

GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GFA INTERMEDIATE CUP RULES 2022-2023



SCOPE OF GFA INTERMEDIATE CUP RULES

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 The name of this Competition shall be called the GFA Intermediate Cup, or whichever name may be mutually agreed with a sponsorship partner selected by the GFA from time to time.
- 1.2 The organisation, management and operations of the GFA Intermediate Cup shall be the responsibility of the GFA.
- 1.3 Clubs (inclusive of all Players, Club Officials and Club Personnel) must comply and shall be bound by these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.
- 1.4 The GFA shall have the power and authority to amend these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules from time to time.
- 1.5 The GFA shall exclusively retain the power to approve and implement such ancillary rules and policies, together with clarifying matters of ambiguity concerning the GFA Intermediate Cup or any other additional aspects which may affect the GFA Intermediate Cup.
- 1.6 The GFA shall exclusively retain all entitlement and authority to use, assign, sell or otherwise take advantage of all marketing and commercial rights associated with the GFA Intermediate Cup, inclusive of pursuing such commercial opportunities and/or agreements and partnerships which may be in the best interests of the GFA Intermediate Cup.
- 1.7 The GFA Intermediate Cup is the property of the GFA, and shall be presented to the GFA Intermediate Cup Champions at the conclusion of the GFA Intermediate Cup Final.
- 1.8 The GFA Intermediate Cup Champions shall retain the trophy of the GFA Intermediate Cup for the duration of the 2022/23 football season, and return it to the GFA at the conclusion of the same. The GFA Intermediate Cup Champions will be entitled to keep a replica trophy of the GFA Intermediate Cup.
- 1.9 At its sole discretion, the GFA may present to the GFA Intermediate Cup Champions and corresponding runners up, replica miniature cups, medals and other prizes.
- 1.10 Unless otherwise stated herein, where these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules are silent, the GFA shall have the power to take such action and make such decision, orders, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and follow such procedures as it considers appropriate.



- 1.11 Prize money associated with the GFA Intermediate Cup shall be quantified in accordance with any sponsorship partner selected by the GFA from time to time, and shall be awarded in accordance with the Gibraltar FA Pillars Programme.
- 1.12 The GFA Intermediate Cup shall be composed of:
- (a) Group stage (six match days);
 - (b) knockout stage;
 - (i) semi-finals;
 - (ii) final.

2. **Laws of the Game**

- 2.1 All Matches in the GFA Intermediate Cup will be played in conformity with the Laws of the Game promulgated by the IFAB as the same may be amended from time to time.

3. **Club Eligibility and Participation in the GFA Intermediate Cup**

- 3.1 The GFA Intermediate Cup shall, subject to rule 3.2 below, be open to all Clubs and/or Teams participating in the GFA Intermediate League.
- 3.2 The GFA shall have the power to vary the arrangements provided in these regulations if it is deemed necessary.
- 3.3 Any Team intended on withdrawing from a Match pertaining to the GFA Intermediate Cup must give written notice of their intention to both the GFA and the opposing Club and/or Team, together with the Disciplinary Regulations Officer not less than seventy-two (72) hours before kick-off. Any Team failing to comply with this requirement may be subject to Disciplinary Sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook.
- 3.4 If a Match in the GFA Intermediate Cup is abandoned or postponed, it shall be rescheduled and played as directed by the GFA who shall provide written notification to each of the participating Clubs and/or Teams.
- 3.5 Where a Match in the GFA Intermediate Cup is abandoned through the fault or, or due to the conduct of, a Club and/or Team or their supporters, the Club and/or Team will be considered to be at fault, and together with its Players and Club Officials, as well as its supporters, may be made subject to Disciplinary Sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook. Further, under such circumstances, the GFA is not obliged to reschedule a Match in the GFA Intermediate Cup, and shall have the discretion to declare the opponent of the Club and/or Team at fault the winners of a Match in the GFA Intermediate Cup.
- 3.6 If a Match of the GFA Intermediate Cup Final is abandoned prior to full time, during extra-time, or during a penalty shootout due to adverse weather conditions or the poor

state of the field of play, the Match may be rescheduled. If said Match is abandoned during extra-time, the full thirty-minute extra-time stipulated in 3.10 above shall be replayed pursuant to 3.5 above. Player Registration and Eligibility for the GFA Intermediate Cup.

4. Player Registration and Eligibility for the GFA Intermediate Cup

4.1 Players must be registered in accordance with all applicable GFA Statutes and the Status and Transfer Regulations before being eligible to be registered to form part of a Team registered by a Club to compete in the GFA Intermediate Cup.

4.2 Each Club and/or Team eligible to participate in the GFA Intermediate Cup shall abide by all Player eligibility regulations contained in the Intermediate League Rules, including but not limited provisions pertaining to Home-Grown Players, which shall be applicable to the GFA Intermediate Cup.

4.3 A Player who has been suspended may play in postponed, drawn or replayed Matches in the GFA Intermediate Cup after the term of his suspension has expired.

5. Match system – group stage

5.1 The 11 teams will be drawn into three groups. Two groups will be composed of four teams and one group will be composed of three teams.

5.2 Each team plays one home and one away match against each other club in its group. A club does not play more than two home or two away matches in a row and each club plays one home match and one away match on the first and last two matchdays. Three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw, and none for a defeat.

5.3 The duration of the Matches in the GFA Rock Cup shall be ninety (90) minutes, together with any additional injury time instructed by the Match Officials. The half-time interval shall be for a duration of fifteen (15) minutes.

5.4 The three group winners and one best placed runners-up team qualify for the semi-final.

5.5 For the purposes of determining the best placed runners-up, in the groups of four teams the runners-up matches against the lowest placed team will not count.

5.6 To determine the best-placed runners-up team, the following criteria are applied, in the order given:

- (a) higher number of points;
- (b) superior goal difference;
- (c) higher number of goals scored;
- (d) higher number of wins:

- (e) lower disciplinary points total based only on yellow and red cards received by players and team officials in all group matches (red card = 3 points, yellow card = 1 point, expulsion for two yellow cards in one match = 3 points);
 - (f) drawing of lots.
- 5.7 The ranking of Teams in the group stages shall be determined by the aggregate number of points awarded during the course of the GFA Intermediate Cup, with the Team having tallied the highest number of points being ranked first, and the Team having tallied the lowest number of points being ranked last.
- 5.8 If any two or more Teams have accumulated an equal number of points, the requisite tie-breaker will be decided by determining which of the Teams had the best head-to-head record. This means that their ranking will be determined by the aggregate number of points accumulated by each Team in all Intermediate Cup Matches played against each other. The highest ranking Team shall be the Team with the highest amount of points.
- 5.9 If any two or more Teams have accumulated an equal number of points, and have further accumulated an equal amount of points in their respective head-to-head records, the requisite tie-breaker will be decided by determining which of Teams had the best goal difference between each of them. This means that their ranking will be determined by the difference between the aggregate amount of goals scored and conceded by each Team in all Intermediate League Matches played against each other. The highest ranking Team shall be the Team with the highest positive goal difference.
- 5.10 When determining Teams' goal differences in accordance with rule 5.7 above, if there are three or more Teams in consideration, and more than one of those Teams have an identical head-to-head goal difference, their ranking in the group will be determined on a head-to-head goal difference basis until either:
 - (a) the Team with the highest positive goal difference can be determined; or
 - (b) there are only two Teams remaining for consideration with an identical head-to-head goal difference, in which case their ranking will be determined in accordance with rule 5.9.
- 5.11 If notwithstanding any of the foregoing tie-breakers in rules 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8, two or more Teams' records remain equal, the Teams' rankings in the group will be determined in accordance with the scales of fair play, and by reference and consideration to the aggregate amount of Cautions, Dismissals and suspensions received by each Team over all Intermediate League Matches, namely:
 - (a) deduction of 1 point for each Caution (comprising of 1 yellow card) received over the course of all Intermediate League Matches;
 - (b) deduction of 2 points for each Dismissal (comprising of 2 yellow cards, and 1 red card) received over the course of all Intermediate League Matches;

- (c) deduction of 3 points for each Dismissal (comprising of 1 direct red card) receive over the course of all Intermediate League Matches; and
 - (d) deduction of 4 points for any Dismissal (comprising of either: (i) 2 yellow cards, and 1 red card; (ii) a direct red card; or (iii) a form of suspension) received by a Club Manager over the course of all Intermediate League Matches.
- 5.12 If notwithstanding any of the foregoing tie-breakers in rules 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9, two or more Teams' records remain equal, all applicable Teams shall compete for the highest ranking in a separate round-robin tournament (in the case of more than two Teams), or in an additional Match (in the case of two Teams), the particulars and details of which shall be determined by the GFA.

6. Match system – knockout stage

- 6.1 The semi-final pairings are determined by means of a draw.
- 6.2 Matches in the GFA Intermediate Cup knock out stage shall be played over a single Match. The duration of the Matches in the knockout stage shall be ninety (90) minutes, together with any additional injury time instructed by the Match Officials. The half-time interval shall be for a duration of fifteen (15) minutes.
- 6.3 If a semi-final or the GFA Intermediate Cup Final concludes in a draw after ninety minutes, an additional extra thirty (30) minutes must be played (divided into two halves of fifteen minutes each). To the extent that said applicable Match ends in a draw after the final whistle, the outcome shall be determined by means of both Clubs and/or Teams participating in a penalty shootout in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB.

7. The GFA Intermediate Cup Draw

- 7.1 The requisite draws for the GFA Intermediate Cup shall be held at a date, time and location to be chosen and communicated by the GFA. All draws will be carried out in the presence of Clubs and/or Teams participating in the GFA Intermediate Cup.
- 7.2 The date, time and location of the draws shall be notified in writing by the GFA to the respective Clubs and/or Teams via email no later than 72 hours prior to the date and time of the draw.
- 7.3 The GFA Intermediate Cup Final shall be the last round of this Competition.
- 7.4 After each draw the GFA will, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide notice in writing to each Club and/or Team of the name of its opponent in the next round, together with the date and time of when the Match will be played. All Matches in each round of the GFA Intermediate Cup shall be played at such times and on such days as the GFA may determine.

8. Inability to Field a Team for a GFA Intermediate Cup Match

8.1 Regulations on a Club's inability to field a Team as set out in the Intermediate League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

9. Match Day Provisions

9.1 The first Club and/or Team named in the fixture shall be the home team and the second Club and/or Team named in the fixture shall be the away team.

9.2 Prior to a Match of the GFA Intermediate Cup, both competing Clubs shall accurately insert and complete the details of their Team on the COMET system in accordance with the team sheet regulations as set out in the Intermediate League Rules which will apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

9.3 Further to rule 9.2, the following rule applies during extra time in the GFA Rock Cup Semi-Final and Final:

- (a) If a team has not used the maximum number of substitutes and/or substitution opportunities, any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used in extra time.
- (b) Each team will have one additional substitution opportunity.
- (c) Substitutions may also be made in the period between full-time and the start of extra time, and at half-time in extra time – these do not count as used substitution opportunities.

10. Checking of Identity

10.1 Regulations on the checking of identities of Players and/or Club Officials as set out in the Intermediate League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

10.2 In addition, to the extent that the GFA is not satisfied with the proof confirming the Player or Club Official's identity, the GFA may decide to disqualify said Player or Club Official, as well as disqualify the Club and/or Team from the GFA Intermediate Cup Final, and seek to impose further Disciplinary Sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook.

11. Home-Grown Player Rule

11.1 Regulations on the Home-Grown Player Rules as set out in the Intermediate League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

12. Players registered in GFL teams playing in the Intermediate Cup

12.1 All Home-Grown Players (except those born prior to 1999) who are registered with their Club's GFL team are eligible to play for their respective Clubs in the Intermediate Cup for an unlimited number of times.

12.2 All other players must only play for their respective Club's in the Intermediate Cup a maximum of 4 times.

13. Club Manager Qualifications

13.1 Regulations on Club Manager qualification requirements as set out in the Intermediate League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

14. Match Ball Requirements

14.1 Regulations on Match ball requirements as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

15. Match Officials

15.1 The GFA Intermediate Cup Final will be administered and policed by Match Officials in accordance with the Laws of the Game and the GFA Referee Regulations as amended from time to time.

16. Advertising

16.1 Regulations on Advertising as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

17. Sponsor Designations

17.1 Regulations on Sponsorship Designations as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

18. Player Identification and Strip

18.1 Regulations on Player Identification and Strips as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules.

19. Disputes, Complaints & Special Requests

19.1 Any dispute or complaint by a Team and/or Club regarding another Team and/or Club must be officially reported to the GFA, and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook.

19.2 With regards to requests for a one minute silence prior to the GFA Intermediate Cup Match, this shall only be permitted under the following circumstances:

- (a) a national or international tragic event;
- (b) a national event;
- (c) a demonstration of respect for the death of individuals who have contributed to the game of football in Gibraltar or internationally; or

(d) the death of a Player or Club Official.

20. Ancillary Intermediate Cup Provisions: Cautions, Dismissals and Suspensions

20.1 The following provisions of this rule 20 will apply to Players, Club Managers, Clubs Officials and Clubs registered in the Intermediate League.

20.2 In relation to the Intermediate Cup, the Disciplinary Regulations will apply except that sanctions for dismissals will be served as a one match suspension unless the misconduct is so severe that it warrants a more severe sanction.

21. Breach of GFA Intermediate Cup Rules

21.1 Any breach of these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules will be dealt with by the GFA's Disciplinary Control Unit in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulation in this GFA Handbook.

21.2 The GFA may also take any action necessary to address any breaches which may not be adequately addressed under the Disciplinary Regulations providing that such actions are reasonable and proportionate.

21.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the GFA shall retain the power to disqualify any competing Team and/or Club, or Player found to have breached these GFA Intermediate Cup Rules or any other provisions contained in this GFA Handbook (the decision of which shall be final).