

GIBRALTAR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GFA ROCK CUP RULES 2023-2024



SCOPE OF GFA ROCK CUP RULES

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 The name of this Competition shall be called the GFA Rock 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 Rock 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 Rock Cup Rules.
- 1.4 The GFA shall have the power and authority to amend these GFA Rock 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 Rock Cup or any other additional aspects which may affect the GFA Rock 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 Rock Cup, inclusive of pursuing such commercial opportunities and/or agreements and partnerships which may be in the best interests of the GFA Rock Cup.
- 1.7 The GFA Rock Cup is the property of the GFA, and shall be presented to the GFA Rock Cup Winners at the conclusion of the GFA Rock Cup Final.
- 1.8 The GFA Rock Cup Winners shall retain the trophy of the GFA Rock Cup for the duration of the 2023/24 football season, and return it to the GFA at the conclusion of the same. The GFA Rock Cup Winners will be entitled to keep a replica trophy of the GFA Rock Cup.
- 1.9 At its sole discretion, the GFA may present to the GFA Rock Cup Winners and corresponding runners up, replica miniature cups, medals and other prizes.
- 1.10 Unless otherwise stated herein, where these GFA Rock 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 Rock 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.

2. **Laws of the Game**

- 2.1 All Matches in the GFA Rock 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 Rock Cup**

- 3.1 The GFA Rock Cup shall, subject to rule 3.2 below, be open to all Clubs and/or Teams participating in the GFA Football League.
- 3.2 Each Club and/or Team which does not participate in the GFA Football League, but who is desirous of participating in the GFA Rock Cup, must complete and submit an entry form and return it to the GFA, together with the fee payable and as shall be prescribed from time to time by the GFA prior to the submission deadline stipulated by the GFA.
- 3.3 The GFA shall have the power to vary the arrangements provided in these regulations if it is deemed necessary.
- 3.4 Any Team intended on withdrawing from a Match pertaining to the GFA Rock 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.
- 3.5 If a Match in the GFA Rock 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.
- 3.6 Where a Match in the GFA Rock 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 Rock 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 Rock Cup.
- 3.7 Matches in the GFA Rock Cup shall be played over a single Match. 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.

- 3.8 The half-time interval shall be for a duration of fifteen (15) minutes.
- 3.9 Except in the case of a semi-final or the GFA Rock Cup Final, a Match ending in a draw shall be determined by a penalty shootout in accordance with the procedure adopted by the IFAB.
- 3.10 If a semi-final or the GFA Rock 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.
- 3.11 If a Match of the GFA Rock 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.

4. Player Registration and Eligibility for the GFA Rock 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 Rock Cup.
- 4.2 Each Club and/or Team eligible to participate in the GFA Rock Cup shall abide by all Player eligibility regulations contained in the Football League Rules, the Intermediate League Rules, Under 17 Championship Rules and the Disciplinary Regulations, including but not limited provisions pertaining to Home-Grown Players, which shall be applicable to the GFA Rock Cup.
- 4.3 A Player shall not play for more than one Club and/or Team in the GFA Rock Cup in the same season.

5. The GFA Rock Cup Draw

- 5.1 The requisite draws for the GFA Rock 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 Rock Cup.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The Clubs and/or Teams competing for the GFA Rock Cup shall be drawn in pairs. The Clubs and/or Teams drawn as pairs shall compete against each other and the winning Club and/or Teams shall progress to the next round.

- 5.4 The GFA Rock Cup Final shall be the last round of this Competition.
- 5.5 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 Rock Cup shall be played at such times and on such days as the GFA may determine.
- 6. Inability to Field a Team for a GFA Rock Cup Match**
- 6.1 Regulations on a Club's inability to field a Team as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these GFA Rock Cup Rules.
- 7. Match Day Provisions**
- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Prior to a Match of the GFA Rock 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 Football League Rules which will apply to these GFA Rock Cup Rules.
- 7.3 Further to rule 7.2, 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.
- 8. Checking of Identity**
- 8.1 Regulations on the checking of identities of Players and/or Club Officials as set out in the Football League Rules shall apply to these GFA Rock Cup Rules.
- 8.2 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 Rock Cup Final, and seek to impose further Disciplinary Sanctions in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook.

9. Home-Grown Player Rule

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

10. Intermediate League and Under 17 Championship players playing in the Rock Cup

10.1 All Home-Grown players (except those born prior to 2000) who are registered with their Club's Intermediate League or Under 17 Championship team are eligible to play for their respective Clubs in the Rock Cup for an unlimited number of times.

10.2 All other players must only play for their respective Club's in the Rock Cup a maximum of three (3) times.

11. Club Manager Qualifications

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

12. Match Ball Requirements

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

13. Match Officials

13.1 The GFA Rock Cup 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.

14. Advertising

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

15. Sponsor Designations

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

16. Player Identification and Strip

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

17. **Disputes, Complaints & Special Requests**

- 17.1 Any dispute or complaint by a Team and/or Club regarding another Team and/or Club must be officially reported to the GFA within 48 hours from the date of such facts or events giving rise to said dispute or complaint, and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations in this GFA Handbook.
- 17.2 With regards to requests for a one minute silence prior to the GFA Rock 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.

18. **Breach of GFA Rock Cup Rules**

- 18.1 Any breach of these GFA Rock Cup Rules will be dealt with by the GFA's Disciplinary Control Unit in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulation in this GFA Handbook.
- 18.2 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.
- 18.3 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 Rock Cup Rules or any other provisions contained in this GFA Handbook (the decision of which shall be final).