



# INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE RULES

**2021/2022**

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# INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE RULES

## 1. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

- 1.1 The Intermediate League is made up of a single division consisting of the Teams listed in Schedule 1 hereto (“the League”)

## 2. CONTROL OF THE LEAGUES

- 2.1 The organisation, control and management of the League shall be the responsibility of the Gibraltar Football Association (“GFA”);
- 2.2 The GFA shall have the power to add, alter and/or remove these rules.
- 2.3 The GFA Board shall have the power to implement and develop policies as well as clarify matters of ambiguity concerning the League or any matters which may affect the League;
- 2.4 Teams must comply with and shall be bound by these Rules and any other GFA Rules and Regulations that may apply;
- 2.5 The GFA Board has the power to take action and make decisions, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems appropriate in relation to any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules.

The GFA Board has exclusive entitlement and authorisation to use, assign, sell or otherwise exploit all marketing and commercial rights associated with the League. The GFA may enter into a contract regarding marketing and commercial rights with another party.

## 3. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 3.1 All matches in the League will be played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the International Football Association Board (“IFAB”) as amended from time to time, with the exception of 15.10 below.

## 4. LEAGUE COMPETITION FACTORS

- 4.1 The League shall commence on the week of [. ]
- 4.2 The Teams listed in Schedule 1 hereto shall participate in the League competition which will consist of [. ] rounds.

**4.3** A Fixture Schedule for the League shall be issued by no later than [ . ];

**4.4** The League shall finalise by no later than [ . ].

## **5. PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE**

**5.1** A Club may only register a team in the League if it has obtained a UEFA or Domestic Club Licence for the respective season.

**5.2** A Club may only register one team in the League.

**5.3** A Club must register its players in accordance with Rule 6 and 7 below and must adhere to the Home Grown Player Rule set out in these Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the definition of Home Grown Player set out in the GFA National League Rules also applies for the purposes of these Rules.

**5.4** A Club may only acquire and transfer its players in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the GFA.

## **6. PLAYER MEMBER REGISTRATION**

**6.1.** Subject to Rule 6.6 below, a Player is only eligible to register and play in the League if he was born between the years of 1998 and 2005.

**6.2.** During any given season, the maximum number of players registered in a Team is 18 (save for the University Player exception outlined in Schedule 2 below).

**6.3.** During any given season, the minimum number of players registered in a Team to compete in the League must be 13.

**6.4.** A Team must not have more than three non-EU nationals registered in its squad at any given time. Additionally, Rule 6.7 in the National League Rules applies for the purposes of this Rule.

**6.5.** A Team may not have more than 5 non-Home Grown Players registered at any given time.

**6.6.** A Team may have a maximum of 5 players born before the year 1998 registered in its squad.

**6.7.** The possible combinations that enable Teams to comply with these requirements are set out in Schedule 2

**6.8.** A Club may use players registered with its U-16 team in accordance with Rule 15.4 below;

- 6.9. For the purposes of these Rules the definition of non-EU nationals and/or non-EU players set out in the Gibraltar National League Rules, applies.

## **7. PLAYER REGISTRATION STATUS**

- 7.1 Players must be registered with the GFA in accordance with the GFA Statutes and the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (“RSTP Regulations”).

## **8. TRANSFER & REGISTRATION WINDOW**

- 8.1 There will be two transfer windows in each League Season as follows: -

- a) The first commences on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 (the “Summer Window”)
- b) The second transfer window commences on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (the “Winter Window”).

- 8.2 During each Transfer Window, Teams are able to Register and Transfer players in accordance with the GFA Statutes, the RSTP Regulations and any other relevant Rules or Regulations which may apply.

- 8.3 Transfers outside the Transfer Windows will not be allowed except as provided for in the RSTP Regulations.

- 8.4 Players may be registered with a maximum of three Teams during one season. During this period, the Player is only eligible to play in GFA official matches for a maximum of two Teams.

## **9. THE SCORING SYSTEM**

- 9.1 Teams shall play each other once per round (the “League Match”);
- 9.2 The winner of each League Match shall score three points. Each Team participating in a League Match which is drawn, shall score 1 point. No points are awarded to the Team that loses a Match;
- 9.3 In the event of a Team being expelled from the League during the active season, all points acquired and goals scored and conceded by other Teams against the expelled Team will be removed.

## **10. THE LEAGUE TABLE**

- 10.1 The results of the League Matches shall be recorded by the GFA in a table containing in respect of each Team the following information:

- a) The number of League Matches played in the Season;
- b) The number of League Matches won, drawn and lost as a Home Team in the Season;
- c) The number of League Matches won, drawn and lost as a Away Team in the Season;
- d) The number of goals scored in League Matches by and by against that Team in the Season;
- e) The number of points scored by the Team in the Season

**10.2** The position of Teams in the table shall be determined by the number of points scored in the Season, the Team having scored the highest number of points being at the top of the table, and the Team having scored the lowest number of points being at the bottom.

**10.3** If any two or more Teams have scored the same number of points their position in the table shall be determined on the respective head to head points between the Teams in question. This means that their positions will be determined by the total number of points accumulated by each Team in all League Matches played against each other. The higher or highest placed Team shall be the Team with the higher or highest number of points.

**10.4** If any two or more Team have scored the same number of points and have the same head to head points, their position in the table shall be determined on the respective head to head goal difference between the Teams in question, that is to say, the difference between the total number of goals scored and conceded by each Team in all League Matches played against each other. The higher or highest placed Team shall be the Team with the higher or highest goal difference.

**10.5** When calculating goal differences in accordance with 10.4 above, if there are three or more Teams and more than one Team has the same head to head goal difference, then their position in the table will continue to be determined on a head to head goal difference basis until either:

- a) the Team with the highest goal difference can be determined; or
- b) there are only two Teams left over and both Teams have the same head to head goal difference in which case they are calculated in accordance with 10.6.

**10.6** If any two or more Teams are equal in 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5(b) above, Fair Play scales shall be applied as follows:

- a) Receiving a Yellow Card : -1 point
- b) Double Yellow Card/ejection : -2 points
- c) Direct Card : -3 points
- d) Suspension of a coach : -4 points

**10.7** If any two or more Teams have scored the same number of points and have the same goal difference, the higher or highest placed Team shall be the Team having scored the most goals in League Matches that Season;

**10.8** If any two or more Teams have scored the same number of points, have the same goal difference, have scored and conceded the same number of goals in League Matches in that Season, the higher or highest placed Team shall be the Team having the better head-to-head goal difference in the Season. (As there are three rounds, the away-goal rule shall not apply).

**10.9** If any two or more Teams have scored the same number of points, have the same head to head goal difference, have scored and conceded the same number of goals in League Matches in the Season, and have the same head-to-head goal difference in the Season, they shall share the same position.

## **11. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**11.1.** The Team which is at the top of the table at the end of the Season shall be the League Champions, and as such, shall receive a trophy which it shall return to the GFA in good order and condition by no later than 3 weeks prior to the final League Match of the next Season.

**11.2.** Any damage to the trophy will need to be paid by the Team responsible for the trophy. Failure to do so will result in the GFA deducting the amount payable for the damage from any annual funds given to the Team by the GFA.

**11.3.** The League Champions shall further receive a maximum of 30 commemorative medals to be presented to the Team, its Manager and to such of its Player and officials as the Team thinks fit, provided that any Player who has entered the field of play in a minimum of 5 of its League matches that Season shall receive from the Team a commemorative medal.

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

**12.1.** In the event that a Club is unable to field a team for any League Match, the following procedure must be followed:

- a) The Club must write to the GFA via email by no later than 72 hours prior to the respective League Match, explaining the reasons for not being able to field a team and requesting a postponement;
  - b) The GFA will, in its sole discretion, decide whether or not to re-schedule the League Match in question and communicate the decision to the Team by email within 24 hours of receiving the Team request.
  - c) The GFA will also communicate its decision to the GFLA and its Fixture Secretary by email within 48 hours of such decision being taken.
- 12.2.** The GFA will only consider re-scheduling the League Match in question as per 12.1(b) below under exceptional circumstances.
- 12.3.** The GFA has the discretion to waive the 72 hour time limit set in 12.1(a) above in extraordinary circumstances.
- 12.4.** In the event that the GFA decides the League Match should be re-scheduled, the Administration Department of the GFA will be instructed to provide a new date for the postponed Match and shall inform the GFA within 24 hours of the decision.
- 12.5.** In the event that the GFA does not postpone the League Match and the Team does not field a team, 3 points will be awarded to the opponent Team in the League Match in question. Disciplinary sanctions may also be imposed on the Team that does not field a team in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Regulations.
- 12.6.** The above 12.1 to 12.5 are not applicable to a Club's inability to field a team as a result of a COVID-19 related issue. Such scenarios shall be dealt with in accordance with the Gibraltar FA COVID-19 Protocol as amended from time to time.

### **13. ADVERTISING, SPONSOR DESIGNATIONS, PLAYER IDENTIFICATION AND STRIP**

- 13.1.** Rules 10 – 12 of the GFA National League Rules apply to these Rules.

### **14. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 14.1** All League Matches will be administered and refereed by a Gibraltar FA Registered Referee, in accordance with the Gibraltar FA Referee Regulations as amended from time to time.

### **15. TEAM SHEETS**

- 15.1** Each competing Team shall accurately complete the team sheet which can be found in the COMET system, containing a list of Players, substitutes and



corresponding shirt numbers by no later than 1 hour prior to kick-off. Only players and substitutes listed on a Team Sheet are eligible to play.

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

- a) A minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of Eleven (11) starting Players (of which at least 8 must be Home Grown Players);
- b) A maximum of seven (7) substitutes;
- c) A maximum of seven (7) Team officials who fulfil the following roles:
  - i. Head Coach;
  - ii. Assistant Coach;
  - iii. Physical Trainer;
  - iv. Physiotherapist;
  - v. Doctor;
  - vi. Team delegate;
  - vii. Coaching Staff

**15.3** Only the persons listed in 15.2 above named in the Team sheet are allowed in the Technical Area (as defined in the Gibraltar National League Rules).

**15.4** Players registered with a Club's U-16 Team may only be listed on the team sheet if they are 16 years of age and have provided the GFA with written parental/guardian consent to play in the League.

**15.5** Players registered with a Club's Senior Team may only be listed on the team sheet if they have played less than 3 games in the Intermediate League as these player will only be able to play no more than 3 games in the intermediate League.

**15.6** No changes will be allowed after the deadline set at 15.1 above, unless there is an injury to a player in the starting 8 or 11 prior to kick-off, in which case, a named substitute can replace the injured player. This will be done by a Match Official.

**15.7** If team sheets are not completed within the deadlines set out above in 15.1, a team will only be able to submit its starting Players as per 15.2. No named substitutes will be allowed on the bench, and no substitutions will be allowed prior or during the match. The GFA may disapply this rule only in exceptional circumstances.

**15.8** It is the responsibility of each Team to ensure that the information provided in each team sheet is correct and accurate and that the listed players are eligible to participate, irrespective of the information provided for in COMET.

**15.9** The Match Officials and/or GFA Match Delegate will check each team sheet prior to each match.

**15.10** Each team may use 7 substitutes in the course of the match. However, no more than three substitutions are allowed during the second half.

## **16. CHECKING OF IDENTITY**

**16.1** Players and officials mentioned in the team sheet are obliged to have with them the Gibraltar FA Identity Card.

**16.2** The Gibraltar FA Identity Card of all persons listed on the team sheet may be checked by the Match Official(s) prior to kick off.

**16.3** In the case where a player's identity could not be ascertained because he does not produce his 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.

**16.4** 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 Team.

## **17. HOME GROWN PLAYER ("HGP") RULE**

**17.1** In any match, a Team:

- a) must have at least 8 HGPs on the field of play at all times...
- b) must not have more than 3 non HGPs on the field of play at any time;
- c) must not have more than 3 players born prior to 1998 on the field of play at any time;

**17.2** If a Team is found not to have complied with 17.1 above, the match will be declared a forfeit against the Team in breach, and sanctioned in accordance with the relevant provisions relating to forfeiture set out in the GFA Disciplinary Regulations.

## **18. FEEDER PLAYER RULE**

**18.1** All Home-Grown Players (except those born before 1998) are eligible to play for their respective Senior Teams for an unlimited number of times;

**18.2** All other Players must only play for their respective Senior Team a maximum of 3 times. After the limit is reached, the Player is either:

- a) transferred permanently to the Senior Team, subject always to compliance with Senior Team squad quotas as set out in the Gibraltar FA National League Rules; or
- b) Retained in the Intermediate League squad for the rest of the season.

**18.3** Players transferred permanently to the Senior Team in accordance with 18.2(i) above must not play for the Intermediate League again in the same season.

**18.4** Players retained in the squad in accordance with 18(2)(ii) above are prohibited from playing in the Senior Team for the remainder of the season

## **19. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS**

**19.1** The registered Head Coach must comply with the Coaching Qualifications Rule set out in the Gibraltar FA National League Rules (i.e. Rule 18 as amended from time to time).

**19.2** The registered Assistant Coach must hold one of the following minimum coaching qualifications: -

- a) A valid UEFA recognised Level 1 Licence;
- b) Valid UEFA coaching diploma which is equivalent or higher to the one required under (i) above; or
- c) Started an education course for the diploma required under (i) or (ii) above. Simple registration for the required diploma is not sufficient for the purposes of these Rules.

## **20. MATCH BALL REQUIREMENTS**

**20.1** The Gibraltar FA will provide the footballs to be used for each Match (the "Match Ball").

**20.2** On Match Day, the Match Officials will provide a maximum of five (5) Match Balls for any given match.

**20.3** Both Team delegates shall confirm the number of Match Balls provided prior to kick off, and shall ensure that these are returned to the Gibraltar FA match delegate(s) at the end of the game.

**20.4** In the event that a Match Ball is lost/destroyed during a match, both Teams agree to pay the cost of the Match Ball within 7 days of the match in which the ball was lost/destroyed.

**20.5** If the loss/destruction of a Match Ball arises from a deliberate act by one Team, the Team responsible for such act will pay the cost in full.

**20.6** The Gibraltar FA will, in its sole discretion, decide whether an act is deliberate for the purposes of 20.5 above.

## **21. DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS**

**21.1** Any dispute or complaint by a Team regarding a match or another Team in relation to any matter applicable to the League, must be officially reported, in writing, to the GFA within 24 hours from the conclusion of the match in question. The matter shall be dealt in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Regulations.

**21.2.** Any special request made by a Team in relation to a match must be made in writing to the General Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the match in question except for COVID-19 related matters which must follow the agreed procedure from time to time in place.

**21.3.** The General Secretary may waive the time limit set out in 20.2 in exceptional circumstances.

**21.4.** With regards to requests for a minute silence prior to a match, this shall only be permitted under the following circumstances:

- a) An international tragic event;
- b) A national tragic event;
- c) A national event e.g. Remembrance Sunday
- d) Observing respect for the death of individuals who have contributed to the Game in Gibraltar or internationally.
- e) Death of a player or team official

## **22. POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

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

- a) Anti-Doping Regulations;
- b) Social Media Policy;
- c) Referee Regulations;

- d) GFA Disciplinary Regulations;
- e) Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players;
- f) COVID-19 Protocol;
- g) The GFA Statutes;
- h) Any other Statutes, Policies, Regulations and Rules which the GFA Board may determine should apply.

**22.2.** A copy of the above shall be made available on the official GFA Website, and it is the responsibility of each Team to ensure that their registered players and staff are fully aware of the applicable rules and the repercussions in the event of their breach.

**22.3.** The current League will be played under a global pandemic, and as such, extreme measures may have to be applied in order to comply with Public Health and National Legislation. The GFA holds the exclusive jurisdiction and discretion to make decisions which may be seen to breach these Rules, if Public Health and National Legislation require it to do so. In this regard, the GFA will implement a live COVID-19 protocol, which is subject to change in accordance with the evolving pandemic.

## **23. BREACH OF RULES**

**23.1.** Any breach of these Rules will be dealt with by the GFA's Disciplinary Unit in accordance with the Gibraltar FA Disciplinary Regulations.

**23.2.** The GFA may also take any action necessary to address any breaches which may not be adequately addressed under the Gibraltar FA Disciplinary Regulations so long as such actions are reasonable and proportionate.

## **24. FORCE MAJEURE**

**24.1** In the event that the League cannot be completed and must be terminated prematurely, it shall be declared null and void unless a team has already mathematically won the competition;

## **25. APPLICABILITY OF RULES**

**25.1** These Rules have been adopted by the GFA Board of Directors to regulate the 2021/2022 League Season.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **Squad Quotas**

- 1. COLLEGE 1975 FC**
- 2. EUROPA FC**
- 3. FCB MAGPIES**
- 4. FC HOUND DOGS (ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE SEASON UNDER EXCEPTION)**
- 5. GLACIS UNITED FC**
- 6. LINCOLN RED IMPS FC**
- 7. LIONS GIBRALTAR FC**
- 8. LYNX FC**
- 9. MANCHESTER 62 FC**
- 10. MONS CALPE SC**

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **Squad Quotas**

<b>NON "HGP" PLAYERS</b>	<b>HOME GROWN PLAYERS "HGP"</b>	<b>TOTAL PERMITTED</b>
5	13	18
4	13	17
3	13	16
2	13	15
1	13	14
0	13	13
4	14	18
3	14	17
2	14	16
1	14	15
0	14	14
3	15	18
2	15	17
1	15	16
0	15	15
2	16	18
1	16	17
0	16	16
1	17	18
0	17	17
0	18	18

**\*\* HGP Players who are studying abroad will not count towards the above-mentioned squad quota. ("University Players")**

**Teams may have a maximum of 3 University Players in their squad, and must provide the Gibraltar FA with a Letter from the Department of Education, confirming that the Player is studying abroad.**

**If the Player returns to Gibraltar permanently, he will automatically be added to the squad quota.**

**International Clearance Procedures still apply.**

