

# Competition Regulations

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

In these Competition Regulations, the capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

<b>1.1</b>	<b>Accreditation Card</b>	Any physical item which is issued by the GFA and/or the LOC which provides the recipient the right to access a Controlled Access Area (or part thereof) where the Controlled Access Area is under the control of the GFA or the LOC.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Advertising Rights</b>	The right to promote brand and/or corporate names and/or products and/or services at and/or in relation to the Competition by whatever means available, whether existing now or to be developed in the future, whether at the Match Venue or Facility Areas or within the Controlled Access Areas, in association with the Competition Marks and/or the GFA Marks, by Match Venue perimeter signage and other advertising, digital signage and screens, closed circuit television, equipment usage or other methods and through printed matter (including digitally delivered printed matter) such as programmes, posters, letterheads, press releases, newsletters and Tickets, and subject to any GFA regulations, the right to display such advertising on the clothing or footwear worn, or on any equipment used, carried or transported by the GFA Delegation (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials), medical and security staff, ball boys, Participating Player escorts, flag bearers and/or photographers. The display of the name and/or logo of the bona fide supplier of clothing on the strip of the uniforms of the GFA Delegation (including for the avoidance of doubt Match Officials) are also included. For the avoidance of doubt, advertising on the strip of Participating Players is excluded, other than where it is the trademark of the bona fide manufacturer and is in accordance with GFA regulations. Similarly, branding on any equipment, goods and/or services used in connection with the Competition, save where supplied by the GFA Commercial Rights Partner and/or a Official Licensee
<b>1.3</b>	<b>AFC</b>	The Asian Football Confederation.
<b>1.4</b>	<b>AIFF</b>	The All India Football Federation.
<b>1.5</b>	<b>AIFF CRS</b>	Also known as AIFF 'Centralised Registration System'. Is the online player registration system of the AIFF.

<b>1.6</b>	<b>AIFF CMS</b>	Also known as AIFF 'Competition Management System'. Is the online competition management and registration system of the AIFF.
<b>1.7</b>	<b>GFA Commercial Rights Partner</b>	The entity appointed by the GFA as the sole and exclusive representative of the GFA with regard to the sale of the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) pursuant to existing agreements and the provision of services in relation thereto.
<b>1.8</b>	<b>GFA Committee</b>	One (1) or more (as the context defines) of the Executive Committee/Standing Committees of the GFA as promulgated within the Statutes.
<b>1.9</b>	<b>GFA Constitution</b>	The constitutional document which enshrines the roles, duties and responsibilities of GFA vis-a-vis Goan football.
<b>1.10</b>	<b>GFA Delegation</b>	(i)GFA staff; (ii) Match Officials; (iii) other officials appointed by the GFA; (iv) The GFA's Committee members; and (iv) GFA guests.
<b>1.11</b>	<b>GFA Secretariat</b>	Responsible for carrying out administrative work of GFA.
<b>1.12</b>	<b>GFA Competitions Committee</b>	The Committee formed by the GFA to suggest the GFA Executive Committee and/or the GFA Disciplinary Committee about decisions on overall organizational matters.
<b>1.13</b>	<b>GFA Marks</b>	All design marks, slogans, designations, names, logos, insignia, emblems or devices (in any application) owned and/or controlled by the GFA (in any language), but excluding the Competition Marks.
<b>1.14</b>	<b>GFA Official Merchandise</b>	The official merchandise of the Competition to which the GFA Marks and the Competition Marks may be applied at the sole discretion of the GFA.
<b>1.15</b>	<b>GFA social media platforms</b>	The official website of GFA (currently [www.goafa.in]), including without limitation all other domains or official media platforms and channels created and/or owned by the GFA.
<b>1.16</b>	<b>Broadcast Licensee</b>	Any entity, including the Host Broadcaster, which has been granted the Media Rights from the GFA or the GFA Commercial Rights Partner for the Competition.
<b>1.17</b>	<b>Club</b>	The Club which exists within the geographical territory of the GFA and is a duly registered member of an affiliated Football Association of the GFA and fulfils the requirements of GFA Club Licensing Regulations for the Goa Professional League 2023-24, if applicable.

<b>1.18</b>	<b>Commencement of Competition</b>	The Competition shall be deemed to have commenced from such date as officially notified by the GFA and shall remain operative till presentation or closing ceremony as may be scheduled.
<b>1.19</b>	<b>Commercial Rights</b>	Advertising Rights, concession rights, hospitality rights, image rights, Media Rights, Merchandising Rights, Promotional Rights, Sponsorship Rights, and Travel and Tour Rights, granted to GFA Commercial Rights Partner.
<b>1.20</b>	<b>Competitions</b>	The [Name of the Competition] is one of the State Club Competitions which includes without limitation, all Matches as set out in the Match Schedule, all qualifying Matches, all activities on the Field of Play (other than Matches), opening ceremonies, presentation or closing ceremonies, press conferences or Official Functions connected therewith.
<b>1.21</b>	<b>Competition Data</b>	Any and all information related to the Competition, including fixture lists, Image Rights, information and/or statistics about the Participating Clubs and/or Participating Players, information and/or statistics about their participation and/or performance in the Competition, Match analysis, referee decisions, and any other information in relation to the Competition.
<b>1.22</b>	<b>Competition Marks</b>	<p>Either cumulatively or individually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i)</b> the logo officially adopted by the GFA as a visual design symbol of the Competition;</li> <li><b>ii)</b> any mascot officially adopted by the GFA for the Competition;</li> <li><b>iii)</b> any two-dimensional representation of the competition trophy;</li> <li><b>iv)</b> the official name of the Competition (in any language); and/or</li> <li><b>v)</b> any and all current and future trademarks, and/or logos, and/or copyrights and/or designs whether or not registered or applied for and whether registered in part or in whole including any present and/or future names, designations, symbols, logos or identifying music or sounds of the GFA or the Competition, the GFA fair play and device mark, and other artistic and auto-graphic representations in one, two or three dimensional proportions used by or in association with the Competition.</li> </ul>
<b>1.23</b>	<b>Competition Website</b>	The official website in relation to a Competition operated exclusively by the GFA Secretariat with a dedicated URL registered, owned and maintained by the GFA, at the Association's sole expense, for exclusive use by the League.

<b>1.24</b>	<b>Digital Media</b>	Any digitalised media (including the GFA Website and/or the Competition Website) created by GFA in relation to the Competition, including but not limited to any mobile website, mobile application (app), online video channel, data product, photo-sharing account, social media account, and any further form of digital media developed herewith.
<b>1.25</b>	<b>Facility Areas</b>	The location of Official Functions, ceremonies, press centres, ticket offices, competition hotels, media areas (including without limitation areas used for viewing of any public exhibition), sponsor village areas (including without limitation “GFA fan park” areas, and areas used for the activation of the Commercial Rights), official hospitality areas (including without limitation areas used for the exploitation of the Hospitality Rights), and information centres controlled by or on behalf of the GFA and used in connection with the Matches at the Match Venue.
<b>1.26</b>	<b>Fair Play</b>	That the game should be played in an entertaining and positive way, behaviour on and off the field in a sporting manner towards all others involved, be they players, officials or spectators, irrespective of results.
<b>1.27</b>	<b>Field of Play</b>	The area described in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game issued by the IFAB and administered by FIFA.
<b>1.28</b>	<b>FIFA</b>	The Fédération Internationale de Football Association
<b>1.29</b>	<b>Fixed Media</b>	Any magnetic, electronic or digital storage device or method including without limitation DVD, VHS or CD-ROM.
<b>1.30</b>	<b>Football Season</b>	Shall mean and include all football activities carried out, starting from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of June of a year till the 31st of May of the following year.
<b>1.31</b>	<b>Force Majeure</b>	Any event affecting the performance or any provision of these Regulations arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of a party, and shall include but not be limited to abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action, or civil commotion.

<b>1.32</b>	<b>Hospitality Rights</b>	The opportunity to offer and sell hospitality and entertainment facilities at the Venues or within the Controlled Access Areas in combination with Tickets as may be purchased from the LOC whether such facilities are in boxes, marquees or otherwise, but excluding those private facilities reserved for GFA Delegations and its guests not forming part of the Commercial Rights.
<b>1.33</b>	<b>Host Broadcaster</b>	The organisation appointed by the GFA to ensure and provide the production of broadcast signals of the Matches and other events of the Competition, and the provision of all related services in accordance with the Media Rights granted to it.
<b>1.34</b>	<b>IFAB</b>	The International Football Association Board.
<b>1.35</b>	<b>Image Rights</b>	The right to use still and/or moving images and/or representations of images of Participating Clubs and Participating Players participating in the Competition, and including, for the avoidance of doubt, images of Participating Officials, Match Officials, and other officials forming part of the Competition.
<b>1.36</b>	<b>Laws of the Game</b>	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB.
<b>1.37</b>	<b>League</b>	[Goa Professional League].
<b>1.38</b>	<b>League Table</b>	Records of Matches of the Competition computed in terms of these instant Regulations and more fully in terms of Article 4.6 of these instant Regulations, represented in tabular form.
<b>1.39</b>	<b>Match</b>	A football match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred football match, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark) which takes place as part of the Competition in accordance with the Match Schedule.  For the avoidance of doubt, a Match formally commences when the Match Venue is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Match Venue is officially closed to spectators.
<b>1.40</b>	<b>Match Officials</b>	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the Competition in the role of referee, assistant referees, fourth official, Referee Assessor and Match Commissioner.
<b>1.41</b>	<b>Match Schedule</b>	The official schedule which sets out, without limitation, the dates and times on which Matches will be played, the Match Venue at which the Matches will be played, and the names of the Participating Clubs.

<b>1.42</b>	<b>Match Venue</b>	<p>Any venue at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid Accreditation Card or Ticket is required in order to gain access) of a Match Venue and (on Match days and any day on which any official practice session takes place within the Match Venue), the aerial space above such Match Venue;</li> <li>(ii) parking facilities;</li> <li>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);</li> <li>(iv) the media tribune;</li> <li>(v) concessions areas;</li> <li>(vi) commercial display areas;</li> <li>(vii) buildings;</li> <li>(viii) the Field of Play;</li> <li>(ix) any broadcast compound or Match Venue media centre;</li> <li>(x) any stands; and</li> <li>(xi) any areas beneath the stands.</li> </ul>
<b>1.43</b>	<b>Media</b>	<p>Any individual granted a media Accreditation Card by the GFA.</p>
<b>1.44</b>	<b>Media Rights</b>	<p>The right and license to produce, edit, and transmit, for intelligible reception throughout the world in any language and in any format, and on any platform including film, fixed media, digital media, games, internet, public exhibition, radio, mobile, and television, a visual, audio-visual, and/or audio signal and/or image or recording (including without limitation the basic feed, multi feeds, additional feeds, audio feeds, a feed incorporating Competition Data, world feed, and unilateral feeds) of the Competition, and all interview activities and action during and forming part of the Competition including Official Functions and the Image Rights by any and all means of transmission distribution, exhibition and reception, now existing or hereinafter developed including but not limited to analogue, digital, satellite cable and interactive communication systems, on a live, delayed, and unlimited repeat basis, in full or in part (including without limitation by way of clips and/or highlights and/or support programmes and/or magazine shows and/or news access), and all rights to exploit any and all commercial opportunities (including for example broadcast sponsorship and commercial airtime opportunities) arising from and/or in connection with such rights.</p>



<b>1.45</b>	<b>Merchandise Rights</b>	The right to exploit the Competition Marks and/or official designation in the manufacture, packaging, distribution and sale of goods and services of all kinds, including items of equipment (i.e. footballs), clothing, coins, medals, games (electronic or otherwise), other collectibles and Premiums related to the Competition.
<b>1.46</b>	<b>State Club Competitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a.</b> The Professional League</li> <li><b>b.</b> The First Division League</li> <li><b>c.</b> The Second Division league</li> <li><b>d.</b> The Third Division League</li> <li><b>e.</b> Women’s Senior league</li> <li><b>f.</b> Girls U-14 League</li> <li><b>g.</b> Girls U-17 League</li> <li><b>h.</b> Knock Out Tournament (Governor’s Cup / Police Cup or any other tournament)</li> <li><b>i.</b> The Charity Match.</li> <li><b>j.</b> Age Group Tournaments (Boys) / Leagues: U-13, U-15, U-17, U-19 &amp;U-21.</li> <li><b>k.</b> Beach Football Tournament / League</li> <li><b>l.</b> Futsal Tournament / League</li> </ul>
<b>1.47</b>	<b>Official</b>	Any member of a participating Club including but not limited to any coaching staff, assisting staff, team doctor, team physiotherapist or any other person registered by the participating Club to accompany its Participating Players for the Competition in its Team’s Official Delegation.
<b>1.48</b>	<b>Official Ball</b>	Refers to the football to be used in the Competition as referred in section 24 of these Regulations.
<b>1.49</b>	<b>Official Function</b>	Any event which is officially organised or sanctioned by the GFA in connection with the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this expressly includes, without limitation, all matches and/or events held at Official Training Sites, the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony, any GFA gala dinner, lunch, or banquet, cultural events, official press conferences and launch events.
<b>1.50</b>	<b>Official Licensee</b>	Any entity to which the GFA and/or the GFA Commercial Rights Partner has granted the right to exercise and exploit the Commercial Rights (or any part thereof) in respect of the Competition.
<b>1.51</b>	<b>Official Team Delegation</b>	The final-registered delegation of a Participating Club for the Competition subject to the limits set out in the Competition Regulations.
<b>1.52</b>	<b>Participating Official</b>	Any Official who is registered to participate in the Competition.

<b>1.53</b>	<b>Participating Player</b>	Any male player who is registered or in process of being registered to participate in the Competition.
<b>1.54</b>	<b>Premiums</b>	Any promotional item (including packaging, labelling, and/or containers thereof) which incorporates a mark and/or logo of the GFA and/or the Competition, and which is distributed free of charge or via prize competitions.
<b>1.55</b>	<b>Promotional Rights</b>	Any rights to official publications, official suppliers, official products, sales promotion including but not limited to the right to organise promotional competitions (including without limitation any sweepstakes or lotteries) and to make awards and give prizes, official music rights, the right to use an Official Designation and all other rights of commercial value in regard to the Competition.
<b>1.56</b>	<b>Proprietary Interests</b>	Without limitation, intellectual property, copyright and analogous rights, trademark rights, moral rights, performing rights, personality rights, and all remedies available under the applicable laws of unfair competition comprised in the Commercial Rights.
<b>1.57</b>	<b>Regulations</b>	These Competition Regulations.
<b>1.58</b>	<b>Sponsorship Rights</b>	The right, in any and all media, throughout the world, and in all languages, to promote an association between the Competition and certain products, services, and/or brands, and shall include (by way of illustration only) the exclusive right to exercise rights of association with the Competition, including without limitation the right to (a) use an official designation; (b) use the GFA Marks and/or applicable Competition Marks on branded products and/or product packaging (including Premiums, and in relation to the Competition Marks only on items for retail sale) and/or advertising; (c) receive commercial programme Tickets, and (d) receive broadcast sponsorship opportunities in connections with broadcasts of a Match or Official Function.
<b>1.59</b>	<b>Venue</b>	Includes without limitation, the Match Venue and structures within the Match Venue premises, Controlled Access Areas, field of play, Official Training Sites, warm up sites, team benches and the technical area.
<b>1.60</b>	<b>Winner</b>	The Participating Club that wins the Competition

For the purposes of these Regulations, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;

- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the GFA shall include its successors and permitted assigns and in relation to the availability of the Commercial Rights, and the GFA Committees;
- (e) reference to the GFA Commercial Rights Partner or Official Licensees shall include where advised by the GFA, its successors, and permitted assigns and, in relation to the exercise and exploitation of the Commercial Rights; and
- (f) all defined terms, unless otherwise stated herein shall bear the same meaning as ascribed in the GFA Statutes, unless the context indicates otherwise.

## **2. Introduction and General Provisions**

### **2.1. The Annual Official Competitions of the GFA are:-**

- a. The Professional League
- b. The First Division League
- c. The Second Division league
- d. The Third Division League
- e. Women's Senior league
- f. Girls U-14 League
- g. Girls U-17 League
- h. Knock Out Tournament (Governor's Cup/Police Cup or any other tournament)
- i. The Charity Match.
- j. Age Group Tournaments (Boys)/Leagues: U-13, U-15, U-17, U-19 &U-21.
- k. Beach Football Tournament/League
- l. Futsal Tournament/League

**2.2.** The Official Competitions are governed in spirit and principle by the Laws of the Game and the Statutes and Rules and Regulations of FIFA, AFC, All India Football Federation and Goa Football Association.

**2.3.** Any right associated with the Competition which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or by specific agreement to a participating Club in the Competition shall belong to the GFA.

**2.4.** These Regulations set out the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the GFA, the LOC, and all the Participating Clubs taking part in the Competition.

**2.5.** These Regulations, shall be binding for all LOCs, Participating Clubs, their Officials, Participating Players, support staff and supporters and others and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition ("Parties"). That any guidelines and/or circulars and/or codes that has been issued and/or may be issued by GFA in relation to the Competition shall be binding on the Parties.

**2.6.** GFA shall be responsible for appointing Match Officials including but not limited to Match Commissioner, Referees, Referee Assessor for each Match of the Competition.

**2.7.** Any reference to the GFA Constitution and to any of the AIFF, AFC and FIFA regulations shall be deemed to refer to such regulations, codes, guidelines, circulars and bylaws as may be applicable and standing at the time of application or such reference.

### **3. GENERAL PROVISIONS (Admission to Official Competitions)**

Admission to Official Competitions of the GFA is restricted to teams which:

- 3. 1. a.** Belong to clubs recognized by and in the active list of the Goa Football Association.
- b.** Qualify from the tournament(s) or selection procedure approved by the GFA.
- c.** New Clubs shall be given provisional affiliation on submitting and paying the following:
  - i.** In villages, town or cities which are already having one or more active clubs: Permanent/Provisional registration from the Sports Authority of Goa and registration with the Registrar of Societies under Societies Registration Act (1860).
  - ii.** If there are more than two Clubs in a Village/City then a No Objection Certificate is required from all the Clubs from that village irrespective of whether they are Provisional or Permanent Clubs.
  - iii.** In villages, towns or cities which do not have an active club:
    - 1.** Temporary Registration from the Sports Authority of Goa and registration with the Registrar of Societies under Societies Registration Act (1860).
    - 2.** A list of at least 50 club members.
  - iv.** A deposit of Rs 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) of which half will be refunded at the end of five consecutive seasons provided the clubs fulfil all their commitments during that period.
  - v.** The Clubs shall be finally given permanent affiliation after fulfilling all their commitments with the GFA for five consecutive seasons, being registered under the Societies Registration Act (1860), and having obtained permanent registration from the Sports Authority of Goa. The clubs will have to compulsorily field their team in any of the age group tournaments (U-13, U-15, U-17, U-19, U-21) during this period.
  - vi.** Non-Commercial Clubs will not be allowed to suffix or prefix the name of the title sponsor to the name of the club but are permitted to display the name of their title sponsor on the front of the jersey.

**2. a.** Commercial Clubs: These are clubs that belong to and carry the name of established companies, registered under the Companies Act. 2014. Commercial Clubs will not be allowed to participate in the Inter Village Tournaments.

Clubs which are interested in enrolling as commercial clubs shall:

- i) Pay an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only.)
- ii) Submit the financial statements of the Company for the ~~two~~three previous financial years.
- iii) Submit the names of the Board of Directors/Partners of the Company.

**2. b.** Clubs which are totally taken over by a commercial company shall:

- i) Submit a resolution by the Club's General Body agreeing to this change. The resolution to this effect shall be taken at a special General Body meeting called for that purpose. The meeting shall have the necessary quorum and the change in name/takeover shall be supported by at least two thirds of the members of the Club present for the EGM.
- ii) The original club that has been taken over, shall not be eligible for admission for any Official Competitions of the Goa Football Association for a period of five years under the same name.
- iii) On Seeking Admission after expiry of the five years period have to follow the procedures of Art. 3.1.a of these regulations and the GFA Constitution.
- iv) The decision of such takeovers shall be intimated to GFA in writing within 14 days of sale

of the club and the same shall be placed for approval of the Executive Committee.

**2. c.** Commercial Clubs which want to suffix or prefix the name of a company or sponsor to the name of the club shall seek prior approval of the GFA Executive Committee.

### **Annual Affiliation Fees**

Eligible teams shall complete and send to the GFA Secretariat the prescribed entry form during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of May to 31<sup>st</sup> of May of every calendar year. Only entry forms received by the closing date shall be valid and taken into consideration. Entries will be accepted beyond this date but not later than 15<sup>th</sup> of June, provided late fee of Rs 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only) is paid along with the entry fee. Clubs desirous of registering after 15<sup>th</sup> of June will have to pay a fine of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) subject to decision of the Executive Committee.

The annual Registration fee for all Clubs will be Rs. 2000/-

In addition, the following entry fee will be payable:

1. Professional League Clubs	:	Rs.	25,000.00
2. First Division Clubs	:	Rs.	12,000.00
3. Second Division Clubs	:	Rs.	8,000.00
4. Third Division Clubs	:	Rs.	4,000.00
5. Boys Age Group Tournament/League	:	Rs.	2,500.00(Per tournament)
6. Women's Senior League	:	Rs.	2,500.00
7. Girls Age Group Tournament	:	Rs.	1,500.00
8. Beach Football/Futsal Tournament/League:		Rs.	7,500.00 (Per Tournament / League)

Entry forms must be accompanied by the appropriate fees, paid by cash, cheque or draft favouring the GFA.

## **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **3.1 The Goa Football Association**

**3.1.1** The GFA shall be responsible for organising the Competition in accordance with the GFA Constitution and such other GFA regulations as may be applicable.

**3.1.2** The responsibilities of the GFA shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) supervising general preparations and deciding on the Competition format, the draws, and the entries to the Competition;
- b) determining the Match Schedule;
- c) appointing the Match Officials for each Match;
- d) choosing the Official Ball and the stipulated technical material;
- e) reporting cases to the GFA Disciplinary Committee;
- f) dealing with cases of abandoned Matches or cancelled Matches;
- g) dealing with cases of Force Majeure; and

h) dealing with any other aspect of the Competition that is not the responsibility of any other body of the GFA pursuant to these Regulations or the GFA Constitution or any other GFA regulation or code.

**3.1.3** All decisions taken by the GFA Disciplinary Committee in relation to the Competition shall be in compliance with the GFA Disciplinary Code.

## **3.2 Participating Clubs**

**3.2.1** The principal obligations and responsibilities of each Participating Club are stipulated in these Regulations, the GFA Constitution and all such other GFA regulations, directives, guidelines, and circulars that may be or have been issued from time to time. All Participating Clubs are mandated to execute the PTA (Participating Team Agreement) at the beginning of the Football Season, a true copy whereof shall have to be submitted to the GFA in the manner and within the time specified by the GFA.

**3.2.2** The PTA (and such other documents as are requested by the GFA in relation to the PTA) shall be completed and submitted to the GFA via the GFA CMS within the deadline provided by the GFA. Only the PTA submitted to the GFA Secretariat by uploading it on the GFA CMS and sent through courier/ post within the time provided by the GFA will be valid and taken into consideration. Failure to submit the PTA to the GFA shall result in the non-participation of the Participating Club in the Competition.

**3.2.3** Each Participating Club shall ensure that every member of its Team Official Delegation is aware of and complies with the terms of the PTA.

**3.2.4** Each Participating Club is obligated to ensure faithful compliance of these Regulations and other such Competition guidelines and circulars, any other agreements reached between the GFA and the Participating Clubs, the GFA Equipment Regulations 2021, other directives and instructions issued by the GFA, and any other relevant regulations of the GFA, AFC and FIFA.

**3.2.5** The Participating Club agrees to and undertakes to participate in the entire Competition till its conclusion from the Competition and will not miss any Match it is scheduled to play in the Competition. Failure to comply with the instant clause by any of the Participating Club may result in sanctions and disciplinary steps being taken by the GFA Disciplinary Committee.

**3.2.6** In addition to or in consonance with the terms of the PTA, each Participating Club shall be automatically deemed to have undertaken the following:

**a)** To have accepted all GFA regulations, including these Regulations, for the Competition, any other circulars, codes, policies, guidelines or directives issued by the GFA as well as the AIFF, AFC and FIFA regulations and to comply with, observe and perform all obligations, duties and responsibilities and abide by all decisions that may be issued, passed or imposed by the GFA's bodies and GFA Committees;

**b)** To observe these regulations, the Constitution and other Regulations and directives of the Goa Football Association.

**c)** To comply with the Laws of the Game;

**d)** To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with the Competition shall be settled by the GFA in compliance with these Regulations and/or all other GFA regulations, directives, guidelines and circulars as are applicable at such point of time;

**e)** To field their strongest team throughout the Competition;

**f)** To observe the principles of Fair Play;

**g)** To be solely responsible for fielding eligible players and officials for the Matches in the Competition;

**h)** To ensure the good conduct of the members of its Team's Official Delegation who have been provided with an Accreditation Card and of any person carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition;

**i)** To accept all the arrangements made by the LOC in agreement with GFA Secretariat;

**j)** To attend and participate in all Official Functions along with all official activities and events, including without limitation any team arrival meeting, match coordination meeting, press conferences, and other media and marketing activities in accordance with the instructions issued by the GFA;

**k)** Accept the use of records and broadcast of the images of their Participating Players and Officials that may appear or be generated in connection with the participation of the Participating Club in the Competition;

**l)** To accept the GFA's right to use and/or sub-license, names and images of the Participating Clubs, its Participating Players and Officials and the same shall be exclusive in respect of, or in connection with, without limitation, the filming, recording, broadcasting and any other forms of transmission, broadcast in connection with this Competition;

**m)** To be held responsible for any damage caused by their respective Participating Players, Officials, members, fans, supporters and any other person carrying out duties on their behalf and representing the Participating Club throughout the Competition; and

**n)** Prior to the Competition, provide to the GFA, free of charge, photographs of its Participating Players and/or Participating Officials, statistics, historical information and any such further data as may be requisitioned by GFA;

**3.2.7** Clubs are not authorized to participate in competitions within Goa which are not registered with GFA and outside of Goa which are not registered with respective state Associations and AIFF. For participating in Tournaments outside of Goa, clubs shall seek prior written permission from GFA.

**3.2.8** Each Participating Club shall ensure that any decision(s) relating to its duties and responsibilities taken by the GFA is enforced immediately.

### **3.3 Indemnity**

**3.6.1** The Participating Clubs shall discharge the GFA and hold it harmless from all responsibility and relinquish any claim against the GFA and the members of its delegation for any damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the organization during the

course of the Competition, to the exclusion of damages caused by GFA or the members of its delegation acting with intent or gross negligence. The Participating Clubs shall exempt (indemnify and hold harmless) the GFA from all third party claims for damages relating to Match organisation, regardless of whether individual Matches in question take place or not.

#### **4. ENTRY, WITHDRAWAL, MATCH SCHEDULE AND COMPETITION SYSTEM**

##### **4.1 Admission Criteria**

**4.1.1** The GFA invites eligible Participating Clubs to enter the Competition/s. All the eligible Participating Clubs are subject to either securing licenses in accordance with the GFA Club Licensing (For Goa Professional League) or exemptions as may be granted and morefully described and enshrined under Article 2.5. All the decisions taken by the GFA regarding admission to the Competition/s are final and binding and not subject to any appeal by any party.

**4.1.2** If any information which is provided by a Participating Club to the GFA during the GFA Club Licensing process (For Professional League) and/or in terms of Article 2.5 is found to be misrepresented and/or false and/or inaccurate at any point of time, the GFA may revoke the license of such participating Club anytime thereafter and subsequently remove that participating Club from the Competition.

**4.1.3** If there has been a change subsequently in relation to any information provided by a Participating Club during the Football Season, the said Participating Club shall immediately take steps to inform the GFA of such change(s). Such new information shall only be valid subject to approval by GFA. In the event that no such prior approval is sought from the GFA for the change(s) by the Participating Club, the GFA reserves the right to cancel the license and/or exemption granted to that Participating Club for participating in the Competition at any point of time.

The date, venue and time of kick-off of every match in the Official Competitions shall be intimated in writing to the concerned teams by the GFA Secretariat at least 72 hrs. (seventy-two hours) before the scheduled time of kick-off. Any Club seeking a postponement of a match should do so in writing at least seven days in advance failing which no such request will be considered. The GFA Secretariat may decide to postpone matches due to circumstances which, in their opinion warrant a postponement, upon consultation with the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Official Competition Committee.

**Para-Unico:** A fax/letter/e mail shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of Article 4.1.3

**4.1.4** The draw shall be released a minimum 10 days before the commencement of the tournament.

##### **4.2 Withdrawal Prior to Commencement of the Competition**

**4.2.1** The Participating Club that withdraws prior to commencement of the Competition or is ineligible or excluded from playing in the Competition in terms of these instant Regulations, may be replaced by GFA with another Club.

**4.2.2** The GFA Competitions Committee may introduce changes, including a change in the Competition system and technical rules for the Competition, if necessary.



**4.2.3** All decisions of the GFA in this regard are final and binding and not appealable.

**a.** A Permanent Club withdrawing from the competition after the draw is released or failing to complete their engagements in a competition shall be banned for a period of two years from participating in, and organizing Private Football Tournaments. However, Clubs participating in multiple competitions shall be fined Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) and not debarred from participating in league competitions, participating in, and organizing Private Football Tournaments, provided they participate in at least one of those competitions. Permanent clubs which fail to participate in any of the official competitions during the season will be fined Rs 50000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) and such club/s will have to compulsorily field a team in at least one age group tournament/League for the ensuing one season.

**b.** A Provisional Club which has entered a team in only one of the Official Competitions of the Goa Football Association, withdrawing or failing to complete the engagements in a competition, shall be deregistered as a provisional member of the Goa Football Association. The amount of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) deposited will also stand forfeited. However, Clubs participating in more than one tournament shall be fined Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) and not debarred from participating in the league competitions provided their team participates compulsorily in at least one age group tournament.

**c)** The Provisional Club registration may be accepted for the subsequent season subject to the following conditions:

**i)** Granting permanent recognition to any Provisional Club shall be kept in abeyance for a further period of two years from the date on which the Club was due for permanent recognition, if the club withdraws the team from an Age Group Tournament for which an entry was submitted to the Goa Football Association.

#### **4.3 Withdrawal After Commencement of the Competition**

**4.3.1** If a Participating Club withdraws after the Commencement of the Competition or does not report for a Match at any stage of the Competition, except in cases of permissible exemptions as prescribed under these instant Regulations, recognized by the Match Commissioner and the GFA, and/or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the Field of Play before the end of the Match despite the Referee and/or the Match Referee's decision to continue to play, or the Match cannot be continued due to the behaviour of a Participating Club or any member of its Team Official Delegation or for any other conduct for which the Participating Club is liable or be held responsible, the Participating Club:

**4.3.1a.** Be considered to have withdrawn wilfully from the Competition amounting to refusal;

**4.3.1b.** Shall be liable to have all its Matches in the Competition (all played and unplayed matches) rendered null and void. For the avoidance of doubt, all unplayed Matches due to have been played by the Participating Club shall also stand cancelled and all points and goals scored in those Matches shall not be taken into consideration when determining the rankings in the Competition;

**4.3.1c.** Be required to pay compensation for any and all damages or losses suffered by the other Participating Clubs, the GFA, the GFA Commercial Rights Partner, Licensees, Broadcast Licensees, and any Member Association(s).

**4.3.1d.** The amount of compensation shall be determined by GFA;

**4.3.1e.** Be automatically and forthwith disqualified from taking part in the continued edition or any future edition of the Competition notwithstanding any penal action otherwise provided in any other code or regulation of the GFA. The GFA may however extend the suspension for next two (2) editions of the Competition depending on the gravity of the situation and/or quantum of damages;

**4.3.1f.** Be referred to the GFA Disciplinary Committee for additional and/or further sanctions and fines depending on the gravity of the situation;

**4.3.1g.** Return to the GFA, any financial stipends that had been paid to such Participating Club by the GFA in relation to the Competition or forfeit the right to claim the same.

**4.3.1h.** Failure by a team to report at the scheduled time to play a match shall be treated as a walk-over to the opponents by the Executive Committee. The score shall be declared as 3-0 in favour of the opponents present at the venue, and points awarded in the League Competitions; the team failing to turn up at the scheduled time shall further be fined up to Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may also impose additional sanctions and recover any losses suffered due to the failure of the team to report for the match.

**4.3.1.i** A team being due for punishment twice under stipulations of the above article shall be debarred from further participation in the Official Competitions (being specifically the League Competitions). All results obtained up to such time shall be treated as cancelled and the team will be demoted to the lower division. If the club repeats the offence for the second time in the following three seasons, the team suspended from participating in the Official Competitions for a period up to two football seasons.

**4.1.3.j** Teams/Clubs participating in multiple competitions and due for punishments twice under Article 4.3 shall be fined Rs. 10,000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) and not debarred from participating in league competitions.

#### **4.4 Match Schedule**

**4.4.1** All Matches shall be played according to the dates, kick-off times, and in the Match Venues as determined by the GFA and notified to the Participating Clubs post Commencement of the Competition.

**4.4.2** The dates and timings of the Matches shall be determined by and notified by the GFA Secretariat from time to time.

**4.4.3** The GFA through the GFA Secretariat retains final discretion to amend the Match Schedule including Match Venues and kick-off times and any decision taken to that effect is final and binding and non-appealable.

#### **4.5 League Stage**

The League Competitions shall be organized with the following system:

##### **Goa Professional League**

**4.5.1** The Professional League shall consist of a maximum of 14 teams from the Professional

Clubs registered with the GFA. These teams shall play in the following format:

The league will be played on a Double leg on a home and away basis. The team that stands first in the Goa Professional League will get the title of the Goa Professional League Champion of Goa. The team that stands last will be demoted to the First Division League.

**4.5.2** Teams will be recommended on the basis of their qualification in the Professional League, for the Preliminary Competition of the Federation Cup and the Second/Third Division National League/Tournaments conducted by the AIFF, as long as they meet the criteria required by the AIFF.

**4.5.3** If one or more team/teams withdraw its/their team after the end of the season it/they shall be replaced with the team/teams standing below the promoted team/teams from the First Division so as to maintain the number of teams in the Goa Pro-League. The Executive Committee reserves the right to invite bids from interested clubs to feature directly in the Professional League subject to fulfilment of Club Licensing Regulations.

**4.5.4** Minimum Requirements for a Professional Club: A Professional Club shall have to meet the following minimum requirements:

1. It shall have a team participating compulsorily in the U-13 and the U-15 Leagues of the Goa Football Association. In case a Professional Club does not participate in the U-13 and the U-15 Leagues, a fine of Rs 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) per competition shall be payable by the Club.

2. Two U-21 players will have to be fielded by a team in the starting 11 and combined will have to compulsorily complete 90 minutes of time on the field of play.

**4.5.5** In the League matches, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw no point for a defeat.

**4.5.6** The ranking shall be determined in the order given below:

a) Greater number of points obtained in all matches;

b) if two (2) or more Participating Teams are equal on points, the following criteria are applied to determine the ranking (in descending order):

i) Higher number of points obtained in the matches between the Teams concerned;

ii) Superior Goal difference resulting from the matches between the Teams concerned;

iii) Higher number of goals scored in the matches between the Teams concerned;

iv) Goal difference in all the matches;

v) Higher number of goals scored in all the matches;

vi) Drawing of lots

viii) However in case of relegation of a team, Art. 4.5.12 (vi) will not apply and the relegated team will be decided by having a play off between the concerned teams at a neutral venue. The team that loses this play off will be relegated.

**Para 1:** For this playoff, if the score remains tied at the end of 90 minutes, 30(15+15) minutes extra time will be played. If the score still remains tied, then the result will be decided by taking kicks from the penalty mark.

**4.5.7** A team which gives walk over without sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the GFA League Committee or fields an ineligible player, shall forfeit the match and the opponent Team shall be declared winner and awarded with 3 points in addition to award of three goal

difference.

**4.5.8** Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit the match. Victory and the resultant three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team as well as the score of 3-0, or greater, depending on the score of the match. The guilty team, its officials and players will have their medals and title stripped and will not be promoted to a higher League if they are eligible for it. The guilty club, its officials and team officials shall also be subject to further fines and sanctions as determined by the GFA Disciplinary Committee.

## **5. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS**

### **5.1 Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game**

**5.1.1** All the Matches shall be played in accordance with the latest Laws of the Game laid down by the IFAB and published by FIFA. In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall prevail and is authoritative.

**5.1.2** Only five (5) substitutes listed on a Match starting list may take part in a Match. Any Participating Player who has been substituted may take no further part in that Match.

**5.1.3** At any stage of a Match, if a Participating Club is only able to field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players for any reason, the Match shall be declared abandoned. The Participating Club shall be held responsible for the Match not taking place and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Match. The Participating Club which is able to field seven or more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score of 3-0, or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher and will be awarded three (3) points.

### **5.2 Duration of Matches**

**5.2.1** Each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising of two (2) periods of forty-five (45) minutes each, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

**5.2.2** Both participating Clubs shall walk to the field as per the laid down protocols of GFA, from their dressing rooms.

**5.2.3** Once the Kick Off time is decided, it can only be changed by the GFA if there are conditions caused by circumstances beyond the control of the LOC, which warrant change in the kick-off time. The new Kick Off time shall be immediately informed to the Manager/Captain of both the teams.

**5.2.4** A Participating Club (through its Participating Players/ Officials) that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of the Match and/or the second period of the Match may be sanctioned by the GFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Code.

### **5.3 Cancellation of Matches**

**5.3.1** If the Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure or any other incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not being fit for play, extreme weather conditions or floodlight failure or for any other reason the following procedures must be followed:

a) the Match must be delayed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. During this delay, the Referee may decide that the Match can commence prior to the completion of the delay period, before a decision to reschedule the Match may be taken;

b) following the first delay, the Match is declared cancelled by the Referee;

**5.3.2** In the case of a cancelled Match, the GFA shall decide within forty-eight (48) hours of the Referee's decision to cancel the Match whether the Match can be rescheduled, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account, or whether any other action and decision is to be obtained.

**5.3.3** For any Match which is cancelled as a result of Force Majeure, the GFA Official Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

**5.3.4** Any Match which is cancelled, except in cases of Force Majeure recognised by the GFA Official Competitions Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the GFA Disciplinary Committee against the relevant Participating Club or party that has caused the cancellation in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Code. In case a participating Club wilfully fails to show up for a Match, the provisions concerning withdrawal of such participating Club as per Article 4.3 shall be applicable.

**5.3.6** No appeal shall be lodged against decisions stated in Article 5.3.

#### **5.4 Abandonment of Matches**

**5.4.1** If the Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal time or during any injury time because of any Force Majeure event or any other field/playing condition related incidents such as, but not limited to, the field not being fit for play, weather conditions or floodlight failure or for any other reason, the following procedures must be followed:

a) The Match is automatically suspended for the duration of thirty (30) minutes to allow conditions to improve sufficiently to restart the Match, unless the Referee decides that the Match can be resumed earlier. Any on field decision of the Referee shall be final and non-appealable.;

b) subsequent to the first stoppage, the Match is declared abandoned by the Referee;

**5.4.2** In the case of an abandoned Match, the GFA shall decide within forty eight 48 hours of the Referees decision to abandon the Match whether to order only the part of the Match , which has not been completed to be played, provided this can be done on the next day of the day the Match was abandoned or whether a replay of the entire Match shall be organized and whether the Match result at the time of abandonment would be considered to be valid, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account.

**5.4.3** For any Match which is abandoned as a result of Force Majeure, the GFA Official Competitions Committee shall decide on the matter at its sole discretion and take whatever action is deemed necessary.

**5.4.4** Any Match which is abandoned, except in cases of Force Majeure as recognised by the

GFA Official Competitions Committee, may lead to the imposition of sanctions by the GFA Disciplinary Committee against the relevant Participating Club or party that has caused the abandonment in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Code.

**5.4.5** Should the GFA, pursuant to Article 5.4.2, determine that an abandoned Match should be rescheduled and completed, the following principles shall apply:

- a)** the Match shall recommence with the same score at the minute and seconds at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full;
- b)** the Match shall recommence with the same Participating Players on the Field of Play and same substitutes at the time it was initially abandoned;
- c)** no additional substitutes may be added to the Player Selection List or Match starting list;
- d)** any Participating Player sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced;
- e)** The kick-off time, date and location shall be decided by the GFA with the concerned authorities;
- f)** any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned shall remain valid for the remainder of the recommenced Match; and
- g)** any other matters not set out above shall be decided by the GFA in its sole discretion.

**5.4.6** If a Match is stopped by the Referee before the end of normal playing time as a result of a participating Club being able to only field fewer than seven (7) Participating Players, the Match shall be declared abandoned and the Participating Club which is able to field more than seven (7) Participating Players shall be declared the winner by the score of 3-0, or by the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.

**5.4.7** No appeal shall be lodged against decisions stated in hereinabove in this Article 5.4 of these instant Regulations.

A match of the Official Competitions abandoned before the expiration of the statutory playing time because of reasons of "Force Majeure" shall be completed by playing the remaining time, at a venue, date and time to be decided by the Executive Committee or the Standing Committee appointed to organize the tournament.

A team reporting for a match with less than 11 players shall be fined Rs. 2500/- (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred Only) the first time and Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) for every subsequent time.

A match not being played for the full statutory time because of less number of players in the team, the team shall be fined Rs. 2500/- (Two Thousand Five Hundred Only) in the first instance and, on repetition, sanctioned as provided for under Article 4.2 and Article 4.3. A team fielding less than the stipulated number of players in a match not being played for the full statutory playing time the team shall also be directed to have lost the match by a three goals difference.

## **5.5 Match Venues**

**5.5.1** Each Participating Club shall nominate the Stadium/Ground to be utilised for its home

Matches when entering the Competition. All Stadiums/Grounds must comply with all applicable regulations. The GFA General Secretariat shall take the final decision to approve any Stadium/Ground to host Matches in the Competition and may carry out inspections at any time before and during the Competition to check whether the requirements are met. All costs related to the inspection shall be borne by the relevant Participating Club.

**a)** The Stadium/Ground nominated shall be the home stadium/ground of the Participating Club for matches in its League, unless otherwise instructed by the GFA.

**b)** The GFA reserves the right to refuse the nomination of a Stadium/Ground and require a Participating Club to play its Matches in a different Stadium/Ground or alternatively at a Neutral Venue in accordance with these instant Regulations.

**5.5.2** Each Participating Club shall undertake to inform GFA in advance and take prior approval in terms of these instant Regulations and morefully this instant Article, about such Stadium(s)/Ground(s) that they intend on playing out of throughout the Competition. Any deviation from the Match Schedule shall have to be approved by the GFA.

**5.5.3** Should a Participating Club wish to change its Stadium/Ground during the Competition, it must provide evidence to the GFA, including without limitation photographs, other visual evidence, and letters from the relevant authorities as to why the Stadium/Ground is unable to host Matches, at least thirty (7) days prior to its next home Match. Only upon receipt of the evidence shall the GFA decide on whether the Participating Club may nominate a new Stadium/Ground for its home Matches. Such Stadium/Ground must comply with the GFA Stadium/Ground Regulations and all other applicable GFA regulations.

**a)** The GFA shall decide whether to approve the newly nominated Stadium/Ground. Should the GFA be required to conduct an inspection, all costs shall be borne by the Participating Club.

**b)** Should the newly nominated Stadium/Ground not be approved by the GFA, or should a Participating Club be unable to play home Matches in its one and only Stadium/Ground approved by the GFA and not nominate a new Stadium/Ground, the GFA Secretariat shall select an alternate Stadium/Ground in accordance with this instant Article.

**5.5.4** If the GFA deems, for whatever reason, that a Stadium/Ground is unable to stage a Match or Matches, the relevant Participating Club shall propose an alternate Stadium/Ground. Should the Participating Club not propose an acceptable alternate Stadium/Ground by a deadline set by the GFA, the GFA Secretariat may select a Neutral Venue to stage a Match or Matches.

**a)** The Participating Club concerned is responsible for all Match arrangements for the staging of the Match or Matches, including all costs as set out in these Regulations. This includes Matches played at a neutral venue.

**b)** Should the Participating Club not propose an acceptable alternate Stadium/Ground within any deadline set by the GFA and/or refuse to partake in Matches at the proposed Neutral Venue selected by the GFA General Secretariat, it shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition and be subject to these instant Regulations.

**c)** The GFA Secretariat makes all final decisions pursuant to these instant Regulations.

**5.5.5** Home Participating Clubs shall ensure that no football matches and/or any other events or activities are held at any Stadium/Ground during the period starting at least two (2) days prior to each Match (other than in relation to the Final, where such period shall be determined by the GFA, until one (1) day after the Match, unless prior written permission has been obtained from the GFA. The Stadium shall be delivered to the GFA for its exclusive use during this period. A Home Participating Club that fails to comply with this Article shall be fined at least INR 5000/-. The GFA Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions at its discretion.

## **5.6 Field of Play**

**5.6.1** In the circumstances that the home Participating Club considers the Field of Play unfit for a Match, it shall immediately inform the GFA, the away Participating Club and the Match Officials of that particular Match before their departure to the Venue. A Participating Club that fails to comply with this instant Article shall be liable for all costs incurred for the travel, of the parties involved mentioned hereinabove.

**5.6.2** The GFA Match Commissioner and Match Officials will inspect each Stadium/Ground prior to the Match and ensure that all arrangements are in accordance with the Laws of the Game. If the conditions of the Field of Play including the dimension of the goal and field are not in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the GFA Match Commissioner shall issue instructions to the home Participating Club to ensure rectification.

**5.6.3** If, in the opinion of the Referee, the instructions issued pursuant to this Article are not complied with by the start of the Match, the home Participating Club shall forfeit the Match in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## **5.7 Team Bench and Technical Area**

**5.7.1** A maximum of five (5) participating Club's Officials and a maximum of ten (10) substitute Participating Players are permitted to sit on the team bench during a Match, provided they are in possession of the Accreditation Card at all times.

**5.7.2** All individuals on the team bench must wear a kit that contrasts with the kit of the Participating Players and the Match Officials present on the Field of Play. This kit must comply with the GFA Equipment Regulations.

**5.7.3** Both the Participating Clubs shall be designated as Team "A" or Team "B" for each of their Matches by the GFA or the LOC. Team "A" shall occupy the left-hand side bench as viewed from the 4th Official's bench and Team "B" shall occupy the other side bench.

**5.7.4** A suspended Participating Player/Official shall not be allowed in the substitution bench area, the technical area, or in any other place inside the field/perimeter fence and the dressing room or the adjoining area of the dressing rooms or any other Competition area/Controlled Access Area. Such suspended Participating Player/Official shall not be allowed to travel with the Team Official Delegation on the Match day.

## **5.8 Warming up**

**5.8.1** The Participating Clubs shall be entitled to warm up on the main Field of Play before the Match subject to the ground conditions as ascertained by the GFA Match Commissioner.



**5.8.2** During the Match, a maximum of six (6) named substitutes from each participating Club may warm up at the same time but without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), behind the goal closest to their substitutes bench or in a space determined by the Match Commissioner. The Participating Players may be accompanied by a maximum of two (2) Officials from the team bench. The number of Players and Officials in this regard may be altered by the Match Commissioner.

**5.8.3** The Participating Clubs shall adhere to the guidelines as shared by GFA Match Commissioner. Any violation of such guidelines/ directives may result in sanctions being imposed in terms of these instant Regulations.

## **5.9 Footballs**

**5.9.1** The footballs for the Competition shall be selected by the GFA.

**5.9.3** The Association shall provide the match ball for the Competitions

## **6. TEAM OFFICIAL DELEGATION**

### **6.1 Team Official Delegation**

**6.1.1** The GFA shall issue each individual registered to participate in the Competition with an Accreditation Card bearing a photograph and personal details. The Accreditation Card remains the property of the GFA at all times. The GFA may revoke, cancel, and/or confiscate an Accreditation Card at any time for any reason, including without limitation, misuse or abuse. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.

**6.1.2** The Team Official Delegation shall be granted full access to all official Competition areas, including the Field of Play and other necessary Controlled Accessed Areas, as may be determined by the GFA.

**6.1.3** The Participating Clubs shall ensure that no unauthorized persons are permitted entry into the team bus, team dressing room, Field of Play, or any other Controlled Access Area without being in possession of the necessary Accreditation Card.

### **6.2 Eligibility of Players**

**6.2.1** Each Participating Club shall ensure that all its Participating Players:

**a)** are duly registered by the Participating Club and its Member Association concerned according to its own rules and those of AIFF/GFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (the "RSTP"), these instant Regulations or any other GFA regulations, guidelines, circulars or directives as issued by the GFA, wherever relevant;

**b)** are only eligible to play for a Participating Club affiliated to its Football Association concerned;

**c)** are duly registered to participate in this Competition in accordance with these instant Regulations.

**6.2.2** Individuals who meet the criteria set out here in Article 6.2.1 are eligible to participate in the Competition, subject to the provisions of the GFA Disciplinary Code.

**6.2.3** The approval of the registration of a Participating Player by the GFA Secretariat does not automatically provide for the eligibility of the Participating Player. Each Participating Club is responsible for and bears the onus of fielding only eligible Participating Players in a Match. Failure to do so shall lead to the consequences stipulated in the GFA Disciplinary Code. The GFA Secretariat makes all decisions regarding the Participating Players' final registration.

**6.2.4** A Participating Player shall be deemed ineligible, without limitation, if:

- a) there is a violation of Article 6;
- b) he participates in a Match contrary to a decision of the GFA Secretariat, Disciplinary Committee, these instant Regulations, or the operation of the GFA Disciplinary Code;
- c) he is fielded despite being suspended (accumulation of yellow & red cards or as per decision of the GFA Disciplinary Committee);
- d) the GFA shall determine as to whether any document submitted for any Participating Player during registration is false, falsified and/or forged;
- e) the Participating Player fails a doping test; and
- f) for any other reason, that the GFA deems the Participating Player ineligible to participate at any time.

**6.2.5** A Participating Club which gives a walkover without sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the GFA or fields an ineligible Participating Player, anytime during the Competition, shall forfeit the Match and the opponent Participating Club shall be declared the winner of that Match and awarded with three (3) points in addition to award of a three-zero (3-0) scoreline win in favour of the opponent Participating Club, or the actual score of the Match, whichever is higher.

**6.2.6** Any Participating Club found guilty of fielding an ineligible Participating Player, as determined by the competent judicial body of the GFA, shall suffer forfeiture of the Match in terms of Article 6 mentioned herein above. The guilty Participating Club, its Officials and their Participating Players, in such an event, if the case may be, shall have to return their medals and title and if qualification has been made to the AIFF/GFA competitions, such qualification shall be liable to be annulled. The guilty Participating Club, the Officials and/or the Participating Players involved, may also be subjected to further fines and sanctions as may be determined by the GFA Disciplinary Committee.

A player listed amongst the first eleven or the substitutes, for any match in the Official Competitions, shall not be entitled to seek transfer to another team during the same season. However, he may be loaned to another team but cannot take part in the same tournament for which he represented his parent club. In case a player has not been listed amongst the first eleven or the substitutes for any match in the Official Competitions by the parent club, the player can be deregistered by the parent club after writing and surrendering the Players Licence to the Goa Football Association, thus enabling the player to register himself for

another club during the same season.

Players from the lower division teams are allowed to play for teams in higher divisions in the same season. Players playing in the higher divisions are not allowed to play for lower division teams in the same season. However, U-21 players are allowed to move from higher division to lower division teams and vice versa in the same season.

### **6.3 Registration of Players**

**6.3.1** There are two (2) stages of a Participating Player's registration:

- a) Preliminary Registration (*cf* Article 6.5); and
- b) Player Selection List: (*cf* Article 6.6).

**6.3.2** Throughout the Competition, each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated during the registration. Jersey number 1 shall be reserved for a goalkeeper under all circumstances. Only eligible players shall represent the teams in the Official Competitions. Transfer, registration and renewal of registration of players shall be governed by the Players Status Regulations of the GFA/AIFF.

**6.3.3** Should the GFA not receive the "Official Registration for Players" via the GFA CRS and CMS with all required documents within the stipulated deadline for a minimum of sixteen (16) players (in terms of the requirement also set out herein below at Article 6.4 of these instant Regulations), the Participating Club concerned shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 4.3. Any proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email and/or by any other means which are not duly recognized in terms of these instant Regulations shall not be accepted.

### **6.4 Documents for Registration of Players**

**6.4.1** For the registration of Participating Players for the Competition, the Participating Players must be registered using the GFA CMS after completing due process in the AIFF CRS.

**6.4.2** Participating Players must be registered with the supporting documents (set out below) in the CMS and/or CRS (as may be applicable), at least forty-eight (48) hours before their respective Match Kick Off time:

- a) A colour-copy of any valid ID proof;
- b) one (1) passport-size colour photo;
- c) A copy of the Participating Player's valid contract;
- d) Medical Insurance.

**6.4.3** Where original documents are not in English, the Participating Club or its concerned Football Association shall provide a government accredited translation of the same.

**6.4.4** The GFA reserves the right to request additional documents at any point of time.

### **6.5 Preliminary Registration**

**6.5.1** A Participating Club can register no less than Sixteen (16) Players and no more than Twenty Five (25) Players for the Competition with sequential shirt numbers from 1 to 99 while the shirt number one (1) shall be reserved for the goalkeeper.

Players Licences after the age of 40 will be renewed on production of a Medical Certificate from a registered doctor (ECG & Echo Tests will be mandatory for any player above 40 years of age) at the end of every year, for Goa Professional League.

**6.5.2** For avoidance of any doubt, if a Participating Club wishes to register more than twenty five (25) Players, they may register up to 5 more Players (bringing the total to 30 Players by paying an additional fee of Rs 1000/- (One Thousand Only) per Player.). The Participating Club is allowed to register additional 10 more U-21 players without charge in GPL.

**6.5.3** Registration for Play Offs: A maximum of Six additional players two being U-21 players can be registered for the playoff matches at any time provided the teams have not registered their full quota of players.

**6.5.4** Last date for registration of players- for double, no additional players can be registered for the last four rounds of the tournament.

**6.5.5** Foreign Nationals born in Goa who are holding a PIO (Person of Indian Origin) or an OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card will be allowed to participate in Official Competitions (including Age Group Tournaments) provided they are in possession of a Players License issued by the Goa Football Association previously. Players holding dual nationality are not allowed by AIFF to participate in AIFF Leagues/Tournaments.

**6.5.6** If a Participating Club fails to register a minimum of Sixteen (16) Players, the Participating Club will be fined INR 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) everyday till it completes the registration process and shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 4.3, if the timeline notified by the GFA elapses completely.

**6.5.7** Once the official registration for Players has been submitted via the GFA CMS/CRS and received by the GFA and after the deadline has passed, under no circumstances shall any participating Clubs be permitted to submit additional names or replace any registered individual, even if their quota of thirty (30) plus ten (10) U-21 Players has not been filled.

**6.5.8** Each Participating Club must provide the 'Player Selection List' to identify its starting eleven (11) Participating Players and up to ten (10) substitute Participating Players for each Match during the Competition latest by ninety (90) minutes before Kick Off.

a) The final squad may only be chosen from those maximum thirty (30) plus 10 U-21 Participating Players selected in the registered squad.1

b) Each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated in the Preliminary Registration during all Matches throughout the Competition.

c) Throughout the Competition and for each Match to which he is registered, each Participating Player shall wear the same number allocated to him by the Participating Club in the GFA CMS/CRS during the registration process.

**6.5.9** N.B. FOREIGN PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE REGISTERED IN

## CONFORMITY WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF THE AIFF:

**6.5.10** The Participating Club can replace an Indian player with another Indian player (in case an injury or an illness prevents such Indian player from continuing to play for the rest of the Competition or after mutual termination of contract) up to three times during the Competition. The Participating Players can only be replaced with another within the time as notified by the GFA and not beyond the same.

**6.5.11** For domestic transfers, the official date on the Participating Player's contract shall be taken as proof of the date of registration to the present Participating Club.

**6.5.12** The GFA Secretariat shall carry out a check of the documents listed in Article 6.4.2 above immediately after the closure of the registration. Participating Players with missing documentations will not be eligible for registration. All eligible Participating Players will be issued with official 'Accreditation cards' authorized by the GFA Secretariat. Should the card get misplaced, the defaulting Participating Club shall be required to pay a sum of INR 1000/- (Indian Rupees One Thousand Only) towards production fee for every card lost, to replace it.

**6.5.13** It is the responsibility of the Participating Club to ensure that all supporting documents are submitted to the GFA CMS before the expiration of the deadline provided by GFA.

**6.5.14** In the event there is a dispute pertaining to the qualification or status of a Participating Player, the subject case will be referred to the Players' Status Committee of the GFA. The decision taken by the Players' Status Committee of the GFA can be appealed to in terms of the RSTP.

**6.5.15** Documentation for all the Participating Players and Officials needs to be completed as per Article 6.4 and Article 6.5 of these instant Regulations.

### **6.6 Player Selection List, Match Starting List & Substitutions**

**6.6.1** For all Matches, each Participating Club will receive the access to the 'Player Selection List' (the "PSL") on the GFA CMS.

**6.6.2** The Participating Club must indicate on the Match starting list the first eleven (11) players and ten (10) substitutes. The Participating Club captain, goalkeepers, foreign players/U-21 Players and substitutes must be selected accordingly. The Match starting list must be submitted online on the GFA CMS together with the 'Officials on the Substitution Bench' form with the names of the Participating Officials who shall be entitled to sit on the team bench in accordance with these instant Regulations.

**6.6.3** The Participating Clubs must submit the Match starting list on the CMS at least ninety (90) minutes prior to the Kick Off of their Match.

**6.6.4** Each Participating Player who is marked on the Player Selection List must be available at the player and equipment check undertaken by the GFA Match Commissioner on the Match day.

**6.6.5** The Participating Club shall provide the Accreditation Cards/GFA Identity Cards of its Participating Players, whose names are listed on the Match starting list to the Match Commissioner at least seventy-five (75) minutes before kick-off. Only those players who are

in possession of Accreditation Cards shall be entitled to play in the Matches.

**6.6.6** Identity cards will be issued to all registered players and these cards will be valid for free admission for all their respective league matches. Identity card cannot be submitted in lieu of registration cards.

**6.6.7** Teams will have to produce the registration cards of all the players listed in the line-up failing which the match will be awarded to the other team. Sanctions will be imposed as per Article 4.2

**6.6.8** After the Match starting list has been completed and submitted by both the Participating Clubs in CMS after Kick Off time minus ninety (90) minutes, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions shall apply:

- a) If any of the eleven (11) Participating Players selected to start the Match is/are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match starting list.
- b) The Team Manager for the Participating Club shall immediately submit an updated 'Player Selection List' to the Match Commissioner, who shall produce an updated 'Match starting list'.
- c) There is no limit to the number of replacements.
- d) The replaced Participating Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Club may still undertake five (5) substitutions during the Match. The Participating Club shall not be entitled to add any further substitutes; the number of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly.
- e) The replaced Participating Player(s) will be required to be seated in the team dressing room for the duration of the Match. If so, they may be subject to doping control.

Teams found guilty of fielding/registering with the GFA such ineligible player(s) shall be further fined up to Rs 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) by the Executive Committee or the Standing Committee. The Guilty player(s) shall stand suspended for the rest of the season and for the full ensuing season.

Definition: Ineligible players are those who have obtained the GFA Registration Card by false and fraudulent means, by signing a false declaration, by filling the wrong form, by producing false or forged documents or by any such act which is done to deliberately misguide the Association in order to obtain a Registration Card and/or player who have played in a match in spite of being suspended by the GFA due to disciplinary sanctions or any other reasons.

The stipulations of Art. 6.6.6 shall apply only in such cases or instances where ineligible player(s) have been listed amongst the first eleven or the substitutes, irrespective of whether the player (s) have actually participated in the match or not.

## **6.7 Registration of Officials**

**6.7.1** Each Participating Club shall register its Participating Officials via the GFA CMS along with the supporting documents within the time as notified by GFA.

**6.7.2** Each Participating Club may register a maximum of seven (7) Officials but only 5 officials are allowed to sit on the bench during a match. The Participating Club shall ensure that among these Officials, compulsorily, one (1) should be a Doctor (with MBBS Degree) or one (1) Physiotherapist with a degree certificate in Physiotherapy, He/she must have a certificate which states that he/she is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The other 4 officials being the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeping Coach and the Team Manager. In addition to this, the Participating Club can register more than one doctor in the panel (maximum 2).

**6.7.3** Office bearers (e.g. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Members of the Board) of the Participating Club can be registered as Team Official Delegation.

**6.7.4** All Team Official Delegation members will be issued with official Accreditation cards. Should a card be misplaced, the Participating Club shall be required to pay INR 1000/- (Indian Rupees One Thousand Only) as a replacement production fee.

**6.7.5** Should the GFA not receive the “Official Registration for Officials” via the GFA CMS with all required documents by the stipulated deadline, the Participating Club shall be considered to have withdrawn from the Competition in accordance with Article 4.3. Proof of submission by facsimile, courier and/or email or by any other means will not be accepted.

**6.7.6** Each Participating Club must appoint a team manager who coordinates with the Match Commissioner regarding all Match-related matters. He/she must represent the Participating Club in all official activities with regards to the Match including compulsory attendance at the match coordination meeting. The appointed team manager of the Participating Club must be registered as one of the Officials. The match coordination meeting shall be chaired by a Match Commissioner.

**6.7.7** Each Participating Club must also appoint a club media officer working exclusively in full time capacity for its entire duration in the Competition and represent the Participating Club in all official activities with regards to the Match. The appointed club media officer must be registered as one of the seven (7) officials. The Club media officer must attend all matches.

**6.7.8** The Participating Club must appoint a club security officer for the Participating Club’s home Matches.

**6.7.9** Once the registration of the Official Team Delegation has been received by the GFA, the Participating Clubs may replace any of the listed Officials at any stage of the Competition by providing forty-eight (48) hours’ notice to the GFA, subject to the below conditions:

- a) To replace an Official, a Participating Club must provide that Official’s Accreditation Card to the GFA and shall receive the Accreditation Card of the replacement Official in exchange. Only when a replacement Official has received his Accreditation Card will he be considered to be registered as a participating official forming part of the Official Team Delegation and eligible to participate in the Competition.

## **6.8 Documents for Registration of Officials**

**6.8.1** Participating officials of the Participating Club must be registered on the GFA CMS,

with the supporting documents set out below:

- a) a colour copy of a verifiable government issued national identification card of any country;
- b) one (1) passport-size colour photo;
- c) evidence of their qualification based upon their function:
  - i) Head Coach: Minimum AFC “A” License or equivalent (under AFC RECC process) for Goa Professional League;
  - ii) Assistant Coach: Minimum AFC “B” License or equivalent (under AFC RECC process) for Goa Professional League;
  - iii) Team Doctor: Copy of MBBS degree or copy of BPT (for Physio).
  - iv) Goalkeeping Coach: if a Participating Club is registering a goalkeeping coach, then in such case, the Participating Club shall ensure a minimum compliance with AFC goalkeeping level “2” or level “B” license or equivalent (under FC RECC process) for Goa Professional league.

**Note: For 2023-24 Season the requirements listed under 6.8.1.C.i, ii, and iv are exempted for clubs**

**6.8.2** All Participating Club officials, including but not limited to, coach, physio, doctor and team manager, need to be registered on the GFA Coach’s Registration system (coaching.the-GFA.com) with their respective credentials.

**6.8.3** Only the Officials in Article 6.8.2 above who are approved in GFA’s Coach’s Registration system will be allowed to be registered on GFA CMS for the Competition. While adding officials in GFA CMS, the Participating Clubs must register the following officials: -

- i. Team Manager;
- ii. Head coach;
- iii. Assistant Coach;
- iv. Doctor or Physiotherapist and
- v. Media Officer
- vi. Goalkeeping Coach

**6.8.4** The GFA Secretariat has a right to ask for further documentations for the clarification of the eligibility of the Officials other than the documentations listed above.

## **7. EQUIPMENT**

### **7.1 GFA Equipment Regulations**

**7.1.1** Each Participating Club must comply with the GFA Equipment Regulations.

**7.1.2** The GFA Equipment Regulations are operational from the arrival of each Team Official Delegation at a Controlled Access Area until the departure of each Team Official Delegation from such areas.



## **7.2 Jersey Colors, Numbers, Players Equipment**

**7.2.1** It is compulsory for the numbers on the attire of the Participating Players to range from one (1) to ninety-nine (99) with number 1 reserved for the goalkeeper.

**7.2.2** Participating Players shall wear the same numbers declared in the GFA CMS, throughout the Competition.

**7.2.3** The Participating Clubs must declare their official and reserve colours along with the entry form in GFA CMS and use these colours for all Matches.

**7.2.4** The Participating Clubs are obliged to bring along their first and second colours kits to the Venue.

**7.2.5** Any Participating Club found guilty of allowing its Participating Players to play in jerseys with numbers other than those registered, shall be subject to disciplinary action, including fines.

**7.2.6** If in the opinion of the Match Commissioner or the Match Referee assessors, the colours of two opposing teams might lead to confusion, or prove unsuitable for television, they shall be changed.

**7.2.7** Numbers shall be of one single colour. A border or shadow outline to ensure better legibility may surround them. They shall be free of advertising, design features or other elements. All Players shall wear numbers on the back of the jerseys (height 25cms) and, optionally, on the shorts (height 10 cms). The captain of a team shall wear a distinctive coloured band on his left shirt sleeve. The goalkeeper shall wear colours which clearly distinguish him from the other players and the referee.

**7.2.8** Participating Players should wear the Logos of the Competition sponsor and co-sponsor on their jerseys, in a manner directed by the GFA.

**7.2.9** Each Participating Club shall submit to the GFA for its approval one (1) sample of each of the kits to be used by it during the Competition, by a date provided by the GFA prior to the date of Commencement of the Competition.

**7.2.10** The Match Commissioner, or anyone duly appointed by him or the GFA, shall have the right and duty to check kit items at the Match Venue and are entitled to confiscate and send any unacceptable items to the GFA Headquarters for further inspection after the Match, as they see fit. The same would not be appealable.

### **7.2.11 Allocation of kit Colours**

The GFA shall decide on the kit colour (jersey, shorts, and socks) to be worn for each Match on the basis of the equipment information submitted by each Participating Team prior to the Matches.

- a) Team A shall be given priority to wear 'official' colours;
- b) Team B shall wear 'official' colours unless they clash with the 'official' colours of Team A;
- c) Team B shall wear 'reserve' colours if its 'official' colours clash with the 'official'

colours of Team A;

d) Team B shall wear a combination of 'official' and 'reserve' colours if it is necessary to avoid a clash with the 'official' colours of Team A; and

e) Team A and Team B shall wear a combination of 'official' and 'reserve' colours if both the 'official' and 'reserve' colours of Team B clash with the 'official' colours of Team A.

Each team shall bring for every match it plays in the Official Competitions a second set of jerseys, distinctly different from the registered colours. When in the opinion of the referee the registered colours of the two teams involved in a match appear similar, he shall call upon the team captains to toss a coin with the losing captain having to change his team's colours. A team losing the toss having failed to bring the second set of jerseys resulting in the match not being held shall be fined up to Rs. 2,500/- (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred Only) and the match shall be awarded to the opponents.

A team reported by the referee not to have numbers on the jerseys of their players shall be fined up to Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only) by the Executive Committee or the Standing Committee.

### **7.3 Responsibility**

**7.3.1** The GFA Secretariat/GFA would decide finally regarding items mentioned in the GFA Equipment Regulations. The GFA Secretariat declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from these Regulations upon contracts between a Participating Club and its sponsor(s) on account of the advertising provisions of the GFA Equipment Regulations.

**7.3.2** Each Member Association and the Participating Clubs agree to hold the GFA Secretariat/GFA harmless from any and all damages which may arise from decisions regarding kits.

## **8. MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING**

### **8.1 Medical Facilities, Staff and Treatment**

**8.1.1** Participating Clubs must pay for any and all costs of hospitalization, surgical operation and specialized investigative procedures for all members of its Team Official Delegation.

**8.1.2** The LOC will provide an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for all Matches. This is mandatory at all Matches and must be placed next to the 4th Official's seat or the medical bench.

**8.1.3** All Participating Clubs shall provide ample insurance cover to their Participating Players and Officials, including injury, accident and health during the Competition along with travel insurance. In the event of any injury to a Participating Player or an Official during a Match, the responsibility of the Club will be to take the injured Participating Player/Official to the nearest hospital as soon as possible and the entire cost of his medication/doctors fee has to be borne by the Participating Club whose Participating Player or Official is injured.

## **9. DISCIPLINARY**

## **9.1 Disciplinary Measures**

**9.1.1** All disciplinary measures in relation to the Competition shall be undertaken in accordance with the current GFA Statutes, GFA Disciplinary Code and any relevant GFA guideline, directive or circular as issued by the GFA.

**9.1.2** Decisions of the Executive Committee/Standing Committees/Disciplinary Committee on all matters regarding the Official Competitions of the Goa Football Association shall be binding on all concerned. Appeals against these decisions may be lodged in accordance with the constitution of the Goa Football Association. Collective Members or Individuals punished with the imposition of a fine shall remain suspended until the fine is paid.

**9.1.2** The GFA may introduce new disciplinary rules and sanctions for the duration of the Competition. Such rules may be communicated to the Member Associations prior to Commencement of the Competition.

**9.1.3** All Participating Players agree to:

- a) respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
- b) behave accordingly;
- c) refrain from doping; and
- d) refrain from indulging in Match fixing or corruption.

**9.1.4** The GFA Disciplinary Committee, based on the nature of the breach, violation or contravention or compliant, may either on its own or on the basis of any complaint received, initiate investigations and take measures for any breach, violation or non-performance or otherwise in accordance with GFA Statutes, the GFA Disciplinary Code, any other relevant regulations, guidelines, decisions or the relevant GFA circular(s) or directions otherwise as per law.

**9.1.5** The decisions and the report of the Match Referee and/or Match Officials regarding any act, incident or issue on or outside the field of play shall be considered to be final, authoritative and binding and would generally not be open to appeal unless substantive incontrovertible proof of any obvious inaccuracy or error is established by authentic documentations beyond any reasonable doubt.

**9.1.6** A breach of any provision of these Competition Regulations may result in sanctions as per the GFA Disciplinary Code.

## **9.2 Good Conduct**

**9.2.1** Each Participating Club is directly liable for the improper conduct of any member of its Team Official Delegation; and/or any person affiliated to it and/or carrying out duties on its behalf throughout the Competition.

**9.2.2** Any Participating Player or Official reported for without limitation, any indiscipline or unbecoming or unsporting conduct, violence, or overt act of any nature or conduct amounting to misconduct anywhere including but not limited to the Field of Play, the changing rooms, at the Official Training Sites and in the hotels or otherwise reported by the

Referee or the Match Commissioner or any Participating Club or any other person shall be dealt with by the GFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the applicable Regulations, Code, Guidelines as may be deemed necessary.

### **9.3 Cautions and Expulsions**

**9.3.1** All matters relating to cautions and/or expulsions, including the carrying forward of cautions between stages of the Competition, shall be undertaken in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Code except where expressly set out below.

**9.3.2** A Participating Player who receives five (5) cautions (yellow cards) in five (5) different League Matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the fifth caution unless already serving a suspension, in which case, the pending suspension [on the basis of receiving five (5) cautions as mentioned above] will get carried forward to the next Match. If a player who has a previous caution is expelled (direct red card) in a match, the previous caution will continue. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld.

**9.3.3** In Play Off Matches, a participating player who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) in two different matches shall be suspended for the next match. The yellow cards will be wiped out at the end of the League stage, ie, players receiving two or less cards at the end of the League stage shall start with no yellow cards at the start of the Play Off's stage. However if a player has received a third yellow card in the last League match, he shall be suspended for the first match of the play-offs.

**9.3.4** A Team Official who receives two (2) cautions (yellow cards) in two (2) different League Matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the second caution unless already serving a suspension, in which case the pending suspension will get carried forward to the next Match (on the basis of receiving two (2) cautions as mentioned above).

**9.3.5** A Participating Player and/or Official who received a red card during the Competition shall automatically be suspended from the Match following the Match in which he received the red card. In addition, based on the gravity of the offence, the GFA Disciplinary Committee may extend the suspension and impose further additional sanction as per the Disciplinary Code. If the Participating Player and/or Official received the red card in his Participating Club's last Match in the Competition, the suspension for the red card will be carried forward as indicated in the GFA Disciplinary Code.

**9.3.6** A suspended Participating Player and Official shall not be allowed on the substitution bench, technical area and the Dressing Room area.

**9.3.7** Each Participating Club shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Participating Players and Officials and to ensure that all Participating Players and Officials registered and/or fielded during the Competition are eligible to play. The same can be monitored via the GFA CMS.

**9.3.8** If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the

cautions are upheld.

If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match abandoned, cancelled or finally forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the fact that led to abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture of the match. It shall be incumbent upon the teams to observe these primary suspensions without any further intimation from the Goa Football Association. Clubs fielding such players will forfeit the match to the opponents.

**9.3.9** Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee on all matters shall be based solely on the written reports of referee(s), asst. referees and inspectors/match commissioner/observer/local organiser. The Committee may also refer to video recordings and photographs if necessary. This is left entirely to the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

**9.3.10** Disciplinary sanctions against team(s), player(s) and official(s) shall be communicated in writing to the team concerned. All disciplinary sanctions will be informed by hand delivery, registered post, fax, email or courier service at the address of the Club mentioned in the Official Entry Form. Disciplinary sanctions against players will be sent care of Club for which they are registered and it is incumbent on the Club to deliver the letter to the concerned player. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be placed before the Executive Committee Members at its ensuing meeting, for information.

#### **9.4 Protest**

**9.4.1** Subject to the following provisions, protests are objections of any kind to occurrences that have a direct effect on Matches organized in the Competition (which may include without limitation the state and marking of the Field of Play, accessories, Match equipment, eligibility of Participating Players, Match Venue installations and footballs) and any matters related to breach of these Regulations.

**9.4.2** Unless otherwise stipulated, to be considered valid, protests shall be:

- a) submitted in writing on the Protest Form to the GFA Match Commissioner within two (2) hours of the end of the Match in question;
- b) followed up with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, sent to the GFA Secretariat by email at [gfa\\_goals@yahoo.com](mailto:gfa_goals@yahoo.com) or by courier at the address set out below: Goa Football Association, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atamaram Commercial Complex, Opp. Axis Bank, Nr, Mahalaxmi Temple, Panjim-Goa 403001
- c) accompanied by a non-refundable fee of INR 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) submitted within forty-eight (48) hours from the end of the Match.

**9.4.3** Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the Match Referee by the Participating Club's captain immediately after the disputed incident and before the play has been resumed. The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the GFA Match Commissioner by the manager of the Club's Team Official Delegation no later than two (2) hours after the Match.

**9.4.4** No protests shall lie against the Referee's on field decisions and regarding facts

connected with play. Such decisions are final and cannot be appealed unless in cases of obvious errors, as per the Disciplinary Code. Should the GFA Disciplinary Committee determine that a protest is unfounded or irresponsible, it may impose a fine and the protest fee of INR 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) will be forfeited.

**9.4.5** If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded. Following the completion of the final Match of the Competition, all protests shall be disregarded.

All protests complying with the requirements of Article 9.4.1, Article 9.4.2 and Article 9.4.3 shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee/Official Competitions Committee/Emergency Committee of the GFA for a decision, by the GFA Secretariat. The protest fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld and forfeited if the protest is rejected.

Decision on any protest shall be taken by the appropriate committee within a period of 15 days from the date on which the protest is received. However, in cases which require expeditious decision, the appropriate committee shall take decision so that the progress of the tournament is not hampered. Decisions on all protests by the Executive Committee or the Official Competitions Committee shall be final and binding on all concerned. An appeal against a decision of the Executive Committee or the official competitions committee may be made to the Arbitration Tribunal within 10 days of receipt of intimation of such outright rejection, accompanied by a non-refundable appeal fee of Rs. 15000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only). Decision of the Arbitration Tribunal on all such appeals shall be final and binding on all concerned.

**9.4.6** Protest against the eligibility of any player(s) shall be lodged according to Article 6.2.4 and Article 9 of these regulations by the protesting team, with the match Commissioner or his duly appointed representative or the GFA Secretariat in Panjim, accompanied by a protest fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only). The protest fee shall be refunded if the protest is upheld and forfeited if the protest is rejected.

Protest lodged under Article 6.2.4 shall be decided finally by the Executive Committee or by a subcommittee which has been appointed by the GFA Executive Committee under provisions of the GFA Constitution. Such protest being upheld, all matches won or drawn by the guilty team when fielding the ineligible player(s) shall be declared lost by a score of 3-0; all matches won by a margin of less than three goals by the opponents of the guilty team when it fielded the ineligible player(s) shall also be declared won by a margin of three goals difference by adding the required number to the standing result. If, however, the winning margin is more than three goals, it shall remain unaltered.

## **9.5 Dispute Resolution**

**9.5.1** Any dispute in connection with the Competition shall, at the first instance, be attempted to be promptly settled by mediation.

**9.5.2** In compliance with the GFA Constitution, the Participating Clubs, their Member Associations, Participating Players and Participating Officials are prohibited from initiating disputes in an ordinary court of law and must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the GFA first and exhaust all internal remedies.

**9.5.3** In the event that a resolution through mediation fails, then in such cases, the Participating Clubs, their Football Associations, Participating Players and Participating

Officials shall take recourse to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**). The CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall be applicable. The language of arbitration shall be English.

**9.5.4** The jurisdiction of the CAS to resolve disputes is only available where it has not been expressly excluded or a decision is declared as final and binding and not appealable.

**9.5.5** In the event that any party yet decides to approach a court of law, the courts in Goa shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the matter.

## **10. GFA COMPETITION AND OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES**

### **10.1 GFA Official Competitions Committee**

**10.1.1** GFA Official Competitions shall be responsible to hold and organize the Competition and deal with and/or arrive at all decision-making processes and issues mentioned hereunder or otherwise so provided in these Regulations, unless otherwise expressly excluded.

**10.1.2** GFA shall draw the fixtures (Match Schedule); decide the televised and non-televised venues in consultation with the Broadcasting Sponsors/Partners.

**10.1.3** Except as expressly provided, the GFA Official Competitions Committee shall recommend actions on matters arising out of any disputes concerning the Participating Clubs, Officials and Participating Players or the Match Commissioner or Match Officials should any of them fail to comply with these Regulations or any other rules and regulations of the GFA or of any decisions or directives given by the GFA.

**10.1.4** Save as expressly provided in these Regulations, the GFA Official Competitions Committee may convene meetings with Participating Club's representatives to sort out any issues between Participating Clubs, and/or between Participating Clubs and Participating Players or any other disputes concerning the organisation of the Competition.

**10.1.5** GFA Official Competitions Committee shall provide due and necessary clarifications or explanations in the event of any doubt regarding the interpretation of these Regulations or any other related matters and its decision shall be final and binding.

**10.1.6** The GFA Official Competitions Committee shall constitute various sub committees, which may be required, for the smooth conduct of the Competition.

**10.1.7** The GFA Official Competitions Committee shall coordinate the work of various Committees or agencies involved in the organisation of the Competition.

**10.1.8** The GFA League Committee shall be at liberty to add, alter, modify or change any part of these Regulations whenever necessary.

### **10.2 Disciplinary Committee**

**10.2.1** Save as have been expressly provided in these Regulations, the GFA Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all disciplinary matters related to the Competition in accordance with the provisions of the GFA Disciplinary Code.

**10.2.2** In its decisions the Disciplinary Committee shall rely upon, amongst others, the GFA

Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

**10.2.3** The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based, inter alia, on the written reports of the Referee, the Match commissioner and the referees assessor. The Committee may also, if deemed necessary, refer to and rely upon any other evidence, like television and video recordings, reports and others by whatever name called.

**10.2.4** Appeal may be lodged with the Appeals Committee of the GFA/ or any Committee duly constituted by the GFA, against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The procedure followed by the Appeal Committee shall be in accordance with those provided in the applicable GFA regulations.

### **10.3 Referees Sub-Committee**

**10.3.1** The Referees Sub-Committee for the Competition shall be appointed by the GFA.

**10.3.2** The Referees Sub-Committee for the Competition will finalise the panel of Referees for the Competition. They will appoint the Referees, Referees assessor/Match Commissioner for the Matches.

Each team shall provide, at the request of the referee, an official, unlisted player or supporter to officiate as club assistant referee. The referee as stipulated by FIFA shall detail duties of such club assistant referee to them. Refusal on part of any team to provide a club assistant referee when requisitioned by the referee resulting in a match not being held or abandoned shall be punishable according to Article 11.1.2 of these regulations.

## **11. ADMINISTRATION**

### **11.1.1 Referees And Other Match Officials:-**

**11.1.1** After completion of each Match, the Referee, Fourth Official and Match Commissioner shall fill the official report form and claim form in GFA CMS.

**11.1.2** In the event of any act of gross indiscipline by the Participating Players, Officials or organisers (LOC), the Match Commissioner shall fill up the confidential report in the GFA CMS soon after the conclusion of the Match.

If the referee becomes unfit during a match, only a neutral asst. referee can replace him, there being only club assistant referee for a match when a referee becomes unfit, the match shall be called off and replayed at a time, date and venue to be decided by the Executive/Official Competition Committee.

The stipulations of above article shall not apply when a referee has become unfit as result of assault or manhandling by players, officials or supporters of a team.

The appointed referee of a match being absent the higher ranked neutral assistant referee present will act as the referee of the match. Both the referee and the higher ranked neutral assistant referee being absent, the other neutral assistant referee will act as the referee.

The referee of the match under above will then appoint neutral asst. referee/s if he finds such qualified persons present at the venue; there being no such persons present he shall ask the team captains to toss, the losing team shall provide a club asst. referee. Where both assistant referees are required, there shall be no toss and each team will be required to provide a club asst. referee.

A team refusing to provide a club assistant referee under Article 10.3.2 and the referee



therefore being unable to conduct the match, the concerned team shall be punished with the forfeiture of the match with 3-0 result to the opponents; a fine up to Rs. 2,500/- (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred Only) shall also be further imposed by the Executive Committee or the Standing committee.

The duties of club assistant referee shall be as detailed in the memorandum of Co-operation between Referees and Assistant Referees-law 5 and 6, as contained in the Laws of the Game and Universal Guide for Referees published by FIFA.

## **11.2 Trophies, Medals & Prizes**

**11.2.1** The Winner of the League shall be awarded a trophy and cash prizes will be announced before the Competition starts. Rolling Trophies shall be returned to the GFA 30 days after the end of the presentation ceremony.

## **11.3 Prize Presentation Ceremony**

**11.3.1** A prize presentation ceremony, managed and controlled by GFA Secretariat and coordinated with its partners and the Competition's marketing partner, if any, will be held after the end of the tournament to award the Trophy/Medals and cash prizes. GFA shall provide the trophies for awards wherever applicable. An award night shall be held at the end of every season.

## **11.4 Special Provisions**

**11.4.1** The GFA Official Competitions Committee shall, in conjunction with the LOC, issue any instructions necessitated by special circumstances which might arise in the organisation of the Matches. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

**11.4.2** Jurisdiction relating to adjudication of any dispute shall, unless provided otherwise in these Regulations or under any Code or Statute of the GFA, shall be at Goa, being the headquarter of the GFA.

Decisions of the Executive Committee or Standing committees of the GFA relating to all matter concerning the Official Competitions shall be binding on all concerned. Disputes (but not protest and appeals) shall be governed by FIFA, AFC, AIFF, GFA Statutes and Regulations. Changes in and amendments to these regulations can only be made by the Executive committee of the GFA.

Changes shall be notified to all Member Clubs within seven days of the amendments being approved by the Executive Committee of the GFA.

## **11.5 Fair Play**

**11.5.1** In every Match of the Competition, Fair Play shall be actively promoted through the FIFA Fair Play flags, etc.

**11.5.2** The Fair Play qualities of the participating teams and which are pertinent to the spectators will be evaluated using the FIFA Fair Play evaluation form.

**11.5.3** A Fair Play contest shall also be run during the Goa Professional League.

## **11.6 Intellectual Property**

**11.6.1** The GFA is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights connected with the Competition, including any current or future rights of the Competition's name, logos, brands, medals and trophies. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written consent of the GFA/GFA Secretariat, and must always conform to the instructions and guidelines on correct usage as issued by the GFA from time to time.

## **11.7 Decisions**

**11.7.1** All decisions made in accordance with these Regulations, except where expressly identified otherwise, are final and binding and not appealable.

## **11.8 Amendments**

**11.8.1** The GFA reserves the right to make amendments to any part of these Regulations for any reason whatsoever from time to time.

## **12. CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **12.1 Code of Conduct**

**12.1.1** By agreeing to take part in the Competition, the Participating Clubs' Team Official Delegation members agree to abide by the following code of conduct.

- a) Be punctual on all occasion including but not limited to field of play, press meets, meetings, Match day countdown etc.;
- b) Respect the decision of the GFA;
- c) Respect the Laws of the Game, the Referee, Match Commissioner and their decisions;
- d) Display and promote high standards of exemplary behaviour;
- e) Promote Fair Play;
- f) Always respect Match Officials' decisions;
- g) Never engage or participate in public criticism of the Match Officials;
- h) Never indulge in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
- i) Never engage in any brawl, bullying, intimidation, and physical or verbal assault, abusing language or harassment;
- j) Speak to teammates, officials of own team and opponent team with respect;
- k) Win or lose with dignity;
- l) No Participating Player/Official of a Participating Club shall make any adverse comment anytime against opponent Club or the GFA or any of its officials;
- m) No Participating Player/Official shall make any adverse comment anytime against the host Football Association or LOC;
- n) No player/official of a Participating Club shall make any adverse comment anytime

against GFA/the Competition;

o) Any Participating Player or Official who insults someone in any way by using offensive gestures or language or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is found to be unsporting in any other way or uses violence or threat to pressure any Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder him from acting as per free will, shall be sanctioned with severe punishment in accordance with the GFA Disciplinary Code.

**12.1.2** The herein mentioned code of conduct is not an exhaustive list, but indicative only.

### **13. MATTERS RELATED TO MATCH FIXING AND CORRUPTION**

Matters related to match fixing and corruption will be dealt with as specified in the GFA Disciplinary Code and GFA Ethics Code. The GFA has appointed an Integrity Officer who will work as a single point of contact (SPOC) in matters relating to the integrity of games.

The following guidelines are being issued with the purpose of safeguarding the integrity of the game of football and to protect the game from match fixing and corruption : -

**a)** The Participating Players, coaches, team officials etc. shall report to their Nodal officer/ Integrity officer of GFA, any matter concerning match fixing, corruption, manipulation or any such infringement or attempt to influence the match to preserve the integrity of the game.

**b)** The Integrity Declaration form (ID Form) is to be signed by all the Participating Players, coaches, referees and match officials before the Commencement of Competition. The team manager shall obtain the signature of Participating Players and match officials on the ID Form, a copy of which is to be sent to the Integrity Officer of GFA.

**c)** In case of any suspicion of match fixing or corruption with cogent evidence against any Participating Player, coach, referee, match official or Participating Club etc., an enquiry may be conducted, subsequent to which he can be removed or substituted or suspended on the direction of GFA and will not be allowed to further participate till the conclusion of such enquiry. All Participating Players, coaches, referees, match officials, Participating Clubs etc. are required to cooperate with such enquiry in the interest of preserving the integrity of the game.

**d)** The use of mobile phones, internet or any communication device is prohibited in the Controlled Access Area and dug out (technical) until the game is over.

**e)** The team manager shall take charge of all the communication devices viz: mobile, laptop, tablet etc. available with the Participating Players, coaches and team officials, at the time of arrival on the ground.

**f)** Integrity briefings shall be held by the Integrity officer and in his absence, by the Match Commissioner, to emphasize the adverse impact on persons found to be involved in unfair activities, by way of sanction, penal action etc. Such integrity briefings shall be held prior to the Commencement of Competition during the pre-match briefing.

**g)** The Referees, Referee Assessor and Match Commissioners are forbidden to give any interview, press statement etc. to the media.

**h)** The Participating Players, coaches, referees shall not divulge any internal matter of the team to their families, friends or any one.

## **14. RESIDUARY**

### **14.1 Force Majeure**

**14.1.1** The GFA Official Competitions Committee is the only body capable of declaring and accepting the operation of a Force Majeure event.

### **14.2 Matters not provided for**

**14.2.1** Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the GFA Executive Committee. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

**Agreed and accepted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**[insert Licensee entity's full corporate name]**

**Designation:** \_\_\_\_\_