

# Statutes

## Gibraltar Football Association

Version of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

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## DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

**Arbitration Tribunal:** an independent and duly constituted private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

**Association Football:** the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**Association:** a football association member of FIFA.

**Beach Soccer:** a variant of Association Football governed by the FIFA Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

**Board of Directors:** the executive body of the GFA headed by the GFA General Secretary and which is part of the general secretariat.

**CAS:** Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (Switzerland).

**Club:** a member of an Association or of a League recognised by an Association.

**Competition:** a football competition organised by the GFA.

**Confederation:** a group of Associations recognised by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or assimilable geographic area).

**Delegate:** a person authorised to represent a Member at the General Assembly.

**Directors:** a director of the general secretariat of the GFA.

**FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

**Futsal:** a variant of Association Football governed by the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

**General Assembly:** the supreme and legislative body of the GFA, which can be either an Ordinary or Extraordinary Assembly.

**General secretariat:** the administrative and management body of the GFA.

**GFA:** Gibraltar Football Association.

**Governance and Strategy Board:** the governance and strategy body of the GFA.

**IFAB:** The International Football Association Board.

**ITC:** International Transfer Certificate.

**League:** an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

**Member:** a legal person that has been admitted into membership of the GFA by the General Assembly.

**Official:** every board member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person (except Players) responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in an Association, a League or a Club as well as any other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA, UEFA and GFA Statutes, regulations and decisions.

**Ordinary Courts:** state courts which hear public and private legal disputes.

**Player:** a football player registered with the GFA.

**Regional Association:** an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

**UEFA:** Union des Associations Européennes de Football.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons include both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

**Article 1 Name, headquarters, legal form**

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- <sup>1</sup> The GFA is a private company limited by shares established in compliance with the legislation of Gibraltar. It is formed for an unlimited period.
  - <sup>2</sup> The headquarters of the GFA are in Gibraltar.
  - <sup>3</sup> The GFA is a member of FIFA and UEFA.
  - <sup>4</sup> The GFA's logo symbolises a blend of tradition and modernity. It features two upward-pointing chevrons or arrow-heads, representing the fusion of the old and the new. Central to the design is the iconic Rock of Gibraltar, viewed from the Victoria Stadium, embodying the spirit and resilience of Gibraltarian football.
  - <sup>5</sup> The abbreviation of the Gibraltar Football Associations is: GFA.
  - <sup>6</sup> The flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation are legally registered in accordance with the Gibraltar Trademark Legislation.
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**Article 2 Objectives**

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The objectives of the GFA are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of the GFA in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to organise competitions in Association Football in all its forms at national level, by defining precisely the areas of authority conceded to the various Leagues of which it is composed;
- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to protect the interests of its Members;
- e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of UEFA and of the GFA as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- f) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, Players, Officials and Members or give rise to abuse of Association Football, Futsal or beach soccer;
- g) to control and supervise all friendly Association Football, Futsal and beach soccer matches played throughout the territory of the GFA;
- h) to control and supervise Association Football, Futsal and beach soccer at national level and to control and supervise international Association Football, Futsal and beach soccer matches played throughout the territory of the GFA, in accordance with the relevant Statutes and regulations of FIFA and of UEFA;
- i) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- j) to host competitions at international and other levels;
- k) to be independent and avoid any and all forms of political interference in all of the above-mentioned objectives.

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Article **3** **Neutrality and non-discrimination**

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- <sup>1</sup> The GFA is neutral in matters of party politics and religion.
  - <sup>2</sup> Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion and/or disciplinary measures.
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Article **4** **Promoting friendly relations**

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- <sup>1</sup> The GFA shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
  - <sup>2</sup> Every person and organisation involved in the game of Association Football is obliged to observe the relevant Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
  - <sup>3</sup> The GFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between the Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of the GFA.
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Article **5** **Players**

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- <sup>1</sup> The status of Players and the provisions for their registration and transfer shall be regulated by the Governance & Strategy Board in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
  - <sup>2</sup> Players shall be registered with the general secretariat in accordance with these statutes and any applicable GFA regulations.
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Article **6** **Laws of the Game**

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- <sup>1</sup> The GFA and each of its Members participate in Association Football in compliance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
  - <sup>2</sup> The GFA and each of its Members participate in futsal and beach soccer in accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game and the FIFA Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.
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Article **7** **Conduct of bodies and Officials**

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The bodies and Officials of the GFA must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of UEFA and of the GFA in their activities.

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Article **8** **Official languages**

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- <sup>1</sup> The official language of the GFA shall be English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language.
- <sup>2</sup> The official language at the General Assembly shall be English.

**Article 9 Admission, suspension and expulsion**

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.
  - <sup>2</sup> Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of the GFA from time to time in accordance with these statutes.
  - <sup>3</sup> Membership is terminated by resignation, expulsion or dissolution. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards the GFA or other Members of the GFA, but leads to the loss of all rights in relation to the GFA.
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**Article 10 Members and admission**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Members of the GFA are:
  - a) the Club Members of the GFA as follows:
    1. College 1975 FC
    2. Europa FC
    3. Europa Point FC
    4. FCB Magpies
    5. Glacis United FC
    6. Hound Dogs FC
    7. Lincoln Red Imps FC
    8. Lions Gibraltar FC
    9. Lynx FC
    10. Manchester 62 FC
    11. Mons Calpe FC
    12. St Joseph's FC
  - b) the Futsal Association (when established);
  - c) the Women's Football Association (when established);
  - d) the Referees Association;
  - e) the Players' Association (when established).
- <sup>2</sup> Any legal person wishing to become a Member of the GFA shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of the GFA by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April every year.
- <sup>3</sup> The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
  - a) a copy of its legally valid constitutional documents;
  - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of the GFA, UEFA, FIFA and ensure that these are also respected by its own members;
  - c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
  - d) a declaration that it will refer in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within the GFA) any dispute of national dimension arising from or related to the application of the GFA Statutes or regulations only to an independent and impartial court of arbitration, which will definitively settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in Gibraltar;

- e) a declaration that it recognises the jurisdiction of the CAS as specified in the relevant provisions of the FIFA and UEFA Statutes;
  - f) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of the GFA;
  - g) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of the GFA;
  - h) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
  - i) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
  - j) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the GFA;
  - k) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional Assembly;
  - l) if applicable, a confirmation of its official Club Logo and name.
- <sup>4</sup> The Governance and Strategy Board shall request the General Assembly either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the General Assembly.
- <sup>5</sup> The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted.

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Article **11** **Members' rights**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Members of the GFA have the following rights:
- a) to be represented by Delegates in the General Assembly of the GFA, who shall receive its agenda in advance, be called to the General Assembly within the prescribed time and exercise their voting rights;
  - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly;
  - c) to nominate candidates for elections to all bodies of the GFA;
  - d) to be informed of the affairs of the GFA through the official bodies of the GFA including strategic plan, modifications and subsequent budgets;
  - e) to take part in competitions and/or other sporting activities organised by the GFA;
  - f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of the GFA.
- <sup>2</sup> The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

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Article **12** **Members' obligations**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Members of the GFA have the following obligations:
- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the GFA at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
  - b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies (at least every four years);
  - c) to take part in competitions and other sporting activities organised by the GFA;
  - d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
  - e) to respect the IFAB Laws of the Game and FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;



- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of national dimension arising from or related to the application of the GFA Statutes or regulations will only be referred to an independent and impartial court of arbitration, which will definitively settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in Gibraltar;
- g) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of international or European dimension arising from or related to the application of the FIFA or UEFA Statutes and regulations will be submitted to the CAS as specified in the relevant provisions of the FIFA and UEFA Statutes;
- h) to communicate to the GFA any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- i) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- j) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- k) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- l) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of the GFA;
- m) to observe the mandatory items specified under these statutes for the duration of their affiliation;
- n) not to amend its name or logo without the express written consent of the Governance & Strategy Board;
- o) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, UEFA and the GFA;
- p) to fulfil the criteria and thereby obtain a licence as set out in any domestic club licensing regulations in place in order to participate in UEFA and/or GFA Competitions;
- q) to ensure that its own leagues, clubs, players, officials, match and intermediaries - through their statutes, a license, a registration or any other written document – acknowledge and accept all the obligations specified under let. a), e) and j) of the present paragraph.
- r) to observe the mandatory items specified under art. 10 par. 3 of these Statutes for the duration of their affiliation.

<sup>2</sup> Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes, including suspension and/or expulsion.

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Article **13** Suspension

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<sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is responsible for suspending a Member. The Governance & Strategy Board may, however, provisionally suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next General Assembly, unless the Governance & Strategy Board has lifted it in the meantime.

<sup>2</sup> Any provisional suspension decided by the Governance & Strategy Board shall be confirmed at the next General Assembly by a three-quarter majority of the Delegates present and eligible to vote. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.

<sup>3</sup> A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee of the GFA may impose further sanctions.

<sup>4</sup> Members that do not participate in the sporting activities of the GFA for two consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at a General Assembly and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed.

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Article **14** **Expulsion**

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- 1 The General Assembly may expel a Member if:
  - a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards the GFA;
  - b) it seriously and/or repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, UEFA and the GFA.
- 2 The presence of a majority (more than 50%) of the Delegates eligible to vote at the General Assembly is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

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Article **15** **Resignation**

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- 1 A Member may resign from the GFA with effect from the end of a football season. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than one month before the end of the football season.
- 2 The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards the GFA and the other Members of the GFA.
- 3 A Member shall automatically be considered to have resigned its status if it does not renew the same as per the renewal process below.
- 4 A Member resigning its status as Member may not re-apply for Membership for a period of 5 years from the date of resignation.

A Member may renew its status by completing and submitting the appropriate form(s) and paying the prescribed renewal fee (if any) as may from time to time be set by the GFA.

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Article **16** **Independence of Members and their bodies**

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- 1 Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.
- 2 The Members' bodies shall be either elected or appointed. The Members' statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
- 3 Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 2, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the GFA.
- 4 Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 shall not be recognised by the GFA.

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Article **17** **Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and other groups of Clubs**

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- 1 Clubs, Leagues, or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to the GFA shall be subordinate to and recognised by the GFA. There shall only be one top-tier national league on the territory of the GFA. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations

must be approved by the Governance & Strategy Board. Matters in relation to referees, disciplinary issues, anti-doping, club licensing, player registrations (ITC) and integrity of the competitions shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the GFA.

- <sup>2</sup> The affiliated Clubs and groups of the GFA shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
- <sup>3</sup> In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

### III. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

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#### Article **18** **Honorary president and honorary member**

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any person for meritorious service to football.
- <sup>2</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board shall make these nominations.
- <sup>3</sup> The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article **19** **Bodies of the GFA**

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body of the GFA.
- <sup>2</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board is the oversight and strategic body of the GFA.
- <sup>3</sup> The Board of Directors is the executive and operational body of the GFA headed by the General Secretary.
- <sup>4</sup> Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Governance & Strategy Board and the Board of Directors in fulfilling their duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special regulations.
- <sup>5</sup> The general secretariat is the administrative body of the GFA headed by the General Secretary.
- <sup>6</sup> The legal bodies of the GFA are the:
  - a) the judicial bodies, i.e. the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee;
  - b) the club licensing bodies (the Club Licensing First Instance Board and the Club Licensing Appeals Board as these terms are defined in the GFA Club Licensing Regulations);
  - c) the Electoral Committee.
- <sup>7</sup> The bodies of the GFA shall be either elected or appointed by the GFA itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes. The members of the bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.
- <sup>8</sup> Any member of the bodies of the GFA must withdraw from any decision-making process (including the deliberation preceding the taking of decisions) if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest.

## A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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### Article 20 Definition and composition of the General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is the Assembly at which all Members of the GFA are regularly convened. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the GFA. It must be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and taking into account the importance of gender equality in football. Only a General Assembly that is duly convened has the authority to take decisions.
- <sup>2</sup> The President shall conduct the General Assembly business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.
- <sup>3</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board may invite observers to take part in the General Assembly without voting right.

### Article 21 Delegates and votes

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is composed of the following:
  - a) the Club Members of the Gibraltar Football Association as follows (2 Delegates per club):
    - <sup>1</sup> College 1975 FC
    - <sup>2</sup> Europa FC
    - <sup>3</sup> Europa Point FC
    - <sup>4</sup> FCB Magpies
    - <sup>5</sup> Glacis United FC
    - <sup>6</sup> Hound Dogs FC
    - <sup>7</sup> Lincoln Red Imps FC
    - <sup>8</sup> Lions Gibraltar FC
    - <sup>9</sup> Lynx FC
    - <sup>10</sup> Manchester 62 FC
    - <sup>11</sup> Mons Calpe FC
    - <sup>12</sup> St Joseph's FC
  - c) for the Futsal Association: 5 Delegates in total (when formed);
  - d) for the Women's Football Association: 1 Delegate in total (when formed);
  - e) for the Referees Association: 2 Delegates in total;
  - f) for the Players' Association: 1 Delegate in total (when formed).
- <sup>2</sup> Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
- <sup>3</sup> Each Delegate shall have one vote in the General Assembly. Only the Delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- <sup>4</sup> At least 3 members of the Governance & Strategy Board including the President and two directors and General Secretary will take part in the General Assembly without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Governance & Strategy Board may not be appointed as Delegates of one of the Members.

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Article **22** Areas of authority

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The General Assembly has the following areas of authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly;
- b) approving the minutes of the last General Assembly;
- c) appointing 2 Delegates to check the minutes;
- d) electing or dismissing the President, the vice-president and the members of the Governance & Strategy Board;
- e) electing or dismissing the chairman, deputy chairman and members of the judicial bodies, upon proposal of the Governance & Strategy Board;
- f) electing or dismissing the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the Electoral Committee, upon proposal of the Governance & Strategy Board;
- g) appointing the scrutineers;
- h) approving the financial statements, the competitions budget and a projected budget for the forthcoming season as per the prevailing strategic plan;
- i) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Governance & Strategy Board;
- j) deciding, upon the nomination of the Governance & Strategy Board, whether to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;
- k) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
- l) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of an elected body of the GFA;
- m) dissolving the GFA;
- n) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes.

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Article **23** Quorum of the General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> A quorum is achieved if 75% or more of the Delegates are present.
- <sup>2</sup> If a quorum is not achieved, a second General Assembly shall take place within 30 minutes with the same agenda.
- <sup>3</sup> A quorum is not required for the second General Assembly unless any item on the agenda proposes:
  - a) the amendment of the Statutes of the GFA;
  - b) the election of the President, the vice-president and the members of the Governance & Strategy Board;
  - c) the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of the GFA;
  - d) the addition or expulsion of a Member of the GFA;
  - e) the dissolution of the GFA.

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Article **24** Decisions of the General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count, unless the General Assembly decides that a decision should be taken by secret ballot. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.
- <sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

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Article **25** Elections

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- <sup>1</sup> The Governance and Strategy Board shall fix the place and date of an election General Assembly. The members shall be notified in writing 60 days before the date of the elective general assembly.
- <sup>2</sup> Notice of the positions to be elected onto the Governance and Strategy Board shall be sent to the members and be made public. It shall be advertised on the GFA website and social media platforms as well as in at least two local newspapers, one to be the Gibraltar Chronicle. The advertisement shall set forth the requirements of the positions available and invite candidates to submit to the General Secretariat at least 30 days before the general assembly (elections). Each application must be accompanied by a short CV of the candidate and must be seconded by at least two voting members of the GFA.
- <sup>3</sup> The candidates shall undergo an integrity check to be conducted by an independent company contracted for the purpose by the audit and compliance committee in accordance with the electoral code of the GFA.
- <sup>4</sup> Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. They shall be supervised by the electoral committee of the GFA and conducted in accordance with the electoral code of the GFA.
- <sup>5</sup> The election of the Governance and Strategy Board shall be determined by a majority (more than 50 %) of valid votes cast for each position. In the case of a tied vote, a second ballot shall take place. In the event of a further tie, the total votes of both ballots will be added and the candidate with the most votes will be elected.
- <sup>6</sup> The Governance and Strategy Board will put forward candidates for the election of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of all other bodies of the GFA (Judicial bodies, electoral committee and the audit and compliance committee). The candidates who receive the most votes (more than 50%) in respect of the seats will be elected. However, at the request of at least 75% of delegates present at the Assembly, a separate vote for a specific alternative candidate shall take place. In all cases, in the event of a tied vote new ballots should be conducted until the respective candidate is elected.

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Article **26** Ordinary General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> The Ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year.
- <sup>2</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 30 days before the date of the General Assembly.

- <sup>3</sup> The formal notice shall be made in writing at least 7 days before the date of the General Assembly. This notice shall contain the agenda, the activity report, the financial statements and the auditors' report and any other relevant documents.

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Article **27** Ordinary General Assembly agenda

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- 1 The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Governance & Strategy Board and the Members. Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the General Assembly shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 20 days before the date of the General Assembly.
- 2 The agenda of the General Assembly shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):
- a) a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of the GFA;
  - b) approval of the agenda;
  - c) an address by the President;
  - d) appointment of the two delegates to check the minutes;
  - e) appointment of scrutineers;
  - f) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
  - g) approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;
  - h) Activity report (containing the activities since the last General Assembly);
  - i) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
  - j) approval of the financial statements;
  - k) Audit & Compliance Report;
  - l) approval of the projected budget for the forthcoming season and any amendments to the strategic plan;
  - m) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes, and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly (if applicable);
  - n) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Governance & Strategy Board in accordance with the procedure stipulated under paragraph 1 above;
  - o) appointment of independent auditors, upon proposal of the Governance & Strategy Board;
  - p) dismissal of a person or a number of persons of a body (if applicable);
  - q) election of the President, vice-president and members of the Governance & Strategy Board (if applicable);
  - r) election of the members of the judicial bodies (if applicable);
  - s) election of the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee (if applicable);
  - t) election of the members of the Electoral Committee (if applicable);
  - u) admission for membership (if applicable).
- <sup>3</sup> The General Assembly shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda, unless three quarters or more of the Delegates present at the General Assembly and eligible to vote agree to amend it.



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Article **28** Extraordinary General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time.
- <sup>2</sup> An Extraordinary General Assembly must be convened by the Governance & Strategy Board if a majority (more than 50%) of the Delegates make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within 30 days of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary General Assembly is not held within this deadline, the Delegates who requested it may convene the General Assembly themselves and, as a last resort, they may request assistance from FIFA and UEFA.
- <sup>3</sup> The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least 7 days before the date of an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- <sup>1</sup> When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the Governance & Strategy Board, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points requested by those Members.
- <sup>5</sup> The agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly may not be altered.

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Article **29** Amendments to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Assembly is responsible for amending the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.
- <sup>2</sup> Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes and to the Standing Orders of the General Assembly must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Governance & Strategy Board. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by three other Delegates.
- <sup>3</sup> For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly to be valid, a majority (more than 75%) of the Delegates eligible to vote must be present.
- <sup>4</sup> A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly shall be adopted only by a majority (more than 75%) of the valid votes cast.

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Article **30** Minutes

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The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the General Assembly. The minutes shall be checked by the two Delegates appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose, and submitted to the next General Assembly for approval.

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Article **31** Effective dates of decisions

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Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall come into effect immediately after the close of the General Assembly, unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes or unless the General Assembly fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

## B. GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY BOARD

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### Article 32 Composition

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- <sup>1</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board consists of 5 members (at least one of whom should be a woman):
  - 1 President
  - 1 Vice-President
  - three other members
- <sup>2</sup> All candidates will be elected as set out in paragraph 25.
- <sup>3</sup> At least one of the five must be a qualified accountant with at least five years' experience and another one member must be a qualified lawyer with at least five years' experience. The other candidates must demonstrate knowledge and expertise within any of the following areas, but not limited to, football, commerce, administration, marketing, finance, medical, physiology, psychology, sport science etc. All areas of expertise which will promote well-being and help develop the sporting and commercial opportunities.
- <sup>4</sup> The candidates for a position in the Governance & Strategy Board shall fulfil the following criteria:
  - a) at least three must be registered Gibraltarians;
  - b) they must not have been condemned for a crime that is incompatible with their position;
  - c) at least three of the candidates must not have been a member of a board of a football club in Gibraltar in the last two years prior to the elections.
- <sup>5</sup> A voting member of the Governance & Strategy Board may not at the same time be a member of any other body of the GFA.
- <sup>6</sup> A position will be considered vacant in case of death or permanent disability, or if a member of the Governance & Strategy Board does not participate in 3 consecutive meetings of the Governance & Strategy Board.
- <sup>7</sup> Attendance at each Governance and Strategy Board meeting will either be in person or by remote access.

### Article 33 Meetings

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- <sup>1</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board shall meet at least once every two months and a Quorum will be three voting members.
- <sup>2</sup> The President shall convene the Governance & Strategy Board meetings. However, if more than 50% of the members of the Governance & Strategy Board request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 7 days. If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the Governance & Strategy Board shall convene it themselves.
- <sup>3</sup> The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Governance & Strategy Board is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Governance & Strategy Board must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the General Secretary at least 5 days before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Governance & Strategy Board at least 3 days before the meeting.

- <sup>4</sup> The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Governance & Strategy Board in a consultative role. If the General Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, the Deputy General Secretary shall attend it on his behalf.
- <sup>5</sup> The meetings of the Governance & Strategy Board shall not be held in public. The Governance & Strategy Board may however, invite third parties to attend a meeting without voting rights, but only with the right to express their opinion with the prior permission of the chairman of the meeting.

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Article **34** Powers of the Governance & Strategy Board

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- <sup>1</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board shall have inter alia the following powers:
  - a) passing decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the General Assembly or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
  - b) deciding, on its own initiative or upon proposal of the Board of Directors, to set up ad hoc committees if necessary at any time;
  - c) convening the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of the GFA;
  - d) appointing the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
  - e) approving regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the Association;
  - f) appointing or dismissing the General Secretary or a Board Member, subject always to the employment terms;
  - g) proposing the independent auditors to the General Assembly;
  - h) appointing replacements for vacancies in the judicial bodies and the Audit and Compliance Committee until the next General Assembly;
  - i) approving regulations stipulating how the GFA shall be organised internally;
  - j) dismissing a person or number of persons of a body provisionally until the next General Assembly;
  - k) suspending a Member of the GFA provisionally until the next General Assembly;
  - l) delegating tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of the GFA;
  - m) appointing observers who may take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or to vote;
  - n) approve regulations drawn up by the Board of Directors.
  - o) Appointing a Remuneration Committee which will be chaired by a voting member of the Governance & Strategy Board.

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Article **35** Decisions

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- <sup>1</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board shall only take valid decisions if at least three members are present, one of whom being the President or the Vice-President.
- <sup>2</sup> With the exception of a decision in relation to Article 34(f), which must be a unanimous decision by all Governance and Strategy Board Members, the Governance & Strategy Board shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- <sup>3</sup> Any member of the Governance & Strategy Board must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.

- 4 The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 5 The decisions taken by the Governance & Strategy Board shall come into effect immediately, unless the Governance & Strategy Board decides otherwise.

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Article **36** Dismissal of a person or a number of persons

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- 1 The General Assembly may dismiss a person or a number of persons of an elected body. The Governance & Strategy Board may place the dismissal of a person or number of persons of a body on the agenda for the General Assembly. The Governance & Strategy Board may also dismiss a person or number of persons of an elected body provisionally. Any Governance & Strategy Board member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Governance & Strategy Board or General Assembly.
- 2 The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of the Governance & Strategy Board and/or to the Members of the GFA along with the agenda.
- 3 The person(s) in question has/have the right to defend himself/themselves.
- 4 The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid casting votes is required.
- 5 The person/persons dismissed (provisionally) is/are relieved of his/their functions with immediate effect.

## C. PRESIDENT

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### Article 37 President

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- <sup>1</sup> The President is primarily responsible for:
  - a) ensuring the implementation of the decisions passed by the General Assembly, the Governance & Strategy Board and other bodies of the GFA through the general secretariat;
  - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of the GFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
  - c) ensuring that the Governance & Strategy Board are overseeing the work of the general secretariat and the Board of Directors;
  - d) relations between FIFA, UEFA, the GFA and its Members.
- <sup>2</sup> The President will ensure that minutes of all standing committees are maintained and filed, this will be entered on the agenda of each Governance & Strategy meeting.
- <sup>3</sup> The President shall preside over the General Assembly, the Governance & Strategy Board and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
- <sup>4</sup> The President shall set the detailed procedure for the Governance & Strategy Board meetings. He shall have an ordinary vote on the Governance & Strategy Board and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- <sup>5</sup> If the President is absent or unavailable, the Vice-president shall deputise.
- <sup>6</sup> The position of the President will be considered vacant if he does not participate in 2 of any block of any 4 consecutive meetings of the Governance & Strategy Board.
- <sup>7</sup> If the position of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall deputise until the next General Assembly which shall elect a new President for the remaining period of office.

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### Article 38 Representation and signature

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The President represents the GFA legally and is entitled to sign for the GFA jointly with one other member of the Governance & Strategic Board. The Board of Directors shall set up Internal Organisation Regulations regarding the joint signature of office-holders, in particular, in case of the President's absence and concerning all important business of the GFA.

## **D. STANDING COMMITTEES**

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### **Article 39 Standing Committees**

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- <sup>1</sup> The standing committees of the GFA are the following:
  - a) Youth Football Committee;
  - b) Audit and Compliance Committee;
  - c) Competitions Committee;
  - d) Referees Committee;
  - e) Women's Football Committee;
  - f) Futsal Committee;
  - g) Players' Status Committee; and
  - h) Grassroots Committee.
- <sup>2</sup> The Chairman and members of each standing committee shall be appointed for a term of four years. Each Chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant policy documents drawn up by the Governance & Strategy Board.
- <sup>3</sup> The Referees Committee shall report directly to the Governance & Strategy Board.
- <sup>4</sup> The following Committees shall report to the Board of Directors:
  - a) Youth Football Committee;
  - b) Competitions Committee;
  - c) Women's Football Committee;
  - d) Futsal Committee;
  - e) Players' Status Committee;
  - f) Grassroots Committee.
- <sup>5</sup> The Audit & Compliance Committee is independent and shall not report to any GFA Body.

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### **Article 40 Youth Football Committee**

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The Youth Football Committee shall organise the youth football competitions of the GFA and deal with all matters relating to youth football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and a minimum of 3 ordinary members appointed by the Governance & Strategy Board upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

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Article **41** **Audit and Compliance Committee**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Audit and Compliance Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the external auditors' reports. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and one other ordinary member.
- <sup>2</sup> The Audit and Compliance Committee shall advise and assist the Governance & Strategy Board and the Board of Directors in monitoring the GFA's financial and compliance matters, and monitor compliance with the relevant regulations of the GFA.
- <sup>3</sup> Details on the Audit and Compliance Committee's responsibilities, its internal cooperation and other procedural matters are stipulated in the relevant regulations of the GFA.
- <sup>4</sup> The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years and may only be relieved of their duties by the General Assembly.
- <sup>5</sup> The chairman, deputy chairman and the ordinary member of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be independent in the sense that they shall have no relationships or circumstances which could affect their ability to discharge their functions effectively and impartially. In particular, they shall not at any time during the four years prior to their appointment or during their term of office have been: (i) a member of the GFA Governance & Strategy Board or of any other body of the GFA; or (ii) a member of the executive or supervisory board of any of the Members of the GFA; or (iii) a paid official or employee of the GFA or of one of the Members of the GFA.
- <sup>6</sup> If the chairman, the deputy chairman or a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Governance and Strategy Board shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next General Assembly.

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Article **42** **Competitions Committee**

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The Football Competitions Committee shall organise the competitions of the GFA in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to the GFA's competitions. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and at least 5 ordinary members appointed by the Governance & Strategy Board upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

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Article **43** **Referees Committee**

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The Referees Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organised by the GFA, organise refereeing matters within the GFA in collaboration with the administration of the GFA and monitor the education and training of referees. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 3 ordinary members appointed by the Governance & Strategy Board upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.



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Article **44** **Women's Football Committee**

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The Committee for Women's Football shall organise the women's football competitions of the GFA and deal with all matters relating to women's football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and at least 3 ordinary members appointed by the Governance & Strategy Board upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

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Article **45** **Players' Status Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> The Players' Status Committee shall set up, and monitor compliance with, transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for the various competitions of the GFA. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and at least 2 ordinary members appointed by the Governance & Strategy Board upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

<sup>2</sup> Players' status disputes involving the GFA, its Members, Players, and intermediaries shall be settled in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within the GFA) by an arbitration tribunal in accordance with these Statutes.

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Article **46** **Grassroots Committee**

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The Grassroots Committee shall deal with all grassroots matters, as these are set out in the UEFA Grassroots Charter. This shall include collaborating with the Youth Football, Womens and Futsal Committees in joint projects from time to time to adhere to the Charter. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and a minimum of 3 ordinary members appointed by the Governance & Strategy Board upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

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Article **47** **Ad-Hoc Committees**

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The Governance & Strategic Board , on its own initiative or upon proposal of the Board of Directors, create ad-hoc committees for special duties and a limited period of time, composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of ordinary members deemed necessary for the ad-hoc committee to function properly. The duties and function are defined in special regulations approved by the Governance & Strategy Board. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Governance & Strategic Board.

**E. GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

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Article **48** General secretariat

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The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the GFA under the direction of the General Secretary. The Board of Directors shall be the executive and operational entity within the general secretariat. The members of the general secretariat shall be permanent employees of the GFA.

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Article **49** General Secretary and Board of Directors

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- <sup>1</sup> The General Secretary is the chief executive of the general secretariat.
- <sup>2</sup> He shall be appointed on the basis of an employment contract governed by Gibraltar law and shall carry out the duties set out therein.
- <sup>3</sup> The General Secretary is responsible for and shall chair the Board of Directors, which shall be composed of the Deputy General Secretary as well as all the appointed directors within the GFA general secretariat.
- <sup>4</sup> The General Secretary shall be responsible for:-
  - a) organising and attending the General Assembly and meetings of the Governance and Strategy Board, Emergency Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
  - b) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the General Assembly, Governance & Strategy Board, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
  - c) managing and keeping the accounts of the GFA properly;
  - d) handling the correspondence of the GFA;
  - e) appointing and dismissing of staff working in the general secretariat;
  - f) entering into such commercial or other transactions in connection with any trade or business as may seem desirable for the purpose of the GFA's affairs;
  - g) instituting legal proceedings when deemed expedient or appointing legal counsel to defend the interests of the GFA;
  - h) requiring any Member to produce such records, accounts, books, letters or other documentation and/or information which it deems necessary and/or expedient in accordance with the requirements of these statutes.
  - i) circulating all draft proposals and agendas to the members of the GFA and consult with them on the impact on the domestic game. They will also be consulted in preparation of putting forward responses and proposals for congress, always representing the interests of the members and players registered of the GFA.
- <sup>4</sup> The Board of Directors shall be responsible for:
  - a) implementing and updating the strategic plan and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) drawn up after consultation with members of the GFA and stakeholders. Appropriate projected budgets and forecasts must also be in place;
  - b) handling relations with the Members, committees, FIFA, UEFA and other Football Associations;
  - c) report the outcome of discussions of the Standing Committees to the Governance & Strategy Board;
  - d) drawing up regulations and submitting them to the Governance & Strategy Board for approval;

- e) managing the football competitions by dealing with any matter directly or indirectly relating to the organisation, administration or management of any competition officially organised by the GFA, FIFA or UEFA;
  - f) taking all steps necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of these Statutes, GFA rules and regulations;
  - g) deciding to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary and co-opting persons to committees at any time
  - h) proposing to the Governance & Strategy Board the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;
  - i) protecting the assets and property of the GFA;
  - j) ensuring that these Statutes are applied and adopting the executive arrangements required for their application.
- <sup>5</sup> Any additional responsibilities and duties assigned to the General Secretary and the Board of Directors shall be stipulated in the internal regulations of the GFA.
- <sup>6</sup> Members of the general secretariat may not be at the same time a General Assembly delegate or a member of any body of the GFA.
- <sup>7</sup> The Deputy General Secretary shall deputise the functions of the General Secretary, including acting as interim General Secretary in the event of absence by the General Secretary.

## F. LEGAL BODIES

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### Article 50 Judicial bodies

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- 1 The judicial bodies of the GFA are:
    - a) the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and the Appeal Committee;
  - 2 The judicial bodies shall be composed in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Regulations and in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The chairmen of the judicial bodies shall be qualified to practice law. Prior to their election or re-election, they shall undergo an integrity check to be conducted by the Audit and Compliance Committee. The term of office of all members shall be four years. The members of the judicial bodies may be re-elected or relieved of their duties at any time, by the General Assembly.
  - 4 The chairmen, deputy chairmen and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the General Assembly upon proposal of the Governance and Strategy Board and shall not be members of any other body of the GFA.
  - 5 If the chairman, the deputy chairman or a member of a judicial body permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the Governance and Strategy Board shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next General Assembly.
  - 6 The responsibilities and function of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in the GFA Disciplinary Regulations.
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### Article 51 Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

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- 1 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 3 ordinary members. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the GFA Disciplinary Regulations, the chairman may rule alone.
  - 2 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the GFA Disciplinary Regulations on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs, match agents and intermediaries.
  - 3 These provisions do not affect the powers of the General Assembly and the Governance and Strategy Board with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.
  - 4 The Governance and Strategy Board shall issue the GFA Disciplinary Regulations of the GFA.
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### Article 52 Appeal Committee

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- 1 The Appeal Committee shall be composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 3 ordinary members. The Appeal Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three of its members are present. In certain cases, as specified in the relevant regulations, the chairman may rule alone.
- 2 The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee that are not declared final by the relevant regulations of the GFA.
- 3 Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may only be referred to an independent and impartial court of arbitration, which will definitively settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in Gibraltar.

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Article **53** **Disciplinary measures**

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The disciplinary measures are set out in the GFA Disciplinary Regulations, and primarily include but are not limited to the following :

- <sup>1</sup> for natural and legal persons:
  - a) a warning;
  - b) a reprimand;
  - c) a fine;
  - d) the return of awards.
  
- <sup>2</sup> for natural persons:
  - a) a caution;
  - b) an expulsion;
  - c) a match suspension;
  - d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
  - e) a ban from entering a stadium;
  - f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
  
- <sup>3</sup> for legal persons:
  - a) a transfer ban;
  - b) playing a match without spectators;
  - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
  - d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
  - e) annulment of the result of the match;
  - f) expulsion from a competition;
  - g) a forfeit;
  - h) deduction of points;
  - i) relegation to a lower division;
  - j) replaying a match.

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Article **54** **Club Licensing Bodies**

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The club licensing bodies (i.e. the Club Licensing First Instance Board and the Club Licensing Appeals Board) are in charge of the club licensing system within the GFA in accordance with the regulations of the GFA.

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Article **55** **Electoral Committee**

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The Electoral Committee is the body in charge of organising and supervising the election process in accordance with the Electoral Code of the GFA.

- <sup>1</sup> Domestic disputes within the GFA affecting Leagues, members of Leagues, Clubs and members of Clubs, Players and Officials may only be referred in the last instance (i.e. after the exhaustion of all internal channels within the GFA) to an independent and impartial court of arbitration in Gibraltar. As a last resort there will be binding arbitration conducted by a UK independent legal advisor or a KC, selected by the legal advisors by the two parties in Gibraltar. The verdict of any arbitration will be binding. Unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in Gibraltar.
- <sup>2</sup> Disputes of international or European dimension arising from or related to the application of the FIFA or UEFA Statutes and regulations will be submitted to the CAS as specified in the relevant provisions of the FIFA and UEFA Statutes.
- <sup>3</sup> The GFA shall have jurisdiction on internal disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging or affiliated to the GFA subject to paragraph 1. FIFA and UEFA shall have jurisdiction on disputes of international, respectively European dimension.
- <sup>4</sup> The GFA shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA or UEFA body or by any independent and impartial court of arbitration referred to under part. 1 above or by the CAS.

Article **57** **Financial period**

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- 1 The financial period of the GFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1 July and shall end on 30 June.
  - 2 The revenue and expenses of the GFA shall be managed by the general secretariat over the financial period to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the GFA and of the profit and loss for that period.
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Article **58** **Revenue**

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- 1 The revenue of the GFA arises specifically from:
    - a) Members' annual subscriptions;
    - b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the GFA is entitled;
    - c) fines imposed by the authorised bodies;
    - d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the GFA;
    - e) sponsorships, grants and donations;
    - f) UEFA & FIFA funding;
    - g) receipts generated from ticket sales;
    - h) any other revenue related to football activities.
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Article **59** **Expenses**

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The expenses of the GFA bears the expenses stipulated in the financial statements as per the standards applicable under Gibraltar law Accounting Standards including Gibraltar Financial Reporting Standards 102 and the Gibraltar Companies Act 2014.

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Article **60** **External auditors**

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The external auditors appointed by the General Assembly shall audit the accounts approved by the Governance and Strategy Board in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the General Assembly. They shall carry out yearly independent audits of accounts and shall be appointed for a period of 4 years. Their mandate may be renewed.

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Article **61** **Membership subscriptions**

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- 1 The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the General Assembly at which they are admitted.

- <sup>2</sup> The Governance and Strategy Board shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every 2 years on the recommendation of the General Secretary.

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Article **62** **Settlement**

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The GFA may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

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Article **63** **Levies**

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The Governance and Strategy Board may demand that a levy be paid by the GFA Members for matches.

VI. COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

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Article **64** **Competitions**

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- <sup>1</sup> The GFA organises and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
1. National Senior League
  2. National Senior Cup
  3. Youth League
  4. Youth Cup
  5. Women's Football League
  6. Women's Football Cup
  7. Futsal League
  8. Futsal Cup
- <sup>2</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board may delegate to the GFA's subordinate Leagues the authority to organise competitions. The competitions organised by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organised by the GFA. Competitions organised by the GFA shall always take priority.
- <sup>3</sup> The Governance & Strategy Board may issue special regulations to this end.
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Article **65** **Club licensing**

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The Governance & Strategy Board shall set up regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in the competitions of the GFA and UEFA, in compliance with the minimum requirements of the club licensing system as set up by UEFA.

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Article **66** **Rights**

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- <sup>1</sup> The GFA is the original owner of all of the rights emanating from domestic competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time and place. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and



broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

- <sup>2</sup> The Governance and Strategy Board, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end if necessary.

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Article **67** **Authorisation**

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The GFA is exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their jurisdiction, and without any restrictions as to content, time and place..

Article **68** International matches and competitions

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- 1 The authority for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between Leagues, Club teams and/or scratch teams lies solely with FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.
  - 2 The GFA shall comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.
  - 3 The squad of Players selected by the GFA National Head Coach for the purposes of playing any international or other match shall represent and be called Gibraltar.
  - 4 Members shall not participate in competitions in the territory of another association without the written authorisation of the GFA and the relevant association as well as UEFA and FIFA.
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Article **69** Contacts

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The GFA, its Members, Players, Officials, match agents and intermediaries shall not play matches or make sporting contact with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

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Article **70** Approval

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- 1 Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to the GFA:
    - a) may only join another Association with the authorisation of the GFA, the other Association, the respective Confederation(s) and FIFA
    - b) cannot participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of the GFA, the other Association, FIFA and the respective Confederation according to the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.
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Article **71** Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

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The Governance & Strategy Board shall have the power to decide on all cases of force majeure and on all matters not provided for in these Statutes, such decisions to be made according to right and justice, taking into account the relevant regulations of FIFA and UEFA.

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Article **72** **Dissolution**

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- <sup>1</sup> Any decision relating to the dissolution of the GFA requires a majority of two-thirds of all the Delegates of the GFA, which must be obtained at a General Assembly specially convened for the purpose.
  - <sup>2</sup> If the GFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to a trust set up by the Governance & Strategy Board for this purpose. It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until the GFA is re-established. The final General Assembly may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.
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Article **73** **Vacancies**

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- <sup>1</sup> For clarification, in the event there are insufficient candidates or nominees for all the standing committees at the General Assembly, then the Governance and Strategy Board shall make appointments to ensure that the duties of the Committees can be met. Should vacancies arise during the period of the standing Committee, then the members of each Committee may co-opt members in order to fill the vacancies, after reasonable consultation with the Governance and Strategy Board and the GFA Board of Directors.
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Article **74** **Enforcement**

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These Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly in Gibraltar on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and will come into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024