BOTSWANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



CONSTITUTION 2020



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DEFINITIONS

The terms and acronyms given below denote the following;

Associate member:

shall mean a member with limited rights as

provided for in this constitution;

Association football:

shall mean the game controlled by FIFA and

organised in accordance with the Laws of the

Game.

BFA

shall mean Botswana Football Association.

CAF

shall mean the Confederation of African Football.

CAS (TAS):

shall mean Court of Arbitration for Sport in

Lausanne (Switzerland).

Club:

shall mean any organization of persons or entity established for the purpose of playing the game of football, registered in terms of the Societies Act or in terms of any other law, being a legal entity, enjoying a separate existence from its members, having power to sue and be sued in its own name, capable of owning property separate from its members, having perpetual succession and registered with any of the Regional Football

Associations of the BFA as a member.

Committees

shall mean all Committees contemplated by and/or established under this Constitution and shall include both standing and ad hoc committees.

Confederation

shall mean a group of Associations recognized by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or

similar geographic area).

COSAFA

shall mean the Council of Southern African

Football Associations.

FIFA

shall mean Fédération Internationale de Football

Association.



General Assembly

shall mean the supreme and legislative body of

BFA.

IFAB:

shall mean the International Football Association

Board.

League

shall mean an organization subordinate to an

Association.

Member:

shall mean a legal person that has been admitted

into membership of BFA by the General Assembly.

National League

shall mean the National Football League

composed of the Premier League and the First

Division League.

National Teams

shall mean any team of players selected to represent Botswana at the international level,

under the auspices of the Botswana Football

Association.

NEC

shall mean the National Executive Committee of

BFA

Official

shall mean 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 FIFA, a Confederation, Association, League or Club as well as other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes.

Ordinary Courts:

shall mean state courts which hear public and

private legal disputes.

Player

shall mean a football player registered with an

Association.

Regional Association

shall mean an organization established in terms of

Article 17.5.2 of this Constitution

Zones

shall mean the following four areas into which the country shall be divided: Northern (Chobe, Nhabe and Boteti and Francistown regions), Western (Gantsi, Tsabong, Kang and Hukuntsi) Southern (Gaborone, Kgatleng, Kweneng, South East and Southern regions) and Eastern (Tswapong, Central Leathern of Captral South and Solibe Philage)

North and Central South and Selibe Phikwe).



NB: References to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Name, Headquarters, legal form

- 1.1 The BFA is a Non-Governmental organization of an associative nature registered in accordance with the Societies Act of the Republic of Botswana. It is formed for an unlimited period.
- 1.2 The headquarters of the BFA are in Gaborone. The presence of an absolute majority (more than 75%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the General Assembly is necessary for a change of headquarters to be valid, and the motion of change of headquarters must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.
- 1.3 The BFA is a member of FIFA, CAF and COSAFA.
- 1.4 The colours of the BFA shall be the same as those of the national flag of Botswana.
- 1.5 The emblem, logo and abbreviation of the BFA are legally registered with The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority

Article 2: Corporate Personalities

The BFA shall be a body corporate capable of suing or being sued in its own name. It shall enjoy perpetual succession.



Article 3: Obligations

- As a member of FIFA, CAF, COSAFA, the obligations of BFA are: 3.1
 - to comply fully with the Statutes / Constitution, regulations, 3.1.1 directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF AND COSAFA as well as the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed on appeal on the basis of the pertinent articles of the FIFA Statutes:
 - not to take any dispute involving itself or one of its members 3.1.2 and relating to the Statutes/Constitution, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, BFA or the League(s) to Ordinary Courts but only to an Arbitration Tribunal or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, both as specified in the FIFA Statutes and in this Constitution.
 - to take part in competitions organized by FIFA, CAF and 3.1.3 COSAFA;
 - to pay its membership subscriptions to FIFA, CAF and COSAFA, 3.1.4 if any;
 - to ensure that its own members comply with the statutes, 3.1.5 regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies;
 - to respect the Laws of the Game; 3.1.6
 - to comply fully with all other duties arising from the 3.1.7 SOCIETIES

Statutes and other regulations.

Article 4: Objectives

The objectives of BFA are:

to be the supreme authority on matters of football in the country and to 4.1 improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and

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control it throughout the territory of the BFA in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;

- 4.2 to organise its own local competitions in Association football, futsal and beach soccer at national level by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various leagues of which it is composed;
- 4.3 to draw up regulations and provisions governing the game of football and related matters and to ensure their enforcement;
- to control every type of association football by taking appropriate steps to prevent infringements of the statutes, regulations or decisions of BFA;
- to use its efforts to ensure that the game of football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate, regardless of gender or age;
- 4.6 to promote the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance;
- 4.7 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 BFA or give rise to abuse of association football, futsal and beach soccer;
- 4.8 To promote and strengthen good governance principles and practice at national level and encourage its Members to adopt their own good governance principles.

Article 4A: Human rights

The BFA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

Article 5: Non-discrimination and equality



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 other disciplinary measures.

Article 5A: Neutrality and institutional independence

- 5.1 The BFA shall be neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- 5.2 The Members of the BFA shall also be neutral in matter of politics and region and shall ensure that their own members remain neutral.
- 5.3 The BFA shall remain independent and shall avoid any form of undue political interference. The BFA shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.

Article 6: Promoting friendly relations

- 6.1 The BFA shall promote friendly relations:
 - 6.1.1 between its members, clubs, officials and players; and
 - 6.1.2 in society for humanitarian objectives.
- 6.2 The BFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between its Members, clubs, officials and players.

Article 7: Players

7.1 The status of players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the NEC in accordance with the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.



7.2 Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of the BFA.

Article 8: Laws of the Game

- 8.1 The BFA and its Members shall play association football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.
- 8.2 The BFA and its Members shall play futsal and beach soccer in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Futsal Laws of the Game and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.

Article 9: Conduct of Bodies and Officials

9. The bodies and officials of BFA and its members must observe the Statutes and/or Constitution, regulations, directives, decisions, as the case may be, and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of CAF, COSAFA and of BFA in their activities.

Article 10: Official language

- 10.1 The official languages of the BFA shall be English and Setswana. Official documents and texts shall be written in English.
- 10.2 The official languages at the General Assembly shall be English and Setswana.

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MEMBERSHIP

Article 11: Admission, suspension and expulsion

11.1 The General Assembly shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.

- 11.2 Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of the BFA, in accordance with the Constitution of BFA.
 - 11.3 Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards the BFA or its Members, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to the BFA.

Article 12: Members

The Members of the BFA are in two distinctive categories: Full members and Associate members.

- 12.1 Full Members:
 - 12.1.1 Botswana Football League (PTY) Ltd;
 - 12.1.2 Regional Associations;
 - 12.1.3 Women's Football
- 12.2 Associate members as admitted by the General Assembly from time to time.

Article 12A: Admission and procedure for application

- 12.1 Any legal person wishing to become a member of the BFA shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of BFA, in a prescribed form as determined and regulated by the General Assembly.
- 12.2 The NEC shall request the General Assembly either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its applications to the General Assembly.



- 12.3 The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.
- 12.4 The application shall be accompanied by the following items:
 - a) a copy of its legally valid statutes or constitutional document and, if applicable, regulations;
 - b) a declaration that it will comply at all times with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of the BFA, FIFA and CAF and ensure that these are also respected, if applicable, by its own members, Clubs, Officials and Players;
 - a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force as laid down by The IFAB, as well as the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA;
 - a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, CAF and BFA Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to ordinary courts, unless the FIFA Statutes or regulations, the CAF Statutes or the BFA regulations, or binding legal provisions, provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts;
 - e) a declaration that it recognises the arbitration tribunal that the BFA has recognised and CAS, as specified in these Statutes;
 - f) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of Botswana;
 - g) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity:



- h) a declaration to the effect that the members of its own bodies were elected or appointed as a result of a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
- i) a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting;
- if applicable, a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the BFA;
- if applicable, a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of Botswana;

Article 13: Suspensions

- 13.1 The General Assembly is responsible for suspending a Member. The NEC may, however, suspend a Member who seriously violates its obligations with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next General Assembly, unless the NEC has lifted it in the meantime.
- 13.2 A suspension shall be confirmed at the next General Assembly by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.
- 13.3 A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
- 13.4 Members that do not participate in the sporting activities of BFA for two (2) consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the



- General Assembly and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.
- 13.5 The General Assembly shall, prior to taking of any decision which might involve the suspension of any Member, afford such Member an oral hearing of no less than ten (10) minutes.

Article 14: Expulsion

- 14.1 The General Assembly may expel a Member only on the recommendation of the NEC if:
 - 14.1.1 it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards the BFA;
 - 14.1.2 it repeatedly and/or seriously violates the Statutes, Constitution, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, CAF and BFA.
- 14.2 The presence of a simple majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing the Members 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.
- 14.3 The General Assembly shall, prior to taking of any decision which might involve the expulsion of any Member, afford such Member an oral hearing of no less than ten (10) minutes.

Article 15: Resignations

15.1 A Member may resign from the BFA with effect from the end of a football season. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than six (6) months before the end of the football season.



15.2 The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards the BFA and the other Members of the BFA.

Article 16: Independence of members and their bodies

- Each Member shall manage its affairs independently and with no 16.1 influence from third parties.
- 16.2 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.
- 16.3 Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 16.2, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the BFA.
- 16.4 Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par 16. 2 shall not be recognised by the BFA.
- Status of clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and other groups of clubs Article 17:
 - 17.1 Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations or any other groups of clubs affiliated to BFA shall be subordinate to and recognised by the BFA. There shall only be one top-tier national league on the territory of the BFA.
 - 17.2 This Constitution defines the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the NEC. The BFA shall have the primary responsibility to regulate matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of Players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and measures required to protect the integrity of competitions. ENT OF CIVIL AND NATIONAL REGIS

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- 17.3 Members of the BFA and any of the entities mentioned under par 17.1 above, shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
- 17.4 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.

17.5 LEAGUES

17.5.1 National Football League

- 17.5.1.1 There shall be a National Football League made up of the Premier League and the First Division League both of which shall be subject to the laws governing the BFA as laid down by this Constitution.
- 17.5.1.2 The Premier League and the first division league shall be made up of such number of teams as shall from time to time be determined by the NEC upon recommendation by the Botswana Football League and that qualify through the club licensing system where applicable.
- 17.5.1.3 The Botswana Football League board shall make regulations governing both the Premier League and the First Division provided that such regulations shall not be inconsistent with the statutes of the BFA, CAF and FIFA

17.5.2 Regional Football Associations

17.5.2.1 There shall be 17 Regional Football Associations or such number of Regional Football Associations as the BFA may from time to time determine following recommendation to the General Assembly.

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17.5.2.2 The NEC shall make regulations governing the Regional Football Associations.

17.6 Conditions of Establishment

- 17.6.1 Each Regional Football Association shall be subordinate to the BFA, being bound by the laws governing the BFA as laid down in this Constitution.
- 17.6.2 All Regional Football Associations shall be established in accordance with standard rules and regulations which have been approved by the NEC of the BFA.
- 17.6.3 The rules and regulations of any Regional Football Association shall not provide for any matter or thing which is inconsistent or at variance with the Constitution of the BFA or any law, rule, regulation or statute to which the BFA is subject.

17.7 WOMENS FOOTBALL

17.7.1 Establishment

- 17.7.1.1 There shall be Women's Football which shall comprise of women's football clubs playing in such areas and/or zones and/ or sections as the NEC, in consultation with the National Women Football Committee, may determine from time to time.
- 17.7.1.2 Women Football shall be coordinated by a National Women Football Committee.
- 17.7.1.3 The NEC shall make regulations governing Women's Football.



Article 18: Full and Associate members rights

- 18.1 Full Members of BFA shall have the following rights:
 - 18.1.1 to take part in the General Assembly of BFA, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the General Assembly within the prescribed time;
 - 18.1.2 to exercise their voting rights;
 - 18.1.3 to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly;
 - 18.1.4 to nominate candidates for elections to the bodies of BFA elected by the General Assembly;
 - 18.1.5 to be informed of the affairs of BFA through the official bodies of BFA;
 - 18.1.6 to take part in competitions [if applicable] and/or other sporting activities organised by BFA;
 - 18.1.7 to exercise all other rights arising from the Constitution and regulations of BFA.
 - 18.1.8 The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in this Constitution and the applicable regulations.

18.2 Associate Members of BFA shall have the following rights:

- 18.2.1 to take part in the General Assembly of BFA, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the General Assembly within the prescribed time;
- 18.2.2 to exercise all other rights (excluding voting rights) arising from the Constitution and regulations of BFA.
- 18.2.3 to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly;

18.2.4 to be informed of the affairs of BFA through the affairs of BFA;

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18.2.5 to take part in competitions [if applicable] and/or other sporting activities organised by BFA;

18.3 Members Obligations

- 18.3.1 Members of the BFA are obliged at all times to comply fully with the statutes, constitution, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF and BFA at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by their members;
- 18.3.2 Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in this constitution.
- 18.3.3 Members should at all times comply with the following obligations:
 - a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA,CAF 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 4 (four) years;
 - c) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and other sporting activities organised by the BFA;
 - d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
 - e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by The IFAB and the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as laid down by FIFA, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
 - to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of national dimension arising from or related to the Constitution, regulations, directives and decisions of the May only be

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referred in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within the BFA) to the Arbitration Tribunal, which shall definitely settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in [name of the country in which the Association has its headquarters];

- g) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of international dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA or of CAF may only be submitted in the last instance to CAS as specified in the Statutes of FIFA and CAF;
- h) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with art. 16 of this Constitution;
- to ensure that their bodies are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
- to communicate to BFA any amendment to its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- 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;
- to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- m) to observe the mandatory items specified under art. 12A of Constitution for the duration of their affiliation;



- n) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
- o) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of BFA;
- p) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CAF and BFA.

HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORORY MEMBERS

Article 19: Honorary President, Honorary Vice- President and Honorary Member

- 19.1 The General Assembly may, on the recommendation of the NEC, grant the title of honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member to persons found deserving such honour for distinguished and meritorious services rendered to the Association.
- 19.2The honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

ORGANISATION

Article 20: Bodies of the BFA



- 20.1 The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body of the BFA.
- 20.2 The NEC is the strategic and oversight body of the Association.

- 20.3 Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the NEC and general secretariat in fulfilling their duties.
- 20.4 The general secretariat is the administrative body.
- 20.5 The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Committee, the Arbitration Tribunal, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.
- 20.6 The Electoral Committee is the body in charge of organising and supervising the election process.
- 20.7 The bodies of BFA shall be either elected or appointed by the Association itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in this constitution.
- 20.8 The Club Licensing Body is in charge of the club licensing system within the BFA.
- 20.9 Any member of the bodies of the BFA must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest. In particular, members of the bodies of the BFA shall always be aware of, and comply with, the relevant provisions of the FIFA Code of Ethics on conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary (e.g. abstain from performing their duties, notify the chairperson in cases of potential conflicts of interest).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 21 Definition and Composition of the General Assembly

21.1 A General Assembly may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly. The General Assembly is the meeting at which all of the Members of the BFA regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the BFA. Only a General Assembly that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

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- 21.2 The President shall conduct the General Assembly business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.
- 21.3 The NEC may appoint observers who take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or to vote.

Article 22: Delegates and votes

22.1 The General Assembly is composed of the following delegates:

22.1.1 Members:

- 22.1.1.1 One (1) delegate from the Botswana Football League;
- 22.1.1.2 Two (2) delegates for each of the seventeen (17) Regional Associations;
- 22.1.1.3 Two (2) delegates from the Women's Football

22.1.2 Associate Members:

- 22.1.2.1 Two (2) non-voting delegates from each Associate Member.
- 22.2 Delegates must belong to a Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by an appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
- 22.3 Each delegate shall have one vote. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote.
- 22.4 The NEC and the General Secretary shall take part in the General Assembly without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the NEC may not be a delegate for any member or structure.



Article 23: Areas of Authority

The General Assembly has the following authority:

- 23.1 adopting or amending the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly in terms of the laid down procedure;
- 23.2 appointing three (3) members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- 23.3 electing all members of the NEC;
- 23.4 electing all members of the judicial bodies;
- 23.5 appointing the scrutinizers;
- 23.6 approving the financial statements;
- 23.7 approving the budget;
- 23.8 approving the activity report;
- 23.9 appointing the independent auditors upon the recommendation of the NEC:
- 23.10 fixing the membership subscriptions on the recommendation of the NEC;
- 23.11 to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;
- 23.12 admitting, suspending or expelling a member, subject to the provisions of this Constitution;
- 23.13 revoking the mandate of one or several members of a body of BFA;
- 23.14 dissolving the Association;



- 23.15 passing decisions at the request of a member in accordance with this Constitution;
- 23.16 electing all members of the Electoral Committee and the Election Appeal Committee;
- 23.17 electing all members of the Audit and Compliance Committee.

Article 24: Quorum of the General Assembly

- 24.1 Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the members eligible to vote are present.
- 24.2 If, after two hours from the time the General Assembly was scheduled to begin, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned for fourteen days, to be held at a venue to be determined by the NEC, at the same time on the fourteenth day next, or the nearest Saturday following the fourteenth day next if the fourteenth day falls on a Sunday or public holiday or a day within a series of public holidays in Botswana, in which event the meeting shall continue notwithstanding that a quorum shall not be constituted.
- 24.3 A quorum is required for the second meeting of the Congress if any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of the BFA, the election of the President, vice-presidents or members of the NEC, the election of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons or members of the independent committees, revoking the mandate of a member of a body of the BFA, the suspension or expulsion of a Member of the BFA or the dissolution of the BFA.
- 24.4 Once it is declared that the Congress has been convened and composed in accordance with the Constitution of BFA, the quorum shall not be influenced by departing delegates.

Article 25: Decisions of the General Assembly

25.1 Except as provided for in this Constitution all decisions that require a vote shall be reached by a show of hands



Unless otherwise stipulated in the Constitution, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.

Article 26: Elections

- 26.1 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and shall take place by position.
- 26.2 Elections conducted under this constitution, including the elections for any body of the BFA, shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of BFA.
- 26.3 For the election of the President, more than 70% of the valid votes cast is sufficient in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates for the office of President, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
- 26.4 For the election of other members of the NEC by position, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.
- 26.5 For the election of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and members of all other bodies of BFA elected by the General Assembly (Electoral Committee and Election Appeal Committee, Audit and Compliance Committee, judicial bodies), the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) which receives the most votes shall be elected.
- 26.6 In case of a tied vote, new ballots shall be conducted until the respective candidate or list is elected in accordance with the procedure set forth by the present provision.
- 26.7 Blank ballot papers and invalid votes shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.



Article 27: Ordinary General Assembly

- 27.1 The Ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year by 14 August or as close as reasonable possible to this date as possible, before the commencement of the next season.
- 27.2 The NEC shall fix the place and date. Members shall be notified in writing at least twenty one (21) calendar days before the day of the General Assembly.
- 27.3 The Members shall be notified of the agenda, the activity report, the financial statements, and the auditor's report, and any other relevant documents, no less than seven (7) calendar days before the day of the General Assembly.

Article 28: Ordinary General Assembly Agenda

- 28.1 The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the NEC 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, no less than ten (10) calendar days before the General Assembly and must be included in the agenda.
- 28.2 The General Assembly agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
 - 28.2.1 a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the Constitution of BFA;
 - 28.2.2 approval of the agenda;
 - 28.2.3 an address by the President;
 - 28.2.4 appointment of members to check the minutes;
 - 28.2.5 appointment of scrutinizers;
 - 28.2.6 suspension or expulsion of Members (where applicable);
 - 28.2.7 approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;



- 28.2.8 activity report (containing the activities of the BFA since the last General Assembly);
- 28.2.9 Presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
- 28.2.10 approval of the financial statements;
- 28.2.11 admission for membership (where applicable);
- 28.2.12 approval of the budget;
- 28.2.13votes on proposals for amendments to the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly (where applicable);
- 28.2.14 a discussion of proposals submitted by the members and the NEC:
- 28.2.15 appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the NEC;
- 28.2.16 revoking the mandate of a person of a body (if applicable);
- 28.2.17 election of the President, Vice-Presidents and members of the NEC (if applicable);
- 28.2.18 election of the members of the judicial bodies (if applicable);
- 28.2.19 election of the members of the Audit and Compliance Committee (if applicable);
- 28.2.20 election of the members of the Electoral Committee and the Election Appeal Committee (where applicable).
- 28.3 The General Assembly shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.
- 28.4 The agenda of an Ordinary General Assembly may be altered, provided 75% of the delegates representing the Members present at the General Assembly and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.



Article 29: Extraordinary General Assembly

- 29.1 The NEC may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time.
- 29.2 The NEC shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if one third (1/3) of the delegates representing the Members of BFA make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary General Assembly is not convened, the delegates representing the Members who requested it may convene the General Assembly themselves. In doing so, they shall inform all the Members of BFA and the NEC of the date and location of the Extraordinary General Assembly, along with the items to be included on the agenda
- 29.3 The members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least fourteen (14) days before the date of an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- 29.4 When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the NEC it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened upon the request of members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those members.
- 29.5 The agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly may not be altered.

Article 30: Amendments to the Constitution, and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly

- 30.1 The General Assembly is responsible for amending the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the General Assembly, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
- 30.2 Any proposal for an amendment of the Constitution or the Standing Orders of the General Assembly must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the NEC. A proposal submitted by a delegate representing a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least one-third (1/3) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote.

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- 30.3 For a vote on an amendment of the Constitution or to the Standing Orders of the General Assembly to be valid, a majority of at least 75% of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present.
- 30.4 A proposal for an amendment of the Constitution or to the Standing Orders of the General Assembly shall be adopted only if at least 75% of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

Article 31: Minutes

- 31.1 The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the General Assembly. The minutes shall be checked by those Members designated and finally approved at the next General Assembly.
- 31.2 The Secretary General shall distribute the draft minutes to affiliates and members within 90 calendar days after the General Assembly.

Article 32: Effective dates of decisions

32.1 Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall come into effect for the Members immediately after General Assembly, unless otherwise stipulated in the present Constitution or unless the General Assembly fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 33: Compositions

- 33.1 The National Executive Committee consists of the following twelve (12) members:
 - 33.1.1 1President
 - 33 1 2 First Vice-President



- 33.1.3 Second Vice President
- 33.1.4 Three (3) Ordinary Members
- 33.1.5 One (1) member from each Zone
- 33.1.6 At least one Female Additional Member
- 33.1.7 One member representing the Botswana Football League who shall be the chairperson of the board of the Botswana Football League.
- 33.2 The Secretary General shall be an ex-officio member without voting powers.
- 33.3 The NEC may appoint a legal advisor who attends the meetings in a consultative role. He does not have a right to vote.
- 33.4 The mandate of the NEC is four (4) years. Their mandates shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which has elected them. The members are eligible for re-election. However, no person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). All other members (including any vice-president) of the NEC may serve for no more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Any partial term of office shall count as one full term.
- 33.5 The candidates for the NEC positions shall have already been active in football, must not have been previously found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position or declared insolvent or failed the integrity test determined by the Electoral Committee and as stipulated in the BFA's Ethics Code, have residency within the territory of BFA and not be less than 30 years and not more than 75 years old.
- 33.6 A member of the NEC may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of BFA, of the Audit and Compliance Committee, of the Electoral Committee or be a delegate to the General Assembly of BFA.
- 33.7 If a position or up to 50% of the positions of the NEC become vacant, the NEC shall fill the position(s) in question until the next General Assembly where an endorsement shall be made thereon. In the event the position of the member representing the Botswana Football



League becomes vacant, the respective League shall promptly appoint a replacement.

- 33.8 A position will be considered vacant in case of death, resignation, dismissal, permanent inability to carry out the work involved, or if a member of the NEC does not participate in three (3) consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse or explanation for his/her absence.
- 33.9 If more than 50% of the positions of the NEC become vacant, the Emergency Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly in order to elect the replacements for the remaining term of mandate. If the Emergency Committee lacks the required quorum, the General Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly within the prescribed period of time.
- 33.10 If a vacancy should occur in the office of the President, the First Vice President or failing him, Second Vice President shall act as President until an election for a new President is conducted by the General Assembly.

Article 34: Meetings

- 34.1 The NEC shall meet at least once every quarter.
- 34.2 The President shall convene the NEC meetings. If more than 50% of the NEC members request in writing a meeting with a proposed agenda, the President shall convene it within ten (10) calendar days. If the President does not convene the requested meeting within the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the NEC shall convene it themselves but must send the agenda to all members of the NEC not later than five days before the meeting in line with article 34.3 below.
- 34.3 The Secretary General shall compile the agenda of the NEC meeting as proposed by the members. Each member of the NEC is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the NEC must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the general secretariat at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting what agenda must be sent out to reach the



- members of the NEC not later than five (5) calendar days before the date of the meeting.
- 34.4 The meetings of the NEC shall not be held in public. The NEC may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the NEC.

Article 35: Powers of the National Executive Committee

The NEC:

- 35.1 shall pass 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 this Constitution;
- 35.2 shall prepare, with the assistance of the General Secretary, and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of BFA:
- 35.3 shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- 35.4 may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time:
- 35.5 shall compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- 35.6 shall propose the independent auditors to the General Assembly;
- 35.7 shall decide the place, dates and the number of teams participating in the competitions of BFA;
- 35.8 shall appoint the coaches for the national teams and other technical staff in accordance with the advice or recommendation of the technical committee;



- 35.9 shall approve regulations stipulating how BFA shall be organised internally;
- 35.10 shall ensure that the Constitution and regulations of the BFA are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- 35.11 may dismiss a member of a body of the BFA or suspend a Member provisionally until the next General Assembly in accordance with the constitution;
- 35.12 may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of BFA:
- 35.13 may appoint observers who take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or to vote;
- 35.14 review periodically, the progress of the BFA and suggest methods of improvement;
- 35.15 be the ultimate custodian of all the property and assets of the BFA, subject to the decisions and directions of the General Assembly;
- 35.16 shall have the power to mortgage property and to borrow or apply for loans from institutions or from any source;
- 35.17 shall have the power to invite any person to a General Assembly of the BFA who, in its discretion, may be of assistance to the BFA in any regard whatsoever, provided that such person, while he/she may participate in the deliberations and discussions, shall not have the right to introduce motions or amendments to any motions or to vote at the General Assembly;
- 35.18 shall make rules for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Constitution. The authority of the NEC to make rules under this Constitution will be limited to bringing into effect provisions of this Constitution and to fulfill which the objectives specified under Article 4.

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Article 36: Decisions

- 36.1 The NEC shall not engage in valid debate unless at least seven (7) of its members are present.
- 36.2 The NEC shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the President, or any other person presiding instead of the president, shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- 37. The decisions taken by the NEC shall come into effect immediately, unless the NEC decides otherwise.

PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE NEC

Article 38: President

- 38.1 The President shall be the head of the BFA.
- 38.2 He is primarily responsible for:
 - 38.2.1 implementing the decisions passed by the General Assembly and the NEC through the general secretariat;
 - 38.2.2 ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of BFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in this Constitution;
 - 38.2.3 supervising the work of the general secretariat; and
 - 38.2.4 relations between BFA and its Members, FIFA, CAF, political bodies and other organisations.



- Only the President may propose to the NEC the appointment of the General Secretary. The President may however also propose to the NEC the dismissal of the General Secretary.
- 38.4 The President shall preside over the General Assembly, the NEC and Emergency Committee meetings.
- 38.5 The President shall have an ordinary vote in the NEC and shall have casting vote in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- 38.6 The President shall represent BFA legally. The NEC shall adopt special provisions in the Internal Regulations of the BFA regarding the joint signature of office-holders.
- 38.7 If the President is absent or unavailable, or is unable to act for any other lawful reason, the First Vice-President, and in the absence or unavailability of the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President shall deputise.
- If the position of the President becomes vacant in the sense of art. 33.8 of this Constitution, the First Vice-President, or in case the position of the First Vice-President is vacant as well, the Second Vice-President shall deputise until the next General Assembly. In case the position of the Second Vice-President is vacant as well, the members of the NEC shall appoint one of its members to deputise the President until the next General Assembly. This General Assembly shall elect a new President for the remaining term of the mandate.

Article 39: Other NEC members

- 39.1 The member of the Botswana Football League shall:
 - 39.1.1 provide a link between professional football and the rest of the structures;
 - 39.1.2 consult and make recommendations on professional football to the NEC Committee for consideration; and

39.1.3 Carry out such duties and functions as may be assigned to him/her by the NEC and/or the president.

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- 39.2 The Regional Football Representatives shall provide:
 - 39.2.1 provide the link between Regions and the rest of the structures;
 - 39.2.2 consult and make recommendation on Regional football to the NEC for consideration;
 - 39.2.3 carry out such duties and functions as may be assigned to him/her by the NEC and/or the President.
- 39.3 Other NEC members shall carry out such duties and functions as may be assigned to them by the NEC and the President.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

- 40.1 The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the NEC.
- 40.2 The Committee shall consist of the President of BFA, the two Vice Presidents and two other members of the NEC to be appointed by a decision of the NEC.
- 40.3 The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through any written means of communication (e.g. emails). Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the NEC immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.
- 40.4 The Emergency Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless three (3) of its members take part in the debate. The Emergency Committee 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.
- 40.5 The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Emergency Committee in a consultative role and without voting rights. If the General Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, he may

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- nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the NEC.
- 40.6 All decisions by the Emergency Committee shall be presented to the NEC at its next meeting for confirmation.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 41: Standing Committees

- 41.1 The standing committees of BFA are:
 - 41.1.1 Finance and Marketing Committee;
 - 41.1.2 Audit and Compliance Committee;
 - 41.1.3 Organising Committee for BFA competitions;
 - 41.1.4 Technical, Youth and Development Committee;
 - 41 1 5 Referees' Committee;
 - 41.1.6 Constitutional and Legal Committee;
 - 41.1.7 Sports Medical Committee;
 - 41.1.8 Players' Status Committee; and



- 41.1.9 Social and recreational Football Committee
- The chairpersons of the standing committees shall be a member of the NEC with the exception of those for the Audit and Compliance Committee, who may not belong to the NEC. The deputy chairmen and members of each standing committee, with the exception of those for the Audit and Compliance Committee, who shall be elected by the General Assembly, shall be appointed by the NEC

- on the proposal of the members of BFA or the President of BFA. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years.
- 42.3 Each Chairperson shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant Organisation Regulations drawn up by the NEC. The NEC shall ensure appropriate female representation on standing committees.
- 42.4 Each Chairperson shall fix the dates of meetings in collaboration with the General Secretary, ensure that all tasks are carried out and report back to the NEC.
- 42.5 Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations, if any, to the NEC.

Article 43: Finance and Marketing Committee

- 43.1 The Finance and Marketing Committee shall monitor the financial management and advise the NEC on financial matters and asset management. It shall analyse the budget of BFA and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary and submit them to the NEC for approval.
- 43.2 It shall also advertise, promote and advocate for sponsorships and deal with all matters relating to marketing.
- 43.3 It shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson and five (5) other members.

Article 44: Audit and Compliance Committee

- 44.1 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' report.
- 44.2 The Audit and Compliance Committee shall advise and assist the NEC in monitoring the Association's financial and compliance matters and issue and monitor compliance with the relevant regulations of the Association.

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- 44.3 Details on the Audit and Compliance Committee's responsibilities, its internal cooperation and other procedural matters are stipulated in the relevant regulations of the Association.
- 44.4 The Chairperson, deputy Chairperson and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four (4) years and may only be relieved of their duties by the General Assembly.
- The chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Audit and 44.5 Compliance Committee as well as any of their immediate family members may not exercise or have exercised during the four years preceding their initial terms any executive function at the BFA, one of the BFA's Members, a League or a Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations), nor have or have had in the four years preceding their initial term any material business relationship with the BFA, one of the BFA's Members, a League or a Club (including any of their affiliated companies/organisations). "Immediate family member" shall mean, with respect to a person, such person's spouse or domestic partner, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, children (including any stepchild or adopted child), grandchildren, son-, daughter-, father- or mother-in-law, and including anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, with whom the individual has a relationship akin to a family relationship for which such person provides financial support.
- 44.6 If the Chairperson, the deputy Chairperson or a member of the Audit and Compliance Committee permanently ceases to perform his official function during his term of office, the NEC shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next General Assembly.

Article 45: Organising Committee for BFA Competitions

- 45.1 The Organising Committee for BFA competitions shall organise the competitions of BFA in compliance with the provisions of this Constitution and the regulations applicable to BFA competitions. It shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson and five (5) other members.
- 45.2 Responsibilities



- 45.2.1 The Organising Committee for BFA Competitions shall deal with all matters pertaining to football Associations cups and national team matches.
- 45.2.2 it shall deal with all matters pertaining to Futsal Football and shall administer and run the Futsal League.
- 45.2.3 It shall draw up fixtures and control, administer and run all such competitions.
- 45.2.4 It shall draw Play Rules and Regulations in respect of each competition with the approval of the NEC.
- 45.2.5 It shall be responsible for the organisation, mobilisation and discipline of supporters of the National Teams.

Article 46: Technical, Youth and Development Committee

46.1 The Technical, Youth and Development Committee shall primarily analyse the basic aspects of football training, technical and youth development. It shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson and five (5) other members

46.2 Responsibility

- 46.2.1 To advise the NEC of the Association on all technical issues about football in the country through the Technical Department.
- 46.2.2 To recommend to the NEC the mode or methods through which the National Teams can be motivated.
- 46.2.3 To make quarterly appraisals of development programmes and advise the NEC accordingly.
- 46.2.4 To facilitate the mobilisation of coaches throughout the country to form a body of coaches to address issues pertaining to coaching.

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46.2.5 To organise youth football competitions and deal with all matters relating to youth football.

Article 47: Referees Committee

47.1 The Referees' Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organised by BFA, organise refereeing matters within BFA in collaboration with the administration of BFA and monitor the education and training of referees. It shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson and five (5) other members.

47.2 Responsibilities

The National Referees Committee shall:

- 47.2.1 Compile and maintain a register of all qualified referees in Botswana.
- 47.2.2 Make recommendations to the Association regarding financial support for the work of the National Referees Committee.
- 47.2.3 Receive the names of all prospective referees from every club.
- 47.2.4 Interpret the rules and regulations of the game of football as prescribed by FIFA from time to time.
- 47.2.5 Appoint referees to all matches held under the auspices of the Association and all other matches as the National Executive Committee may direct.
- 47.2.6 Recommend to the NEC referees for FIFA listing.
- 47.2.7 Be responsible for the recruitment, training assessment and the Classification of referees.

Article 48: Constitution and Legal Committee



48.1 The Constitution and Legal Committee shall analyse basic legal issues relating to football and the evolution of the Constitution and regulations of BFA and its Members. It shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson, Secretary General five (5) other members.

48.2 Responsibility

- 48.2.1To advise the NEC of the Association on all regulations and policies governing Association and the game of football in the country.
- 48.2.2To recommend to the NEC the frequency with which certain regulations and the Constitution of BFA are to be reviewed, provide schedule for such reviews, and ensure that such statutes are indeed reviewed, disseminated to members, and are taken to appropriate bodies such as the General Assembly for presentation and consideration timeously.
- 48.2.3To closely monitor the implementation of the Constitution and related statutes and advise the NEC with a view to develop new guidelines and or amend existing documents for effective implementation in order for the BFA to realize its vision and aspirations.
- 48.2.4To make annual appraisals of all regulations with a view to identify gaps that need to be filled and advise the NEC accordingly.
- 48.2.5To receive and collate submissions for amendments of regulations from BFA bodies and/or Members for consideration in the next review of a particular statutory instrument.
- 48.2.6To draft proposed new regulations and review existing ones for consideration by the NEC.

Article 49: Sport Medical Committee



49.1 The Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of football. It shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson and five members.

49.2 Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

- 49.2.1 act as an advisory organ for the Association National Executive Committee on all aspects of medicine as it relates to sport;
- 49.2.2 draw up a medical guide for use by coaches, players and referees of the Association;
- 49.2.3 conduct information seminars on Sports Medicine for different leaders of football in the country; and
- 49.2.4 make regular reports on activities of the Committee at least once every quarter to the NEC through the Secretary General.

Article 50: Players Status Committee

50.1 Establishment

There shall be a National Players Status compatition enablished in terms of the FIFA Regulations on the status and transfer of players to determine the status of players for various competitions of the BFA.

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50.2Composition of Players status Committee

The Players status Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy Chairperson and five (5) other members.

50.3 Responsibilities

- 50.3.1 The National Players Status Committee shall exercise all powers conferred on it by this Constitution and such powers as may from time to time be prescribed in the Play Rules and Regulations or any statute or law to which the Association is subject.
- 50.3.2 The NEC may draw up special regulations governing the Players