



## 1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 In the interpretation of this GFA Handbook, any words and expressions, unless otherwise defined herein, shall be words and expressions as defined in this regulation 1.1:

**Academy:** shall mean an organisation or an independent legal entity whose primary, long-term objective is to provide players with long-term training through the provision of the necessary training facilities and infrastructure, which shall primarily include, but not be limited to, football training centres, football camps and/or schools.

**ADAMS:** shall mean the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System, a web-based databased management tool for data entry, storage, sharing and reporting designed to assist stakeholders and WADA in their anti-doping operations in conjunction with data protection legislation.

**Administration:** shall mean providing, supplying, supervising, facilitating, or otherwise participating in the Use or Attempted Use by another Person of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method. However, this definition shall not include the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification and shall not include actions involving Prohibited substances which are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition Testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate that such Prohibited Substances are not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance.

**Adverse Analytical Finding:** shall mean a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved entity that identifies in a Sample the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers (including elevated quantities of endogenous substances) or evidence of the Use of a Prohibited Method, consistently with the International Standard for Laboratories.

**Advertising or advertising:** shall mean any means of communication or such act or practice of attracting public notice and attention and includes, but is not limited to the use of a designation, message, logo, trademark, name or emblem of any nature.

**Aggravating Circumstances:** shall mean circumstances involving, or actions by a Participant or other Person that may justify the imposition of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction. Such circumstances and actions shall include, but are not limited to: the Participant or other Person Used or Possessed multiple Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods, Used or Possessed a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method on multiple occasions, or committed multiple Anti-Doping Rule Violations; a normal individual would be likely to enjoy performance-enhancing effects of the Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s) beyond the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility; the Participant or other Person engaged in deceptive or obstructive conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation; or the Participant or other Person engaged in Tampering during Results Management. For the avoidance of doubt, the examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive, and other



similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a longer period of Ineligibility.

**Amateur Player:** shall mean a player who is not a Professional Player.

**Anti-Doping Charge Letter:** shall mean the charge letter issued by the GFA to a Participant or other Person in connection with Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

**Anti-Doping Notice:** shall mean a notice served in accordance with **regulation 31** of the Anti-Doping Regulations.

**Anti-Doping Organisation:** shall mean WADA or such other body that is responsible for adopting rules for initiation, implementing or enforcing any part of the Doping Control process.

**Anti-Doping Regulations:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Anti-Doping Regulations contained in this GFA Handbook, or such updated incarnation which may be in force from time to time as notified and circulated by the GFA.

**Anti-Doping Rule Violation:** shall mean a breach of the Anti-Doping Regulations.

**Appeals Proceedings:** shall mean appeal proceedings or hearings heard by the Appeals Committee.

**Appeals Committee:** shall mean an independent appeals committee authorised by the GFA to consider and hear appeals from the Disciplinary Committee.

**Appeals Committee Members:** shall mean the individuals serving on the Appeals Committee.

**Applicant Officer:** means any person applying to become an Officer of a Club.

**Associate:** means a person deemed to be:

anyone of a close relationship with that person who, in the reasonable opinion of the GFA, is or is likely to be acting with that person; or

any company of which that person is a Director or over which that person is able to exercise control or influence; or

any person who is an employee or partner of that person is in close relations with any such employee or partner; or

if that person or any associate of that person is a company, then any holding company or subsidiary of that company or a subsidiary of its holding company, or any Director or employee of the company or any such holding company or subsidiary or in person in a close relationship with any such Director or employee; or

if that person has an agreement or arrangement (whether legally binding or not) with any other person in relation to the exercise of their voting power in a Club or in relation to the holding or disposal of their interest in a Club, then that other person.

**Attempt:** shall mean purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule

Violation, provided however, there shall be no Anti-Doping Rule Violation based solely in an attempt to commit a violation if the person renounces the attempt prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the attempt.

**Atypical Finding:** shall mean a report from a laboratory or other WADA-approved entity that requires further investigation as provided by the ISL prior to the determination of an Adverse Analytical Finding.

**Authorised Signatory:** means any existing Officer of the Club.

**Automatic Fines:** shall mean those fines listed in Schedule 3, and which may be issued by the Disciplinary Regulations Officer upon receipt of a Match Official's Match report.

**Blood Collection Officer(s) or BCO(s):** shall mean the person appointed or any other body so designated by the GFA to carry out the doping control process including for example but without limitation the collection of blood Samples.

**Business Day:** shall mean a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Gibraltar when banks are open for business.

**Caution:** shall mean a yellow card which is shown by a Match Official to a Player, Club Manager or Club Official during the course of a Match or a Competition.

**Challenge Group:** shall mean the remaining group of Teams which ranked below the six best Teams of the first round of the GFA Football League (with the same points and statistics accumulated during said first round).

**Championship Group:** shall mean the group of the six best ranked Teams of the first round of the GFA Football League (with the same points and statistics accumulated during said first round).

**Chaperone:** shall mean the person(s) appointed by the GFA or any other body do designated by the GFA to assist in the Doping Control process.

**Charge:** means written notice served on a Participant by the GFA which sets out facts and matters of alleged Misconduct committed by that Participant and which serves to commence Disciplinary Proceedings against them.

**Clothing:** means the Match clothing of a Player, Club Official or Match Official and shall include without limitation shirts, socks, undershorts, t-shirts (or any other item of clothing worn under the shirt), sweat-bands, headbands, hairbands, caps, captain's armband, tracksuits, "walk-on" jackets (i.e. those worn by Players for the pre-match player line up), gloves, waterproofs, sweat tops, sock tie-ups. Also any other garments worn by substitutes and Club Officials in the Technical Area at any time. Save where otherwise stated, Football Boots are not considered as Clothing.

**Club:** means any club which plays the game of football in Gibraltar and is recognised and registered as such by the GFA.

**Club Manager:** means the person at a Club responsible for selecting a Team.

**Club Official:** means any Club Manager, Director, official, secretary, servant or representative of a Club (whether formally appointed or not).

**Club Personnel:** means any Club Official, Club Manager, or applicable Player, together with such personnel of the same Club who are appointed to represent the Club in a Match, Competition or other activity or event sanctioned by the GFA.

**Club Youth Committee:** shall mean the youth committee of Clubs designed to collaborate with the GFA Youth Development Team.

**Code:** shall mean the World Anti-Doping Code of WADA.

**COMET:** shall mean the GFA's COMET registration system.

**Competent Official:** shall mean a BCO, DCO or a Chaperone.

**Competition:** means, unless otherwise stipulated, a competition sanctioned by the GFA and which are subject to all GFA Statutes, including but not limited to the GFA Football League, GFA National Cup Competitions, GFA Intermediate League, GFA Intermediate Cup, GFA Women's League, GFA Women's Rock Cup; GFA Futsal Competitions and GFA Women's Futsal Competition, together with any competition sanctioned by UEFA, FIFA, or by any other association, federation, or governing body.

**Competitive Youth Football:** shall mean competitive youth football (which shall include children in the older half of school year seven through to school year thirteen, inclusive of: under 12, under 14, under 17).

**Confirmation:** means the confirmation sent by the GFA to a Club stating whether or not the Applicant Officer is permitted to act as an Officer of the Club.

**Consequences:** shall mean a Participant's or other Person's Anti-Doping Rule Violation, which may result in one or more of the following:

**"Disqualification"**, meaning the Participant's results in a particular Competition are invalidated with all the resulting Consequences including the forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes;

**"Financial Consequences"**, meaning a financial sanction imposed for an Anti-Doping Rule violation or to recover costs associated with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation;

**"Ineligibility"**, meaning the Participant or other Person is suspended on account of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation for a specified period of time from participating in any Competition or other activity;

**"Provisional Suspension"**, meaning the Participant or other Person is barred temporarily from participating in any football, football activity, futsal or futsal activity prior to the final decision in respect of the relevant Anti-Doping Rule Violation at a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee; and

**"Public Disclosure"**, meaning the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public.

**Contaminated Product:** shall mean a product that contains a Prohibited Substance that is not disclosed on the product label or in information available in a reasonable internet search.

**Contract Player:** means any player who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

**Control:** means the power of a Person to exercise, or to be able to exercise or acquire, direct or indirect control over the policies, affairs and/or management of a Club, whether that power is constituted by rights or contracts (either separately or in combination) and having regard to the considerations of fact or law involved, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Control shall be deemed to include:

the power (whether directly or indirectly and whether by the ownership of share capital, by the possession of voting power, by contract or otherwise) to appoint and/or remove all or such of the members of the board of directors of the Club as are able to cast a majority of the votes capable of being cast by the members of that board; and/or

the holding and/or possession of the beneficial interest in, and/or the ability to exercise the voting rights applicable to, shares in the Club (whether directly, indirectly (by means of a nominee, or holding such interests in one or more other persons) or by contract) which confer in aggregate on the holder(s) thereof 30 per cent or more of the total voting rights exercisable at general meetings of the Club.

**Conviction:** means a formal finding made by a court of competent jurisdiction that person is guilty beyond reasonable doubt of a criminal offence, whether that finding was made before or after this GFA Handbook came into effect, and whether or not that finding is considered to be final pending resolution of any appeal against that finding. The word “**Convicted**” shall be construed accordingly.

**Decision Limit:** shall mean the value of the result for a threshold substance in a Sample above which an Adverse Analytical Finding shall be reported, as defined in the International Standard for Laboratories.

**Declaration:** means the Declaration as prescribed by the GFA and as shown in Schedule 16 of this GFA Handbook.

**Director:** means any Person occupying the position of a director of a Club whose particulars are registered or registrable under the Companies Act 2014, and includes a shadow director, that is to say, a Person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the Club are accustomed to act, or a Person having Control over the Club, or a Person exercising the powers that are usually associated with the powers of a director of a company;

**Disciplinary Body:** shall mean one of the Disciplinary Bodies.

**Disciplinary Bodies:** shall mean those disciplinary bodies stipulated in regulation 2.6 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

**Disciplinary Committee:** shall mean an independent disciplinary committee authorised by the GFA to consider and sanction any breaches of the Disciplinary Regulations or the rules of this GFA Handbook.

**Disciplinary Committee Members:** shall mean the individuals serving on the Disciplinary Committee.



**Disciplinary Control Unit:** shall mean the unit responsible for arranging hearings for and on behalf of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee, together with assisting with ancillary administrative matters in connection with the same.

**Disciplinary Inspector(s):** shall mean an independent individual appointed by the GFA to, *inter alia*, conduct disciplinary investigations and carry out the duties listed in regulation 5 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

**Disciplinary Proceedings:** shall mean any form of proceedings or hearings heard by the Disciplinary Committee.

**Disciplinary Regulations:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Disciplinary Regulations 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**Disciplinary Regulations Officer:** shall mean an individual duly appointed by the GFA to, *inter alia*, represent the GFA by carrying out the duties listed in regulation 4.1 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

**Disciplinary Sanctions:** shall mean those disciplinary sanctions stipulated in **regulation 31.1, and for the avoidance of doubt, Schedules 3 and 4 of this GFA Handbook.**

**Dishonest Act:** means any act which would reasonably be considered to be dishonest.

**Dismissal:** shall mean a red card, whether shown directly or by means of receiving a second consecutive Caution, which is shown by a Match Official to a Player, Club Manager or Club Official during the course of a Match or a Competition, wherein said Player, Club Manager or Club Official will be required to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench and return immediately to the Club's dressing room. A Club Official who has received a Dismissal must take no further part in the Match by either managing, directing, assisting or communicating with his or her Players or Club Officials in relation to the Match in any way.

**Disqualifying Condition:** means any one of those criteria listed at (a) to (l) in the Declaration.

**Doping Control:** shall mean all steps and processes from test distribution planning through to ultimate disposition of any appeal and the enforcement of Consequences, including all steps and processes in between, including (but not limited to) Testing, investigations, the provisions of whereabouts information, Sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, Therapeutic Use Exemptions, Results Management and hearings and appeals.

**Doping Control Officer(s) or DCO(s):** shall mean the person(s) appointed or designated by the GFA to carry out the Doping Control process (or parts thereof), including (for example but without limitation) the collection of Samples. If there is more than one DCO present during the Doping Control Process, the Lead DCO shall have overall authority for that process.

**Doping Control Station:** shall mean the area reserved to carry out the doping control process as described in the Anti-Doping Regulations of this GFA Handbook.

**Effective Date:** shall mean 15 September 2023.

**Elite Referee:** shall mean a referee who officiates in the GFA's National League;

**Elite Referee Observer:** shall mean a Referee Observer licensed to mentor, evaluate, grade, appoint and allocate Elite Referees.

**Fault:** shall mean any breach of duty or any lack of care appropriate to a particular situation.

**FIFA:** means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association or any successor body.

**FIFA Pool:** shall mean FIFA's registered testing pool and pre-competition testing pools, as described in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

**FIFA Pool Player:** shall mean a Player in a FIFA Pool.

**FIFA Status and Transfer Regulations:** shall mean the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as amended from time to time.

**Football Boots:** means any footwear worn during the period of a football Match by a Player or Match Official.

**Football League Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Football League Rules 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**Football Team:** shall mean a Team pertaining to a Club which competes in a GFA football competition, including the GFA Football League, GFA National Cup Competitions, GFA Intermediate League and the GFA Intermediate Cup.

**Foreign Officer:** means any director of any football club and/or in respect of any football club participating in a league outside of Gibraltar, any individual person operating the equivalent powers, holding the equivalent role or registration, having received the equivalent election, or having been named on an equivalent form as an Officer as defined below, in any jurisdiction other than Gibraltar.

**Former Club:** shall mean the former club and/or football team that a Player is joining from.

**Former Football Association:** shall mean the former association which the Former Club is affiliated to.

**Futsal First Division League Match:** shall mean a Futsal League Match of the GFA National Futsal League (First Division).

**Futsal Laws of the Game:** shall mean the futsal laws of the game as promulgated by FIFA.

**Futsal League Match:** shall mean either a Match of the GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division) or a Match of the GFA National Futsal (First Division).

**Futsal Premier League Match:** shall mean a Futsal League Match of the GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division).

**Futsal Team:** shall mean a Team pertaining to Club which competes in a GFA Futsal Competition.

**GFA:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association.

**GFA Covid-19 Protocol:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Covid-19 Protocol contained in this GFA Handbook, or such updated incarnation which may be in force from time to time as notified and circulated by the GFA.

**GFA Domestic Competition:** shall mean a Competition which is played in Gibraltar.

**GFA Domestic Club Licensing Regulations:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Club Licensing Regulations 2023/24 edition.

**GFA Football League:** shall exclusively mean the Gibraltar Football League 2023/24, including but not limited to the Championship Group 2024.

**GFA Football League Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Football League (which for the avoidance of doubt shall be the highest ranked Team of the Championship Group).

**GFA Futsal Competition:** shall exclusively mean any futsal competition sanctioned by the GFA, including but not limited to: (i) GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division) 2023/24; (ii) GFA National Futsal League (First Division) 2023/24; (iii) the GFA National Futsal Premier Final Four Playoff Champions; 2023/24 (iv) the GFA Futsal Rock Cup 2024; and (v) the GFA Futsal Luisito Bonavia Trophy 2023.

**GFA Futsal Cup Competitions:** shall mean the GFA Futsal Rock Cup 2023/24 and the GFA Luisito Bonavia Trophy 2023.

**GFA Futsal Rock Cup:** shall mean the GFA Futsal Rock Cup 2024.

**GFA Futsal Rock Cup Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Futsal Rock Cup.

**GFA Futsal Rock Cup Final:** shall mean the Match to be played between the two Clubs and/or Teams who reach the final Match of the GFA Futsal Rock Cup Final 2023/24.

**GFA Futsal Rock Cup Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Futsal Rock Cup Rules 2023 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**GFA Guidance for Disciplinary Sanctions:** means the consultative guidance provided by the GFA for the benefit of the Disciplinary Bodies when making a determination on the imposition of a Disciplinary Sanctions.

**GFA Handbook:** shall mean this Gibraltar Football Association Handbook 2023-2024.

**GFA Integrity Officer:** shall mean an individual duly appointed by the GFA to, inter alia, investigate matters of integrity and corruption.

**Intermediate Cup:** means the under 23 Intermediate Cup 2023/24.

**GFA Intermediate League:** means the under 23 Intermediate Football League 2023/24.

**GFA Intermediate League Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Intermediate League.

**GFA National Cup Competitions:** shall mean the GFA Pepe Reyes Cup 2023 and the GFA Rock Cup 2024.

**GFA National Futsal League (First Division):** shall exclusively mean the Gibraltar National Futsal League 2023/24 (First Division), comprising the first futsal division (which for the avoidance of doubt shall be subordinate to the GFA National Futsal League (First Division)), the matches for which shall be played in conformity with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game at each of the Victoria Stadium (Old Sports Hall), Bayside Road, Gibraltar GX11 1AA and Special Olympics Sports Complex, Europa Point, Gibraltar GX11 1AA.



**GFA National Futsal League (First Division) Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA National Futsal League (First Division) 2023.

**GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division):** shall exclusively mean the Gibraltar National Futsal League 2023/24 (Premier Division), comprising the top futsal division, the matches for which shall be played in conformity with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game at each of the Tercentenary Sports Hall, Bayside Sports Centre, Gibraltar GX11 1AA and Europa Point Sports Complex, Europa Point, Gibraltar GX11 1AA.

**GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division) Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division) 2023.

**GFA National Futsal Leagues:** shall mean both the GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division) and the GFA National Futsal League (First Division).

**GFA National Futsal Premier Final Four Playoffs:** shall mean the subsequent playoff tournament comprising the top four ranked Teams of the GFA National Futsal League (Premier Division).

**GFA National Futsal League Premier Final Four Playoff Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA National Futsal Premier Final Four Playoffs 2023, and the Team which shall become eligible to participate in the UEFA Futsal Cup in the UEFA Futsal Champions League.

**GFA Official:** means any official, director, secretary servant or representative of the GFA, including but not limited to the Disciplinary Regulations Officer, Disciplinary Control Unit and the Secretariat.

**GFA Rock Cup:** shall mean the GFA Rock Cup 2023.

**GFA Rock Cup Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Rock Cup.

**GFA Rock Cup Final:** shall mean the Match to be played between the two Clubs and/or Teams who reach the final Match of the GFA Rock Cup Final 2023/24.

**GFA Rock Cup Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Rock Cup Rules 2023/24 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**GFA Referee Regulations:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Referee Regulations 2023/24.

**GFA Personnel:** shall mean any GFA Official, together with personnel of the GFA who are appointed to represent the GFA in a Match, Competition, Disciplinary Proceedings, Appeals Proceedings, or other activity or event sanctioned by the GFA.

**GFA Pepe Reyes Cup Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Pepe Reyes Cup Final 2023.

**GFA Pepe Reyes Cup Final:** shall mean the Match to be played between the GFA Football League Champions 2022/23 and the GFA Rock Cup Champions 2022/23.

**GFA Pepe Reyes Cup Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Pepe Reyes Cup Rules 2023 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**GFA Privacy Policy** shall mean the privacy policy of the GFA in force from time to time.

**GFA Social Media Policy:** shall mean the social media policy of the GFA in force from time to time.

**GFA Statutes:** shall mean all and any current or prospective statutes, rules, regulations, notices and policies, including this GFA Handbook and such further regulations as may be introduced and amended from time to time.

**GFA TUE Appeal Panel:** shall mean the GFA's appeal panel responsible for the review of appeals lodged against decisions of the GFA TUE Committee.

**GFA TUE Committee:** shall mean the GFA's committee responsible for the review and approval of applications by Players for TUEs.

**GFA Under 17 Championship:** shall mean the GFA Under 17 Championship 2023/24.

**GFA Women's Futsal Competition:** shall exclusively mean any women's futsal competition sanctioned by the GFA, including but not limited to the GFA Women's Futsal League 2023/24 and GFA Women's Rock Cup 2024.

**GFA Women's Futsal League:** shall mean the GFA Women's Futsal League 2023/24, the matches for which shall be played in conformity with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game at each of the Tercentenary Sports Hall, Bayside Sports Centre, Gibraltar GX11 1AA and Europa Point Sports Complex, Europa Point, Gibraltar GX11 1AA.

**GFA Women's Futsal League Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Women's Futsal League 2023.

**GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup:** shall mean the GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup 2023.

**GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup 23/24.

**GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup Final:** shall mean the Match to be played between the two Clubs and/or Teams who reach the final Match of the GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup Final 2023/24.

**GFA Women's Futsal Rock Cup Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Futsal Rock Cup Rules 2023 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**GFA Women's League:** shall exclusively mean the Gibraltar Women's League 2023/24.

**GFA Women's League Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Women's League.

**GFA Women's Rock Cup:** shall mean the GFA Women's Rock Cup 2024.

**GFA Women's Rock Cup Champions:** shall mean the winners of the GFA Women's Rock Cup.

**GFA Women's Rock Cup Final:** shall mean the Match to be played between the two Clubs and/or Teams who reach the final Match of the GFA Women's Rock Cup Final 2023/24.

**GFA Women's Rock Cup Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Women's Rock Cup Rules 2023/24 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**GFA Youth Competitions:** shall mean any football competition (whether league or cup competition), or activity sanctioned by the GFA played at under 16 level or lower.

**GFA Youth Development Team:** shall mean the team of GFA Personnel which shall be responsible for the organisation, control and management of the GFA Youth Competitions.

**Gibraltar FA Pillars Programme:** shall mean the programme which provides financial support to Clubs in their effort to develop and foster football at all levels.

**Group Undertaking:** means as set out in section 277 of Companies Act 2014.

**Home-Grown Player:** shall mean a player who is eligible to play for the Gibraltar National Squad in accordance with the statutes and regulations of FIFA. In the case of a GFA Domestic Competitions however, Players who are:

in possession of a British passport; and

fulfils at least one of the following conditions:

- (i) was born in Gibraltar;
- (ii) whose biological mother or biological father was born in Gibraltar;
- (iii) whose biological grandmother or biological grandfather was born in Gibraltar; or
- (iv) the player has lived continuously and uninterruptedly in Gibraltar for a period of no less than two full calendar years,

may be registered as a Home-Grown Player for the 2023/24 football season, but only for GFA Domestic Competitions. Each Club must prove to the satisfaction of the GFA, that the Home-Grown Player(s) satisfy this definition.

**IFAB:** shall mean the International Football Association Board.

**In-Competition:** shall mean the period commencing at 23:59 on the day before a Match in which the Player is scheduled to participate through to the end of said Match and including the Sample collection process relating to said Match.

**Instruction:** means the written notification from the GFA to a Club and Officer stating that an individual is not permitted to hold the position of Officer.

**Interim Suspension Order:** an order granted by the Disciplinary Committee following its receipt of an Interim Suspension Request from the Disciplinary Regulations Officer to temporarily suspend a Participant during the course of an investigation for Misconduct relating to betting and/or gambling.

**Interim Suspension Request:** a request by Disciplinary Regulations Officer to the Disciplinary Committee to temporarily suspend a Participant during the course of an investigation for Misconduct relating to betting and/or gambling.

**Intermediate League Match:** shall mean a Match of the GFA Intermediate League.

**Intermediate League Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Intermediate League Rules 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**International Standard:** shall mean a standard adopted by WADA in support of the Code.

**ISL:** shall mean the International Standard for Laboratories.

**ISRM:** shall mean the International Standard for Results Management.

**ISTI:** shall mean the International Standard for Testing and Investigation.

**ITC:** shall mean an international transfer certificate.

**Laws of the Game:** shall mean the laws of the game as promulgated by the IFAB.

**League Match:** shall mean a Match of the GFA Football League.

**League Panel:** shall mean a list of Referees drawn up by the Referees Committee prior to the commencement of the football season for the purposes of appointing each Referee to their respective Competition.

**Licensed Referee:** shall mean all persons who have obtained a Referee Licence.

**Limited Minor Exception:** shall bear the meaning set out in regulation 23 of the Status and Transfer Regulations.

**Major Event Organisation:** shall mean the continental associations of National Olympics Committee and other international multi-sport organisations that function as the ruling body for any continent, regional or other international event.

**Marker:** shall mean compound, group of compounds or biological parameters that indicate the Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.

**Match:** means a football match sanctioned by the GFA and which are subject to all GFA Statutes, including but not limited to any football match sanctioned by UEFA, FIFA, or by any other association, federation, or governing body.

**Match Officials:** means all match officials recognised by the GFA, including but not limited to any category of 'on-field match officials' (per the GFA Referee Regulations contained in this GFA Handbook, such as Referees, assistance referees, fourth officials, match delegates additional assistance referees, reserve assistant referees and futsal referees) who are responsible for officiating a Match and/or Competition in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**Metabolite:** shall mean any substance produced by a biotransformation process.

**Minor:** a Player who has not yet reached the age of 18.

**Misconduct:** shall have the meaning in regulation 12.2 of the Disciplinary Regulations.

**National Dispute Resolution Chamber:** shall mean the forum and venue for all disputes or matters to be heard, considered and adjudicated on by the National Dispute Resolution Committee.

**National Dispute Resolution Committee:** shall mean the national dispute resolution committee responsible for hearing matters set out in the National Dispute Resolution Committee Regulations contained in this GFA Handbook

**National League Futsal Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association National League Futsal Rules 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**National Registered Testing Pool or "NRTP":** shall mean the pool of highest priority Players (established at national level) who are subject to focussed testing In and Out-of-

Competition as part of a test distribution plan and are therefore required to provide whereabouts information.

**NDRC:** shall mean the National Dispute Resolution Committee.

**NDRC Members:** shall mean the individuals serving on the National Dispute Resolution Committee.

**NDRC Notification:** shall mean the initial written notification submitted to the NDRC by a party desirous of commencing proceedings which fall within the scope and jurisdiction of the NDRC

**NDRC Regulations:** shall mean the National Dispute Resolution Committee Regulations 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**NDRC Response:** shall mean the response submitted to the NDRC by a party following its receipt of an NDRC Notification from the NDRC.

**New Club:** shall mean the new club and/or football team that a Player is joining.

**New Football Association:** shall mean the new football association which the New Club is affiliated to.

**No Fault or Negligence:** shall mean that the Participant or other Person is able to establish that he did not know or suspect, and could not reasonably have known or suspected even with the exercise of utmost caution, that he or she had Used or had been administered the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or otherwise violated an Anti-Doping Rule.

**No Significant Fault or Negligence:** shall mean the Participant or other Person is able to establish that his Fault or negligence, when viewed in the totality of the circumstances and taking into account the criteria for No Fault or negligence, was not significant in relation to the Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

**Non-Competitive Youth Football:** shall mean non-competitive youth football (which shall include children in school year two through to the younger half of school year seven, inclusive of: under 7, under 8, under 9, under 10 and under 11).

**Non-Contract Player:** means any Player who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment with a Club.

**NRTP Player:** shall mean a Player in the NRTP.

**Offences of Misconduct:** shall mean those forms of Misconduct constituting offences under the Disciplinary Regulations stipulated in Schedule 1 of this GFA Handbook.

**Officer:** means any Director of any Club, and/or in respect of any Club, any individual person operating the powers that are usually associated with those of:

a Director; or

a chairperson, secretary or treasurer of a Club.

**Other Equipment:** shall mean medical bags, kit bags, blankets, towels, bottles, and any medial equipment worn by a Player (including head protection, face masks, casts,



kneepads or knee braces, elbow pads) that may be used on the field of play and/or Technical Area.

**Out-of-Competition:** shall mean any time which is not In-Competition.

**Out of Contract Player:** means a Contract Player whose contracted has expired.

**Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations:** shall mean the GFA Owners' and Directors' Test Regulations stipulated in Section Four of the Disciplinary Regulations of this GFA Handbook.

**Parent Undertaking:** means as set out in section 276 of Companies Act 2014.

**Participant:** means a Player, a Club, a Club Manager, a Club Official (which for the avoidance of doubt shall include a Director), Club Personnel, member, supporters, spectators, or employee of a Club, all Persons who are from time to time participating in any activity either directly or indirectly for a Club, with an authorisation from the GFA with regard to a Match, Competition, or other activity sanctioned by the GFA.

**Person:** includes any natural person, legal entity, firm or unincorporated association.

**Player:** means any Contract Player, Out of Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other player who plays or is eligible to play for a Club (providing always that they are eligible to be registered in COMET for a Club), or is subject to suspension from playing.

**Player Status Committee:** shall mean the Player Status Committee as defined in the FIFA Status and Transfer Regulations.

**Player Support Person(nel):** shall mean any person working with, treating or assisting a Player participating in or preparing for Matches or training sessions, including but not limited to a coach, training, manager, agent, intermediary, club staff, official, nutritionist, medical or paramedical personnel, or parent.

**Possession:** shall mean the actual physical possession, or the constructive possession (which shall be found only if the person has exclusive control or intends to exercise control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method of the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists), provided however, that if the person does not have exclusive control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists, constructive possession shall only be found if the person knew about the presence of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method and intended to exercise control over it. Provided, however there shall be no Anti-Doping Rule Violation based solely on possession if, prior to receiving notification of any kind that the person has committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation, the person has taken positive action demonstrating that he never intended to have possession and has renounced possession by expressly declaring it to an anti-doping organisation. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this definition, the purchase (including by an electronic or other means) of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method constitutes Possession by the person who makes the purchase.

**Procedural Guidelines:** shall mean the guidelines in relation to the administrative and procedural aspects for the conduct of drug testing in connection with the administration and conduct of drug testing and investigating in accordance with the ISTI.

**Prohibited List:** shall mean the list of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods that is produced by WADA as updated from time to time and recognised by the GFA in accordance with the Anti-Doping Regulations.

**Prohibited Method:** shall mean any method defined as such in the Prohibited List.

**Prohibited Substance:** shall mean any substance or class of substances defined as such in the Prohibited List.

**Professional Player:** shall mean a Contract Player who is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs.

**Protected Period:** shall mean either:

a period of three entire seasons or three calendar years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of a Professional Player; or

a period of two entire season or two calendar years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded after the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of a Professional Player.

**Protected Person:** shall mean a Participant or other natural Person who at the time an Anti-Doping Rule Violation has:

not reached the age of sixteen years;

not reached the age of eighteen years and is not included in any Registered Testing Pool and has not represented any country in international competition in an open category; or

for whom for reasons other than age, it has been determined he lacks legal capacity under relevant legislation.

**Provisional Hearing:** shall mean an expedited abbreviated hearing on notice that occurs prior to the full hearing of the charge and provides the Player with an opportunity to make representations, whether written or oral, in respect of a Provisional Suspension only.

**Recidivism:** shall mean if a Participant commits a breach or infringement of a regulation which is of a similar nature to a previous breach or infringement if committed within:

one year of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a one - match suspension;

three years of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a two-match suspension; or

ten years of the previous offence if that offence was related to match-fixing or corruption.

**Recreational Player:** shall mean a Player who, within five years prior to committing any Anti-Doping Rule Violations:

has not been an International-Level Player (as defined by FIFA);

has not represented any country in international competition in an open category; and

has not been included in any Registered Testing Pool, FIFA Pool, or other whereabouts information pool.

**Referee:** means a person who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with a Match or Competition to which they have been appointed and is listed in the Register of Referees in relation to either football or futsal (as the context requires). Any reference to Referees in these GFA Referee Regulations applies to both men and women as well as to assistant referees, fourth officials and futsal Referees under the jurisdiction of the GFA.

**Referee Administrator:** shall mean all persons engaged or involved in the administration of Referees and any committees or bodies established under these GFA Referee Regulations.

**Referees Association:** shall mean the association of Referees in Gibraltar as constructed from time to time.

**Referees Committee:** shall mean a group of people governing the organisation of Referees, giving advice and assisting with all matters related to refereeing and Referees.

**Referee Instructor:** shall mean all person charged with educating, training and testing Referees.

**Referee Liaison Officer:** shall mean all persons engaged in liaising with Competitions on behalf of Referees or with Referees on behalf of the Competitions.

**Referee Licence:** shall mean the licence each Referee must obtain in order to referee at a particular level in accordance with the GFA Referee Regulations. Such licence is to be renewed on a regular basis in accordance with the specific conditions set out in said licence.

**Referee Manager:** shall mean such individual appointed by the Chairperson of the Referees Committee to serve on said Committee.

**Referee Observer:** shall mean all persons charged with mentoring, evaluating, grading, appointing and allocating Referees.

**Referee Specialist:** shall mean all persons directly involved in the administration of refereeing with a minimum of five years' active refereeing experience. A Referee Specialist operating at Category One (as set out in the GFA Referee Regulations) shall have had at least three years' refereeing experience at elite level and shall also have obtained additional training and/or experience relevant to the administration and/or development of refereeing.

**Refereeing Department:** shall mean the department pertaining to Referees the composition, duties, responsibilities and functions of which are more particularly set out in Section Two of the GFA Referee Regulations.

**Registered Testing Pool:** Shall mean the pool of highest priority Players (established at the national level or at national level) who are subject to focused testing In and Out-of-Competition as part of a test distribution plan are therefore required to provide whereabouts information in accordance with ISTI.

**Register of Referees:** shall mean the register of referees as more particularly set out in regulation 6 of the GFA Referee Regulations.

**Reprimand:** means an official written notice sent to a Participant expressing disapproval of an infringement of a regulation.

**Results Management:** shall mean the process encompassing the timeframe between notification as per Article 5 of the ISRM, or in certain cases, such prenotification steps expressly provided for in Article 5 of the ISRM, through the sending of the **Anti-Doping Charge Letter** and until the final resolution of the matter, including the end of the hearing process at first instance and on appeal (if an appeal was lodged).

**Sample:** means any biological material collected for the purpose of Doping Control.

**Secretariat:** the independent secretary which the Disciplinary Control Unit shall make available upon request to the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee from time to time.

**Serving Officer:** means any person qualifying as an Officer of a Club before the Effective Date and continuing to qualify as such at that date.

**Specified Method:** shall mean any method specified as such in the Prohibited List.

**Specified Substance:** shall mean any substance classified as such in the Prohibited List.

**Sports Governing Body:** means any ruling body of sport that is recognised by the GFA, whether nationally or internationally, wherever situated and including but not limited to FIFA and UEFA.

**Status and Transfer Regulations:** shall mean Status and Transfer of Players Regulations 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.

**Substances of Abuse:** shall mean any substance classified as such in the Prohibited List.

**Summer Transfer Window:** shall mean the transfer window where Clubs may acquire, transfer and/or register Players with their Clubs, and which shall commence on 8 June 2023 and conclude on 31 August 2023.

**Tampering:** shall mean intentional conduct which subverts the Doping Control process.

**Target Testing:** shall mean a selection of specific Players for testing based on criteria set forth in the ISTI.

**Team:** shall mean a team comprised of Players duly registered by a Club to compete in a Competition in accordance with this GFA Handbook.

**Technical Area:** shall mean the technical area in stadiums with a designated area during a Match for Club Managers, Club Officials, substitutes, substituted Players to occupy. A technical area may include, but is not limited to a dugout, bench or marked zone adjacent to the pitch (in the case of football) and to the court (in the case of futsal).

**Testing:** shall mean the part of the Doping Control process involving test distribution planning, Sample collection, Sample handling, and Sample transport to the laboratory.

**Therapeutic Use Exemption or TUE:** shall mean an exemption to take a substance for medical purposes which is normally prohibited under these Anti-Doping Regulations.

The procedure for the grant of a Therapeutic Use Exemption is set out in **Schedule 19** of this GFA Handbook.

**Third Country Players:** shall mean Players from countries which are not Gibraltar, the United Kingdom, and which do not form part of the European Union and/or the European Economic Area.

**TMS:** shall mean the transfer matching system, being a web-based data information system with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.

**Trafficking:** shall mean selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering, or distributing (or Possessing for any such purpose) a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by a Participant or other Person to any third party, provided however, that this definition shall not include the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited substance used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification, and shall not include actions involving Prohibited Substances that are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate such Prohibited Substances were not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or intended to enhance sport performance.

**Transfer Window:** shall mean either the Summer Transfer Window or the Winter Transfer Window.

**UEFA:** means the Union of European Football Associations or any successor body.

**University Player:** shall mean a Home-Grown Player who is studying at university or college outside of Gibraltar, as confirmed by a written letter to the GFA from HM Government of Gibraltar's Department of Education.

**Use:** shall mean the utilisation, application, ingestion, injection or consumption by any means whatsoever of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.

**WADA:** shall mean the World Anti-Doping Agency.

**Warning:** means a written or verbal reminder of the substance of a regulation, allied with the notification of a sanction in the event of further infringement of a regulation.

**Welfare Officer:** shall mean an individual who has completed a safeguarding certificate recognised by the GFA.

**Winter Transfer Window:** shall mean the transfer window where Clubs may acquire, transfer and/or register Players with their Clubs, and which shall commence on 4 January 2024 and conclude on 31 January 2024.

**Women's Futsal League Match:** shall mean a Match of the GFA Women's Futsal League.

**Women's Futsal League Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Women's Futsal League Rules.

**Women's League Match:** shall mean a Match of the GFA Women's League.

**Women's League Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Women's League Rules 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.



**Youth Football Rules:** shall mean the Gibraltar Football Association Youth Football Rules 2023-2024 contained in this GFA Handbook.