



BOTSWANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

PLAY RULES AND REGULATIONS

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2022

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PREAMBLE

These Play Rules and Regulations have been enacted to provide understanding among Botswana Football Association Members as regards the conditions of play in line with the FIFA Statutes and the Laws of the Game and to foster co-operation within the Association as well as to promote the highest possible competition and fair play. Where a particular matter is not adequately covered in these Play Rules and Regulations, provisions in the relevant FIFA Statutes shall apply. Otherwise, these Play Rules and Regulations shall be applied as part of and/or in conjunction with other relevant BFA and FIFA Statutes and Principles. Great is the club that does its utmost best to win. Greater is the club that accepts defeat with dignity.

1. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 1.1 All games are to be played according to the FIFA Laws of the Game, as promulgated from time to time.

2. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 1.2 All games shall be officiated by match officials, namely a Referee, two Assistant Referees appointed by the BFA Referees Committee or competent BFA Authority together with a fourth official and Match Commissioner who may be optional depending on each circumstance.

3. DURATION OF MATCHES

- 3.1 All *matches* will consist of two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes each plus referee's optional time. The referee will be the sole adjudicator of time, inclusive of time added on if any.
- 3.2 An interval of fifteen (15) minutes will separate the two periods.

4. PLAYERS' AND OFFICIALS' SUSPENSION AFTER "SEND OFF"

- 4.1 A player or club official who is sent off the field by the Referee during a BFA official game (except international games) shall be automatically suspended for a minimum of two next official club games, inclusive of any other local BFA competitions. Provided that the player or club official so suspended may have further disciplinary action taken against him after due investigation by the competent BFA authority. In the event that the player transfers to another club before serving the suspension, he shall still be required to complete the suspension at the new club to which he is transferring.
- 4.2 A player who receives an aggregate of two (2) yellow cards in two successive BFA games shall be automatically suspended for the next BFA official club game.
- 4.3 A player shall be automatically suspended for the next BFA official game for an aggregate of three (3) yellow cards that he receives in three (games) throughout the season, with exception of those described under 3.2 above. Furthermore, for every aggregate of three red cards/send offs received by a player/club official in official club games, such a player/official shall be suspended for an additional two official games.
- 4.4 A competent BFA authority responsible for the league/tournament and or the National Disciplinary Committee may institute additional punishments over and above those stated above under Regulations 3.1 on the merit of the case.

5. PRINCIPLES TOWARDS NATIONALS

- 5.1 All clubs affiliated to the BFA are under an obligation to release and send their players to any of the National Teams when called upon to do so by the NEC. The Association shall inform clubs whose players are required for national team duty in writing regarding the need for the players to be released.
- 5.2 The Association shall be responsible for securing the release of players from their places of work or study. Clubs are also required to release their players to participate in regional selection competitions when called upon by the BFA. The Association may, through the NEC, take appropriate action against any club which refuses or neglects to release a player required for national team duty. Furthermore, the Association may, through the NEC, take such action as it deems fit against a player who does not report for national team duty after being called upon and released by his club, employer or institution of learning.

5.3 Where a club has a total of more than three (3) players doing duty with any of the National Teams, such club shall not be required to honour honor league or any other BFA competition games in the absence of such players. Provided that players shall be released from national teams back to their clubs such that such players are able to have at least one training session with the rest of their club team mates prior to an **official game**.

5.4 Any club which contravenes sub-regulations 4.1 above shall be guilty of unpatriotic behaviour and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P2 000.00 and such players shall not be eligible to play for their respective clubs in any official game during the period for which they have been called to the national team.

5.5 Players serving a suspension sentence from their clubs due to misconduct shall not be considered for national team selection.

6. SUSPENSION

6.1 Suspension shall be as defined or outlined in the BFA Disciplinary Code.

6.2 A suspension of a club during a season shall result in the following:

6.2.1 A forfeiture of three (3) points and two (2) goals to the opposing team(s), for the remaining games, if the suspension takes effect in the second round of the league.

6.2.2 A nullity of all the games if the suspension takes effect in the first round of the league.

6.2.3 Disqualification from all BFA competitions and tournaments to be held during the period of suspension.

7. DEFAULTER

7.1 In terms of these Play Rules and Regulations, a defaulter is a player:

7.1.1 who plays while under suspension;

7.1.2 who is not registered to play for the club he has played for;

7.1.3 who is improperly cleared by the club which uses him;

- 7.1.4 who is registered after any of the stipulated quotas have been exhausted;
- 7.1.5 who plays for a club without the relevant international registration transfer certificate and/or relevant documents;
- 7.1.6 who is registered, transferred or loaned outside of the periods provided for in the BFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 7.2 Any team that fields a defaulter in a league game and a complaint or protest or information about the use of an alleged defaulter is brought to the attention of the BFA disciplinary committee within 30 days of the date of the said league game, shall
- 7.2.1 forfeit three (3) points and two (2) goals to the opposing team for every game that the defaulter shall have played in a given season, provided that procedures relating to protests shall be adhered to;
- 7.2.2 Be liable for a fine of not less than P10 000.00 and not exceeding P50 000.00 for Botswana Football League and First Division Leagues and not less than P2 000.00 and not exceeding P10 000.00 for any other league.
- 7.3 Any team that fields a defaulter in a league game and a complaint or protest or information about the use of such defaulter is brought to the attention of the BFA disciplinary committee after 30 days of the date of the said league game, shall be liable to a fine of not less P50 000.00 and not exceeding P100 000.00 for Botswana Football League and First Division Leagues and of not less than P5 000.00 and not exceeding P10 000.00 for any other league, and shall be charged with misconduct.
- 7.4 Any team that fields a defaulter during a knock-out competition or play-off game shall be deemed to have lost the game in question and the fines in regulation 6.2.2 above shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

8. ARRIVAL AT THE GROUNDS

- 8.1 Teams must be present on the grounds at the match venue at least Ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and take the field at the time stipulated by the match commissioner.
- 8.2 Late coming shall mean a team arriving at the official match venue less than thirty (30) minutes before the time stipulated for the start of the match. It shall also mean a situation where a team fails to present itself to the match officials for inspection when required to do so before the commencement of the match.

- 8.3 Any club contravening sub-regulation 7.1 above without reasonable excuse shall be guilty of late coming and liable to a fine not less than P1000.00 but not exceeding P2000.00 for clubs in the Botswana Football League and First Division Leagues and not less than P500.00 and not more than P1000.00 in respect of clubs in other leagues.
- 8.4 In the event that a club arrives late for a match, the referee shall report the matter to the competent BFA authority.
- 8.5 Where the delay of the start of the match is in excess of thirty (30) minutes or a team does not turn up at all, the official referee shall call the game off and submit a report to the competent BFA authority.
- 8.6 A team that fails to give reasonable grounds for late coming to a league match or failure to turn up, shall forfeit three (3) points and two (2) goals and may be liable to any other disciplinary action.
- 8.7 If a match cannot be played on account of one team being prevented to arrive by a cause beyond its control (**force majeure**) the match will be set for another date at the same venue. The match official and/or competent BFA authority shall determine whether the cause was a **force majeure** or not and shall be reported soon after such occurrence or as soon as it is practically possible to report to one match official and/or competent BFA authority. The onus of proving force majeure shall lie with the party who alleges the same.
- 8.8 The registration cards of the Players of each team will be inspected by the match officials and a representative of the other team before the scheduled start of the match.

9. STOPPAGE AND ABANDONMENT OF A GAME

- 9.1 Only the officiating referee may stop a game.
- 9.2 Where a game is stopped on account of the misconduct of one of the participating teams, the guilty team shall lose the game with three points and two goals (or such higher number of goals as the innocent team shall have scored at the time of abandonment) in favour of the innocent team at the time of the stoppage.

- 9.3 Where a game is abandoned without the fault of any of the participating teams, it shall be replayed at the same venue on a date determined by the competent BFA authority.
- 9.3.1 Should a match be abandoned by the Referee due to an electrical power failure in a match played under floodlights, then the remaining minutes of the match will be resumed on a date and time agreed upon between the two participating clubs immediately upon the abandonment of the match, subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the League or a delegated official of the League who may set an alternative date and time
- 9.3.1.1 In the event of the two clubs being unable to agree to such a date, then the Chief Executive Officer or a delegated Official of the League will determine the date and time.
- 9.3.1.2 The resumed match will be a continuation of the abandoned match as if the match had not been abandoned. The abandoned match and the resumed match will constitute one single match which will only be completed upon the final whistle of the resumed match.
- 9.3.1.3 Notwithstanding the above, nothing will preclude the League from instituting disciplinary proceedings against any club as a result of such an incident. The Disciplinary Committee of the League will have the power to make, inter alia, a finding as to the costs of hosting the resumed match. Until such finding is made, the League shall bear the costs of the resumed match.
- 9.3.2 If a match is postponed or abandoned due to unfavourable weather conditions, the League committee or BFA competent authority will set another date on which the match will be played. All records of the abandoned match will be expunged except that any cautions or dismissals that occurred will remain in force. All suspensions and/or punishments imposed under Clause 4 herein shall not be deemed to have been served in the event of a postponement or abandonment in respect of 8.3.1 and this clause.
- 9.4 Any player and/or official of a club, member (as defined by the constitution) or identifiable supporter who causes a stoppage or abandonment of a game shall be guilty of misconduct and be liable to a fine not exceeding P5 000.00 and/or any other punishment provided in these Play Rules and Regulations. Provided that the Association may take further action against the club to which the player or official belongs.

10. PROTESTS

- 10.1 Protests may be lodged for breach of the FIFA Laws of the Game, the BFA Constitution and these Play Rules and Regulations.
- 10.2 No protests shall be lodged against decisions on points of fact taken by the referee on the field of play.
- 10.3 All protests must be made in writing to the respective league committee or competent BFA authority not later than thirty (30) days after the game. A protest lodged after thirty days shall not be entertained. Provided that a protest in respect of a defaulter shall be reported within the time periods stipulated at Regulations 6.2 and 6.3 above in which event such a matter shall be treated and/or addressed in terms of the provisions of the said Regulations.
- 10.4 Protests must be accompanied by a non-refundable protest fee of P500.00 for all regional leagues and women's football leagues and P1000.00 in respect of the First Division and Botswana Football League, as per its Competition Rules.
- 10.5 Any team which makes a protest verbally to the referee during play, and does not follow it up with a written protest shall be guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to a fine of not less than P1 000.00 but not exceeding P2 000.00 and/or any other punishment provided for in these regulations.
- 10.6 The referee shall report to the respective league committee or other competent BFA authority any act of misconduct for appropriate disciplinary action. The report shall be made in writing within seven (7) days of occurrence.
- 10.7 All protests shall be heard within ten (10) days (excluding weekends and public holidays) from the date of lodgement or so soon thereafter as the competent authority is in a position to hear them. No protests shall remain unheard for a period exceeding six (6) weeks.
- 10.8 Decisions of League Committees or League Disciplinary Committees shall take effect from the date of pronouncement.
- 10.9 Any BFA authority which is unable to hear a protest within four (4) weeks after it has been lodged must make a written explanation to the National Executive Committee through the Secretary General as to why it has not been possible to hear the protest. It shall not be competent for a BFA authority to hear a protest after four (4) weeks have elapsed from the date of lodging the protest, without the written consent of the National Executive Committee. Provided that the National Executive Committee

may decide to take disciplinary action against the failing BFA Structure and/or refer the matter to a different BFA Structure for a hearing.

10.9.2.1 All appeals shall be accompanied by a fee of P3 000.00 in respect of the Botswana Football League and First Division Leagues and P1500.00 for any other league; provided that 50% of the fee shall be reimbursed to the appellant if the appeal is successful.

10.9.2.2 All clubs appearing before the Disciplinary Committee shall be represented by not more than two people, who shall be members of such clubs, subject to Regulation 9.11 above.

11. REVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS

11.1 Should the National Executive Committee determine that a decision or action of a lower body of the BFA and/or the Referee are in breach of the BFA Constitution, these Play Rules and Regulations and/or FIFA Laws of the Game, or that the body has exercised its discretion improperly (except the referee), the Secretary General shall, without calling the affected clubs to appear before the National Executive Committee, call upon the Disciplinary Committee to review such proceedings of the lower authority. The Disciplinary Committee shall call upon the parties concerned to make the necessary representations.

11.2 The Disciplinary Committee may impose such punishment or give remedies as may appear appropriate in the circumstances. Provided that the Disciplinary Committee shall not set aside a decision of the Referee based on a point of fact or the Referee's opinion made by the Referee on the field of play.

12. THE LEAGUE SYSTEM

12.1 Each team in the same league division shall play games on home and away basis against each of the other teams in the league division, with three points awarded for a win, one point awarded for a draw and no points awarded for a loss.

12.2 If at the end of the league, two or more teams obtain an equal number of points, the team with a better goal difference shall take precedence over the other teams. The goal difference shall be

determined by subtracting the total goals scored against the team from the total goals scored for by the team.

- 12.3 If the goal difference of the two or more teams is equal, the team that would have scored more goals shall take precedence. If the teams involved have scored the same number of goals, the winner shall be determined by a final match, played at a neutral ground, from which a winner shall emerge.
- 12.4 All clubs competing in any of the National Leagues shall do medical examinations on all their players at the beginning of every season and when a new player joins such clubs and maintain records of such medical examinations which records shall be availed to the Association when the concerned players are called to the National Teams or when required to do so as the situation dictates. Minimum requirements for medical exams shall include a chest x-ray, ECG, assessment of the player's injuries, heart and/or cardiovascular system, general wellbeing of the player including full blood count (haematology) and/or chemistries, among others. Any abnormalities in the ECG shall be followed by further assessment by way of an echocardiogram. Clubs shall have competent medical personnel and be encouraged to have a defibrillator on site or make arrangements for a defibrillator to be readily available in times of need at the games.

13. RELEGATION AND PROMOTION

13.1 Between the Botswana Football League and First Division Leagues.

The three bottom clubs in the Botswana Football League shall automatically relegate to their respective zones in the First Division. The Champions of the First Division (North) and (South) shall automatically promote to the Botswana Football League. The runners-up of the First Division (North) and (South) shall play off between themselves at a venue to be determined by the BFA NEC. Such games shall be played over two weekends on a home and away basis with the overall winner taking a place in the Botswana Football League.

13.2 Between Regional Football and the First Division League

The Champions of Division One Regional League within each of the clusters/blocks of Regional Football Associations within each Zone shall engage in promotional games with the winners from each block/cluster promoting to its respective National First Division League Zone. The clubs occupying the bottom two positions in each First

Division League Zone shall automatically relegate to their respective regions.

13.3 Within the Regional Football Leagues

The two clubs occupying the bottom two positions shall relegate to the league division immediately under them. The champion and runner-up in each league division shall automatically promote to the league immediately above them.

13.4 Restriction of transfer of players during play-offs

Teams involved in play-offs shall be restricted to using players that have played for the club during the season which has resulted in the play-offs taking place.

13.5 Maintenance of numbers of teams in all leagues

13.5.1 Once a particular season is completed (i.e., all league games have been played) the relegation of any team or teams shall not in any way affect or alter the stipulated number of teams in any given league. In the event that the relegation of any team (or teams) from any particular league may have the effect of increasing the number of teams in the league below, the stipulated number of teams in that league shall be maintained by relegating the requisite number of teams which held the positions immediately above the team or teams which are to be relegated at the end of the said season, to the league immediately below.

13.5.2 The manner of maintaining the stipulated league numbers as laid down in the preceding regulation shall be referred to as the "trickle down effect". To this end, save as provided in sub-regulation 16.5.3 below, this method shall apply throughout all leagues in order to maintain the stipulated number of teams.

13.5.3 The number of teams in the lowest league in the region shall not be reduced as a result of the relegation of teams from the league immediately above. As a result, the trickle-down effect shall not be applied to the lowest league in the region.

13.6 Vacancies as a result of promotion or relegation

13.6.1 In the event that the promotion or relegation of a team or teams results in the number of teams in any league being less than the stipulated number of teams in terms of the constitution

or regional rules and regulations as the case may be, the best losers of the play-offs shall engage in play-offs to determine which team or teams shall make up the numbers. Such play-offs shall be at a neutral ground. Regarding this regulation, the National Executive Committee shall have the ultimate say as to how and who shall play in the play-offs referred to herein, applying the principles laid out in this sub-regulation as far as possible.

13.7 Management of promotional/relegation games

13.7.1 All promotional/relegation play-off games shall be run by the respective regional or national league structures.

13.7.2 The Competitions Committee shall develop rules governing such play-off games.

14. FINAL MATCH (OR “KNOCK OUT GAME”)

14.1 If a final match or “Knock-Out Game” should end in a draw, extra time shall be played following immediately after the end of the normal time with only a 10-minute break.

14.2 The extra time shall last 30 minutes, divided into two 15 minutes periods. No interval shall be allowed.

14.3 If after extra time the result is still a draw, the winner shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks, initially five (5) kicks each, and proceeding to sudden death in terms of sub-regulation 17.4.7 below if the teams are still deadlocked.

Provided that the referee shall, however, have the power to declare that no extra time be played if, in his judgment, circumstances would prevent the full play of extra time, in which case the referee will order the teams to proceed to a penalty shoot-out.

14.4 The penalty shoot-out will be in the following procedure:

14.4.1 The referee will indicate the goal posts where the penalties are to be taken. All players will remain on the field of play, within the circle in the middle of the field, until the winner has been determined.

- 14.4.2 The referee will toss a coin in order to determine which team will start, provided that the referee shall not determine which player takes which penalty.
- 14.4.3 No substitutes may be brought in to take penalties.
- 14.4.4 A substitute goalkeeper may be brought in, provided that a team has not exhausted its authorised number of substitutes.
- 14.4.5 Both teams will alternate in taking a penalty kick, and the team that scores more goals at the end of the shoot-out shall be the winner.
- 14.4.6 The goalkeeper shall not move over the goal line until the penalty taker has kicked the ball and the Referee shall ensure that this is strictly observed and shall order that the penalty be re-taken if the goalkeeper moves before the ball is kicked. However, the goalkeeper shall be at liberty to move along the goal line even before the ball is kicked.
- 14.4.7 If, after both teams have taken their initial five penalty kicks, the winner has not yet been determined, the teams will continue to take alternate penalty kicks until one team scores a goal more than the other, after taking the same number of penalties.
- 14.4.8 Each penalty kick will be taken by a different player, including the goalkeeper. If each player in a team has taken a penalty kick, then any player in a team on the field of play can take the next kick.

15. DEFINITION OF THE SEASON

- 15.1 A playing season shall be the period within which all BFA competitions are played. All BFA affiliates shall be informed about the start of the season at least two weeks in advance to enable clubs to prepare their teams in time.
- 15.2 Clubs shall be informed about the last date of the season at the beginning of the season, to enable them to make off-season arrangements.
- 15.3 Unless stipulated to the contrary, the BFA season every year shall begin during the second week of August and end during the last week of May, provided that the season shall not extend beyond the second

weekend of June, except in the event of force majeure or other circumstance not in the control of the National Executive Committee.

16. REGISTRATION OF CLUB COLOURS

- 16.1 Each club shall register with the committee of its respective league its home colours. At the commencement of each season, each club shall register its away colours for that season. Any change in the home colours shall be communicated to the league committee accordingly. Clubs shall use their registered home colours for all their home games. If a home club uses a colour other than the registered home colours and this results in a clash of colours, that club will be the offending club in terms sub-regulation 19.3 and shall face the consequences stipulated thereon accordingly.
- 16.2 The visiting team shall carry with it an alternative colour which must be available at the field of play for quick change, within 15 minutes from the time the referee orders such change. In the event of the unavailability of the alternative colour, the offending team shall be liable to a fine of not more than P2000.00 and forfeit the points of the game to the innocent club with two (2) goals.
- 16.3 The outfits of the two (2) goalkeepers will be clearly distinguishable from those worn by the two (2) sets of outfield Players.
- 16.4 All playing jerseys shall be numbered at the back, by numbers not less than 20 cm high. Though it shall not be a strict requirement, the playing jerseys may also be numbered on the front and the shorts at the bottom on the right-hand side. Clubs may write the name or logo of their sponsors, if any, on the front of the jerseys and the names of their players on the back of the jerseys above the number. The name of the sponsor of the championship or competition shall, if not written on the front of the jerseys, be written on the sleeves of the jerseys. Provided that all clubs participating in any sponsored official game shall, as a prerequisite to participate in the said competition, abide by the conditions of the sponsorship as entered into on behalf of the Association by the National Executive Committee in terms of the BFA Constitution. Any club that fails to abide by the conditions of the sponsorship shall forfeit its right to participate in the said competition; provided that such club shall be liable for further sanction and or punishment in terms of these Play Rules and Regulations.

- 16.5 When, in the opinion of the referee, the official and duly registered colours of the two teams might lead to confusion, the team reflected in the fixture as the visiting team shall change to an alternative colour.
- 16.6 The home status of a club shall be determined by the written order in the league or any other competition fixtures. Home status teams are written first. For example, if clubs A and B, both from Gaborone are fixtured in the following manner: Club B vs club A, then club B enjoys home status.
- 16.7 Any visiting club which does not bring alternative colours to change to in the event of a clash in colours and thereby causes a delay of the start of the game shall be guilty of late coming and punishable in terms of Regulation 19.3 above.

17. CLUBS HOME GROUNDS

- 17.1 By 30 June of each year, each club shall inform the respective league committee which ground it shall prefer as its home ground. The clubs which will have indicated their preferred home grounds shall, as far as possible, be fixtured at such grounds for their home games.
- 17.2 Notwithstanding regulation 20.1 above, the relevant league committee or competition organising committee shall have the power to fixture a game to an alternative ground or venue, where it deems that the fixtured ground is not fit for a particular game to take place.
- 17.3 The host club shall be responsible for marketing the game, arranging security at the match and printing and selling admission tickets. The host club shall keep all the gate takings after deduction of the ground levy, referees' fees at rates determined by the National Executive Committee from time to time and other costs associated with the game. Provided that clubs within a league division shall be at liberty to agree in a meeting arranged and conducted by the respective League Committee on a different format for sharing of gate takings. Hosting clubs shall ensure that adequate security is available at the game and any club that fails in this respect shall be appropriately sanctioned by the respective league committee. Provided that in all games involving "disciplined forces" teams, as defined by the National Executive Committee, the gate takings shall be shared on a 70/30 percent basis, in favour of the "non-disciplined forces" teams irrespective of whether the game is played home or away.

18. TEAM SHEETS

18.1 Teams will submit duly completed team sheets to the referee at least sixty (30) minutes prior to the start of the match.

18.2 The team sheet will record the following information:

18.2.1 the full names of the eleven (11) registered Players starting the match;

18.2.2 the full names of the substitute registered Players who may be utilised during the match;

18.2.3 the full names of the five (5) Member Club Officials entitled to sit on the team bench;

18.2.4 the full names of the two (2) Member Club Officials entitled to sit on the additional two seats alongside the team bench.

22.3. Changes to the team sheet may be made at any time prior to the start of the match provided that:

22.3.1 The opposing team captain, the referee and the match commissioner are informed;

22.3.2 No Player may be added to the team sheet who was not listed on the team sheet that was submitted.

19. REGISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION FEES, AFFILIATION FEES

19.1 The registration, affiliation and subscription fee rates shall be determined by the National Executive Committee from time to time.

19.2 Clubs shall pay annual affiliation fees in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

19.3 Any club that fails to pay affiliation on 31st May of any year shall, in addition to the subscription fee, pay a penalty amounting to 50% of the subscription fee.

19.4 Clubs shall pay subscriptions to the league of which they were a member as at the end of the season.

19.5 All clubs competing in National Leagues (i.e., Botswana Football League and First Division Leagues¹²) shall first pay their annual subscriptions to their respective Regional Football Associations. Subscriptions to the National Leagues shall only be accepted on provision of proof of subscription to the respective region. Any club that fails to pay its annual subscription fee to the region in terms of the BFA Constitution and these Play Rules and Regulations shall

immediately cease to be a member of the Association irrespective of whether such club has subscribed to the respective National League or not subject to Articles 16 and 17 of the Constitution.

20. CHANGE OF NAMES, STATUS AND SWAP

- 20.1 Should any club and/or affiliate desire to change its name such club and/or affiliate shall make a written application accompanied by approvals from the relevant authorities being the Registrar of Societies, if the club is affiliated as a society, or the Registrar of Companies, if the club is affiliated as a company, to the National Executive Committee through the Secretariat provided that such change is not made after the commencement of the season or during the season. Should the approval by the National Executive Committee be made during the season then such change can only be effective during the next season.
- 20.2 Should any club and/or affiliate desire to swap its status with another, such arrangement shall be made in writing and approved by the Regional committees provided such clubs are in the same region.
- 20.3 Where clubs are in different regions, the requesting club shall write to its Region citing their desire to swap status, the request must be accompanied by approvals from the relevant authorities being the Registrar of Societies, if the club is affiliated as a society, or the Registrar of Companies if the club is affiliated as a company, upon approval by the Regional Committee they shall write to the National Executive Committee through the secretariat, with the Memorandum of an agreement signed by both clubs, Letters of approval from both regions and minutes as well as resolution of their committees. Should the approval by the National Executive Committee be made during the season then such change can only be effective during the next season.
- 20.4 Should any club and/or affiliate acquire or buy the status of another club, the club that acquired or bought the status shall be promoted if the case may be and the club that sold its status shall relegate to the lowest regional league respectively. The clubs shall write to their respective Regions citing their intentions and upon approval by the Regional Committee they shall write to the National Executive Committee through the secretariat, with the Memorandum of sale agreement signed by both clubs, Letters of approval from both regions and minutes as well as resolution of their committees. Should the approval by the National Executive Committee be made during

the season then such change can only be effective during the next season.

- 20.5 Any team that seeks to change its status from society to a company or vice versa shall do so by first writing to the regional committee stating their reasons for the change of status. The application must be accompanied by the minutes with clear resolutions. The regional committee will therefore refer the application to the National Executive Committee through the office of the secretariat. Should the approval by the National Executive Committee be made during the season then such change can only be effective during the next season.

21. PARTICIPATION IN FRIENDLY TOURNAMENTS OR EVENTS

- 21.1 No club shall participate in any event that is a non-official BFA event or game or an event or game not officially sanctioned by the Association, without the consent in writing of the Association, which consent shall be sought before no less than 21 (twenty-one) days before the date of the said event or game taking place.
- 21.2 No club shall participate in any friendly game or tournament against none FIFA Members.
- 21.3 The Association shall be entitled to give either unqualified or conditional consent to the event taking place.
- 21.4 Notwithstanding the fact that any such event shall not be an official BFA event, the Association may at its discretion, institute any disciplinary proceeding in terms of these rules and regulations for any incidents of violence or bringing the game into disrepute that may occur during such game or event.

22. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

- 22.1** No Club shall play in any match against a team from another National Association without the written permission of the NEC.
- 22.2** Requests for permission to play a friendly must be submitted in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the *match*. The prescribed documentation as laid down by *FIFA* must be completed and submitted to the BFA.

23. MISBEHAVIOUR

Misbehaviour shall include:

23.1 Failure to accept and/or timeously obey instructions, orders and decisions of the respective League Committee or any competent organ of the Association.

23.2 Any act which, in the opinion of the Association, is prejudicial to the Welfare and development of football.

23.3 Referral of disputes connected to football to courts of law.

23.4 Arguing with the Referee before, during and/or after a game.

23.5 Assaulting or threatening any Referee, Assistant Referee or BFA official or club official before, during or after the game.

23.6 Any other act that may be properly interpreted as bringing the game of football into disrepute.

23.7 Failure to adhere to the requirements of the Club Licensing Procedure and Compliance Manual.

23.8 Failure to adhere to the dispute resolution procedures and/or Disciplinary mechanisms prescribed in terms of the BFA Constitution and these Play Rules and Regulations.

23.9 Failure to adhere to principles detailed in the BFA Code of Conduct for all members, Disciplinary Code, and/or any BFA Policy/Standard Document. Provided that serious cases of the violation of the Code of Conduct shall be referred to the BFA Ethics Committee for appropriate action/sanctioning.

23.10 Failure to meet one's financial and/or contractual obligations or Committing to unrealistic/untenable financial obligations.

24. SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS AT FOOTBALL GAMES

24.1 All committees responsible for fixturing games shall categorise such games in accordance with the potential security risks where Categories A, B, and C shall refer to high risk, medium risk, and low risk respectively.

24.2 The Referee and Match Official shall assess the adequacy of security provided by the host team prior to the start of the game. The assessment of the adequacy or inadequacy of security measures provided shall be based, among others, on the security risk category

of the particular game. This shall be done at least one hour before the start of the game. The host team shall parade the security personnel to allow the officials to properly establish the adequacy of the security personnel provided.

- 24.3 If the security is found to be inadequate for the game, the host team shall be liable for a fine of P3, 000.00 for all National leagues and P1, 000.00 for Regional leagues. The host team shall then be asked to make good the shortfall to allow the game to start within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick off time.
- 24.4 Where the failure to provide adequate security results in violence against match officials and/or players and/or their property, there shall be an automatic fine of P10, 000.00 for all National leagues and P5, 000.00 for Regional leagues. Further action shall be taken against the offending club and individuals in accordance with the BFA Constitution and these Play Rules & Regulations.
- 24.5 Any player or official reported to have participated in one way or the other in a violent activity at a game shall automatically be suspended from all BFA activities until the hearing and ruling by the Disciplinary Committee. Such suspension shall take effect upon receipt of written notification of such by the offending player or official by the competent BFA Authority.
- 24.6 Any team that has been fined for failure to provide adequate security in terms of regulation 23.3 above, shall pay the said fine within 30 days, failing which it shall be liable to a deduction of league points in addition to paying the said fine.

25. REVIEW, VARIATION, AMENDMENT AND/OR CHANGE

- 25.1 These Play Rules and Regulations may be reviewed, varied, amended and/or changed by the National Executive Committee from time to time either to change existing Rules and Regulations, or to add new ones or to incorporate changes ordered by FIFA and/or CAF.
- 25.2 Any changes, variations and/or amendments made shall take immediate effect notwithstanding that they have not yet been incorporated into these Play Rules and Regulations provided that the change, variation and/or amendment shall have been adequately communicated to all BFA affiliates and structures.
- 25.3 The National Executive Committee may suspend the application of any of the provisions of these Play Rules and Regulations for such

period as it shall deem necessary in the interests of the game of football.

26. ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

25. 1. The BFA Executive Committee adopted these Play Rules and Regulations on 24 OCTOBER 2012.....

25. 2. These Play Rules and Regulations come into force on the 24 OCTOBER 2012.....

DULY SIGNED AT GABORONE ON BEHALF OF the BFA National Executive Committee:

Signed: 
Maclean Letshwiti
BFA President

Signed: 
Mfola Edwin Mfola
BFA Secretary General