling the League or Cup Match in question as per 8.17(ii) below under exceptional circumstances.
- 11.3** The GFA and Technical Department has the discretion to waive the 48-hour time limit set in 11.1(i) above.
- 11.4** If the GFA and Technical Department decides the League or Cup Match should be re-scheduled, the Women's Football Fixture Secretary will be instructed to provide a new date for the postponed Match and shall inform the GFA and Technical Department within 24 hours of the decision.
- 11.5** If the GFA and Technical Department decides the League Match in question should continue, and the Club Member does not field a team, the 3 points will be awarded to the opponent Team in the League or Cup Match in question. Disciplinary sanctions may also be imposed in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Rules.

## **12. CLUB COLOURS**

- 12.1** For the purpose of these Rules regarding Club Colours, Advertising, Numbers, Sponsor designation and Player identification and strip adherence will be kept to the Rules as set by the GFA from time to time in the Gibraltar FA Senior League Rules, namely the Gibraltar FA National League Rules) and as per the Laws of the Game. No advertisement will be allowed on any player which would contravene International Standards on the protection of Children & Young Persons.
- 12.2** Where the colour (shirts, shorts, stockings) of two competing team are similar, the team playing away must change unless alternative arrangements are mutually agreed by the competing clubs.
- 12.3** Team's colour must not clash with the outfit being worn by the match officials appointed for the fixture.

## **13. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 13.1** There will be one match delegate present at every game.

**13.2** This match official will be a representative, or appointee of the Technical Dept.

**13.3** Match Officials duties will consist of the following: -

- a) Presentation of Official Match Ball to the Referee;
- b) Controlling that only two Managers or technical staff and eighteen players are allowed on the bench;
- c) Controlling members of the public ensuring they are seated in the spectator stands and do not enter the pitch during the match;
- d) Ensuring no one apart from the two teams and referees are on the pitch;
- e) Ensuring only approved photographers can take photos and do not interfere at any point with the game.
- f) Any other duties that the Technical Department deem necessary and appropriate.

## **14. TEAM SHEETS**

**14.1** Each competing team shall accurately complete the team sheet which can be found in the COMET system, containing a list of Player Members, substitutes and corresponding shirt numbers (as per 14.2 below) by no later than 45 minutes prior to kick-off.

**14.2** A team sheet must be composed of the following persons: -

- Eleven (11) starting Players
- A maximum of seven (7) substitutes;
- A maximum of four (4) team officials who fulfil the following roles:
  - a) Head Coach or Manager
  - b) Assistant Coach
  - c) First Aider
  - d) Physiotherapist or Doctor

- 14.3** Only the persons listed in 12.2.3 above named in the team sheet are allowed in the technical area. No changes will be allowed after the deadlines set at 13.2.1 and 13.2.2 above, unless
- 14.4** There is an injury to a player in the starting 11 prior to kick-off, in which case, a named substitute can replace the injured player. This will be done by a Match Official or Referee.
- 14.5** If team sheets are not completed within the deadlines above, a team will only be able to submit its 11 starting Players. No named substitutes will be allowed on the bench, and no substitutions will be allowed prior nor during the match.
- 14.6** It is the responsibility of each Club member to ensure that the information provided in each team sheet is correct and accurate and that the listed Player Members are eligible to participate.
- 14.7** The Referee and Match Official will then check each Team Sheet in accordance with the GFA Referee Regulations.

## **15. CHECKING OF IDENTITY**

- 15.1** Players and officials mentioned in the team sheet are obliged to have with them the Gibraltar FA Identity Card.
- 15.2** The Gibraltar FA Identity Card of all persons listed on the team sheet will be checked by the Match Official(s) prior to kick off.
- 15.3** In the case where a player's identity could not be ascertained because she does not produce her Gibraltar FA Identity Card, the player will not be allowed to play. In the case of a team official, he/she will not be allowed to sit in the technical area.
- 15.4** In the case of a protest, complaint, charge or investigation, the burden of proof as to the identity of a player or official taking part in a match shall rest with the player and his Club.

## **16. FIRST AID**

- 16.1** A designated first aider from each team must be present at every fixture/match played.
- 16.2** A First Aid Kit and ice (where necessary and appropriate) must be provided by each team upon all fixtures/matches played.



## **17. SAFEGUARDING**

**17.1** All leagues and clubs with Development teams/players must have a named Welfare Officer, who has an “accepted” RGP Application and who has completed a GFA recognized Safeguarding certificate.

**17.2** The Technical Department shall have the power to make, delete and amend the rules for the organisation, control and management of this as it from time to time deems necessary and appropriate in accordance to changes within the GFA and The International FA Board Requirements.

## **18. MATCH BALL REQUIREMENTS**

**18.1** The GFA Technical Department will provide the footballs to be used for each Match (the “Match Ball”) unless otherwise stated.

## **19. DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS**

**19.1** Any dispute or complaint by a Club Member regarding another Club Member in relation to any matter applicable to the Leagues or Cups, shall be dealt in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Rules.

## **20. POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

**20.1** The following Statutes, Policies and Regulations apply to these Rules and all GFA Members must adhere to them during their participation in the League and Cup Competitions and if they are Members of the GFA: -

- a) Anti-Doping Regulations;
- b) Social Media Policy;
- c) Rules of the GFA
- d) Referee Regulations
- e) GFA Disciplinary Rules

**20.2** A copy of the above shall be circulated to all Club Members participating in the League and Cup Competitions, and it is the responsibility of each Club Member to ensure their registered Player Members are fully aware of the repercussions in the event of their breach.

**20.3** Match suspension due to multiple cautions - A player who has been cautioned and shown the below listed number of yellow cards will be suspended from all domestic matches (including league and cup(s)) for the following number of matches: -

- a) X5 yellow cards equals x1 match suspension
- b) X10 yellow cards equals x2 match suspensions

**20.4** The Technical Department and GFA shall be deemed to be the sole authorities for the interpretation of the League and Cup Rules and the decision of the said Management Board upon any question or matter relating to the administration and organisation of the League and Cup which is not provided for herein shall be final and binding on all clubs and/or players.

## **21. BREACH OF RULES**

**21.1** Any breach of these Rules will be dealt with by the GFA Disciplinary Rules.

## **22. APPLICABILITY OF RULES**

**22.1** These Rules have been adopted by the Technical Department and GFA Management Board to regulate the 2021/2022 Season.

