

## TOURNAMENT RULES OF THE BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION





# **BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

## **Tournament Rules**

**Amended January 2015**

### **BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

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## **1. APPLICATION**

These rules shall govern all competitions played under the auspices of the Barbados Football Association (BFA) and are applicable to all affiliated members.

## **2. INTERPRETATION**

References to the male gender in the Rules in respect of players, referees or officials are for simplification and apply to both men and women.

## **3. PLAYERS' ELIGIBILITY**

- A Bona fide members of Clubs affiliated to the BFA, shall be eligible to participate in these competitions, subject to Rule 4 Registration Items
- (I) A maximum six (6) overseas players can be registered for each club. All six (6) players can be on the field of play at any given time.
  - (II) Such registrations, where necessary, must be implemented under the relevant FIFA regulations pertaining to the international transfer of players.
  - (III) Where Clubs and player(s) enter into playing agreements of any kind, a copy of such agreement must be submitted to the BFA with the player(s) registration form(s).
  - (IV) Clubs which register players under the age of eighteen (18) years, must obtain the form provided by the BFA

which gives permission and must be attached to the player's registration form.

- (V) All competitions, except those for the Under-15 and below, shall be gender exclusive.

#### **4. REGISTRATION**

##### **A. CLUBS.**

Each affiliated club desirous of participating in these competitions must be registered on the appropriate BFA form. These completed forms must be returned to the Secretariat, BFA on or before the deadline determined by the BFA, accompanied with the appropriate registration, affiliation and competition fees, as outlined below:-

- (1). Entrance fee: [new clubs only]: \$200.00
- (2). Annual subscription: [all clubs]: \$200.00
- (3). Competition fee - Challenge Cup: \$100.00

##### **B. PLAYERS**

- (I) Each eligible player must be registered, through one club, on the appropriate BFA form, which are available at the BFA headquarters or on the BFA website at [www.barbadosfa.com](http://www.barbadosfa.com).
- (II) A player is permitted to represent one (1) club only during that calendar year



- (III) Players shall be registered as amateur, non-amateur or professional, as contained in the special regulations of FIFA, governing the status and transfer of players.
- (IV) Players shall have a written contract with the club which employed/registered them. These contracts shall be lodged with the BFA.
- (V) The BFA may stipulate additional provisions to be included in every contract between a club and any player registered with the BFA for any of its competitions.
- (VI) All clubs and players are reminded of Rule 4 Registration above and that the registration process is complete only when, if applicable, the completed transfer form and the appropriate fees are submitted to the BFA.
- (VII) Each club participating in the Premier League shall register a minimum of twenty (20) players and five (5) officials at a registration fee of forty-five dollars (\$ 45.00) each.
- (VIII) Each Club participating in Division One shall register a minimum of twenty [20] players and five [5] officials, at a registration fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) and forty-five dollars (\$45.00) respectively.
- (IX) Each Club participating in Women's Premier League, Division Two and Division Three shall register a minimum of twenty [20] players and five [5 ] officials, at a registration fee of twenty (\$ 20.00) and thirty (\$30.00) dollars each, respectively.

- (X) The BFA will not sanction any club or player in any competition until such club or player has complied with the requirements of registration.
- (XI) All registered players in the Premier League, Division One and all National selectees are permitted to play only BFA competitions.
- (XII) This rule MUST be strictly observed. Players, clubs or leagues who contravene this rule SHALL be disciplined by the BFA. BFA competitions refer to competitions directly organised by the BFA (See Rule 6 Item A). ALL member Clubs are directed to bring this rule to the specific attention of their registered players.
- (XIII) A Club which enters two (2) teams must register thirty-six or more players in the Premier League, Division 1 and Division 2. Reserve League players will pay a fee of forty-five (\$45.00), thirty (\$30.00) and twenty (\$20.00) dollars respectively.

**C. IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

- (I) All registered players and officials in ALL competition SHALL be issued with the appropriate ID Cards.
- (II) Each ID card is valid for one (1) year, and remains the property of the BFA. Premier League players and officials are granted free entry to Premier League matches on presenting their ID cards to the appropriate gate personnel during the domestic season.

- (III) All ID cards must be surrendered to the BFA when requested by the General Secretary or any other authorized official with identification.
- (IV) There is a replacement fee of \$20.00 for all ID cards lost or disfigured.
- (V) The BFA reserves the right to withdraw I.D. cards where abuse of the system, in any form, is ascertained.

## **5. LAWS OF THE GAME**

These competitions shall be played under the Laws of the Game, currently in force, as authorized by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA ([www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)).

## **6. GEAR AND EQUIPMENT**

- (I) The basic, compulsory equipment of a player shall consist of the following separate items. Jersey or shirt with sleeves, shorts and stockings, shin guards and boots. Shirts / Jerseys MUST be worn inside shorts at all times.
- (II) The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal slogans, images or statements. The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment has political, religious or personal slogans or, images or statement will be sanctioned by the Executive Board.
- (III) Shin guards, which must be covered entirely by the

- stockings, shall be made of a suitable material - rubber, plastic, polyurethane or similar material - and shall afford an acceptable degree of protection.
- (IV) A player shall not be permitted to wear anything considered dangerous to himself or another player, during games. e.g. earrings, rings, chains etc.
  - (V) Any player who fails to comply with the above rules shall be debarred from participating in games, until he complies.
  - (VI) The Referee and or Match Commissioner is the sole arbiter of gear and equipment.
  - (VII) Players' names may be worn on the backs of jerseys during the tournaments.
  - (VIII) Matching numbers MUST be worn on jerseys and shorts by all players.
  - (IX) Players must wear shin guards which must be entirely covered by the stockings. If tape or similar materials are applied externally they must be clear or of the same colour as the part of the stockings to which it is applied

Where a head-cover is worn, it must:

- a. be black or of the same main colour as the jersey
- b. be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- c. not be attached to the jersey
- d. not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other players.
- e. not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements).

## **7. COMPETITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE BFA**

- (I) The Organising Committee of the BFA shall organize and manage the following competitions:
- (II) The Football Association's League competitions:
  - a. The Premier League & Reserve League
  - b. Division One & Reserve League
  - c. Division Two & Reserve League
  - d. Division Three
- (III) The Challenge Cup
- (IV) The Women's Premier League
- (V) Such other competitions as the BFA may decide, from time to time.
- (VI) Affiliated Leagues shall be responsible for the organization and management of their individual domestic competitions, with the prior approval of the BFA.
- (VII) Players registered with the BFA shall not, under any circumstances, play in any competition which has not been sanctioned by the BFA. Registered Leagues/Clubs shall be informed of all tournaments which have been sanctioned by the BFA.
- (VIII) Organizers of all Leagues and other tournaments sanctioned by the BFA must provide the BFA with relevant tournament rules, fixtures, results of games and other material relevant to the conduct of the

- tournament. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a disciplinary action/penalty against the offending party/parties.
- (IX) All League tournaments shall be played during the period of the BFA Competitions.
  - (X) Under no circumstances shall Leagues or Clubs allow persons/players to participate in competitions under assumed names. Leagues, Clubs or players who are found guilty of such infractions shall be liable to disciplinary action by the BFA.
  - (XI) Organizers of all Leagues and tournaments shall ensure that all players registered to play in their competitions show appropriate identification when required to do so.

## **8. PLAYING OF MATCHES**

- (I) Each registered; participating Club shall play such matches, in each competition, as determined and scheduled by the BFA.
- (II) Games can only be changed, in date, time or venue, with the prior approval of the BFA. Notification of such changes must be communicated to participating Clubs forty-eight (48) hours ahead of the scheduled kick off time.
- (III) The home team is responsible for the preparation (cutting and marking) of the field on which the match is to be played. Failure to comply will result in the

- home team forfeiture of the match and a fined of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) payable before the next fixtured match, unless in case of force majeure.
- (IV) The home team may inform the Organising Committee Seventy two (72) hours prior to the schedule match if the field is not prepared or available for the match. The home team is responsible for finding a suitable alternate venue acceptable to the BFA to play the match.
  - (V) All team officials and players participating in BFA Competition must present their ID cards to the Match Commissioner and/or Referee prior to commencement of the game.
  - (VI) A team which cannot present at least seven (7) valid I.D cards to the referee(s) or Match Commissioner before the appointed time for the start of the match shall default that game.
  - (VII) The referee shall withhold the ID cards of all players / officials sent from the field of play or from the bench during the game and shall return the remaining cards to the respective management officials at the conclusion of the game. A player or official who is sent off and fails to surrender his ID card shall be suspended for two matches
  - (VIII) ID cards withheld shall be submitted to the BFA Secretariat with the relevant Referee's Report. Clubs are responsible for retrieving ID cards withheld from the BFA Office.

- (IX) All Division Two and Three matches must be played whether or not the assigned referee is present. The designated home Club shall provide a substitute referee when the assigned official is not present to commence the game.

**Members of the Barbados Football Referees Association, who are in possession of valid I.D. cards, are authorised to officiate, on advising the opposing captains, in any game in the event of the unavailability of the assigned Referee and or Assistant Referee(s).**

- (X) All matches in the Premier League and from the Round of Sixteen (16) in the Challenge Cup Competition shall have four (4) referees. Division One and Women's Premier League shall have three (3) referees, but must have at least two (2) officials for the match to begin.
- (XI) In the event of a game at a neutral ground, the Club named first on the fixture SHALL be deemed the 'home' club.
- (XII) Before the commencement of each game, the captain of each team must submit two (2) appropriately completed copies of his team sheet, on the relevant BFA forms, to the referee, who shall give one copy to the opposing captain and submit the other to the BFA Secretariat with the Referee's Report.
- (XIII) In league competitions, three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.



- (XIV) Three points and three goals shall be awarded to a team winning by default. Six points and three goals shall be debited against the defaulting team.
- (XV) A club which defaults four (4) or more games during the season may be debarred entry to the competition the following year, and may be fined Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00 ) or further sanctioned by the Disciplinary Board
- (XVI) Goal difference shall be used to resolve ties on points, in the first instance, then the higher number of goals scored by either team. If there is still no resolution the scores of their direct match or matches, if still not resolved the number of wins, and the final resolution shall be a playoff.
- (XVII) Notwithstanding anything contain herein any Club which contravenes Rule 7 may be liable to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and such other disciplinary action as the BFA may impose.

## **9. WITHDRAWAL, PUNCTUALITY AND PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO PLAY OR PARADE**

- (I) Clubs which voluntarily withdraw from any BFA League Tournament with the permission of the BFA, shall be eligible to return to the League in a Division to be determined by the Executive Board, and such further disciplinary action as determined by the disciplinary Board
- (II) Any Club which withdraws from a competition,

- without the written permission of the Executive Council, shall be debarred from playing in the BFA's competitions for the following two (2) years.
- (III) Such clubs shall be eligible to return to the league in a lower Division or any other division as determined by the Executive Board.
  - (IV) Withdrawals, which are notified fewer than ten (10) days before the opening date of the competition will attract a fine of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and forfeiture of entry fees.
  - (V) A Club withdrawing after the start of the competition shall automatically be fined Three hundred Dollars (\$300.00) and forfeiture of entry fees.
  - (VI) The BFA Executive Board on the advice of the organising committee may replace a club(s) withdrawing from the competition by nomination or a playoff
  - (VII) Teams should be present at the match venue at least one hour (1hr) before the schedule start of matches in the Premier league and Division One and half hour (1/2 hr) for Division Two and Three.
  - (VIII) Teams failing to report for a match except in cases of force majeure shall be fined Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) payable before the next fixtured match. The team may also be referred to the Disciplinary Board for further action.
  - (IX) If a team refuses to continue playing or leave the

field before the end of the match, the team shall be considered as having lost the match and the opponents shall be awarded three (3) points with a score of 3-0. However, if the score already attained in the match by the other team has a larger goal difference than 3-0 the larger score shall remain valid. The guilty team in addition to forfeiture of the match shall be referred to the Disciplinary Board for further action.

- (X) **Teams failing to parade with a full complement of players shall have six points deducted.**

## **10. PREMIER LEAGUE**

- (I) Games shall be of two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- (II) (a). The competition shall be played on a round robin basis, with two rounds of matches.
- (b). Positions in the league shall be determined by the aggregate of points achieved by each participating club at the end of the competition
- (III) Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.
- (IV) The two clubs which finish the competition last and second last , shall be demoted to Division One.
- (V) Teams/Clubs who have five or more players representing a national selection, and they being called to national duty simultaneously, can request a

postponement of their fixture(s). Such request must be made at least 72 hours before the scheduled fixture.

- (VI) Players who are called to national duty are deemed to be on loan from their respective Clubs. The BFA shall notify Clubs of those players called to national duty.

## **11. WOMEN 'S PREMIER LEAGUE**

- (I) Games shall be of two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- (II)
  - (a). The competition shall be played on a round robin basis, with two rounds of matches.
  - (b). Positions in the league shall be determined by the aggregate of points achieved by each participating club at the end of the competition.
- (III) Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss
- (IV) Players who are called to national duty are deemed to be on loan from their respective Clubs. The BFA shall notify Clubs of those players called to national duty

## **12. DIVISION ONE LEAGUE**

- (I) Games in this division shall be of two (2) forty-five (45) minute periods, with an interval of (15) minutes.
- (II) The Division One league shall be played on a round robin basis with two rounds of games.

- (III) The Clubs placing first and second at the end of the competition shall be promoted to the Premier League.
- (IV) The Clubs which finish in the lowest three positions at the end of the competition shall be relegated to Division Two.
- (V) Division One games shall be played at such times and venues as determined by the BFA.
- (VI) Each Club participating in a game shall be responsible, in equal measure, for the payment of the Assistant Referees' fees of \$ 30.00 per Club. The fees should be paid to the Referee, no later than half-time of each game

### **13. DIVISION TWO LEAGUE**

- (I) Games in this Division shall be of two (2) forty-five minute (45) periods, with a fifteen (15) minute interval.
- (II) The competition shall be played on a round-robin basis of two rounds, within three zones, as determined by the BFA, as the first stage.
- (III) At the end of the round-robin, the BFA shall determine the fixtures for the playoff round, to determine the final placement for this competition.
- (IV) Each zone winner shall be promoted to Division One.
- (V) The Clubs which place last in each zone at the end of the competition, shall be relegated to Division three

#### **14. DIVISION THREE LEAGUE**

- (I) Games in this division shall be of two (2) forty-five (45) minute periods, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- (II) This competition shall be on a round robin basis, with two rounds, within three zones, or as determined by the BFA.
- (III) At the end of the round-robin the BFA shall determine the fixtures for the playoff round, to determine the final placing for this competition.
- (IV) Each zone winner shall be promoted to Division Two

#### **15. CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION**

- (I) This competition shall be open to all registered Clubs participating in any of the BFA domestic league competitions as at Rule 7 item I.
- (II) All games shall be played on a “one game knock-out” system.
- (III) All necessary byes shall be given in the preliminary round(s) of the competition.
- (IV) All games shall be of two forty-five minute (45) periods, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes. If a game is tied at normal time there will be two fifteen minute extra time periods.
- (V) If, at the end of extra-time, the game is still tied, the

winner shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty-spot, according to FIFA regulations.

**16. RESERVE LEAGUES  
(PREMIER, DIVISION ONE & DIVISION TWO)**

- (I) Each club shall have no more than two (2) teams; A league team and reserve team.
- (II) The Reserve League team will play only in the club's registered division.
- (III) There will be no Reserve League for Division Three
- (IV) In the event that a club is promoted/relegated from the League, its Reserve League team will be promoted/relegated to that Division.
- (V) Each game shall be two equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes.
- (VI) The competitions shall be played for one round of matches in Premier League.
- (VII) There will be one officiating referee in each game of the Reserve Leagues.
- (VIII) Positions in the Reserve Leagues will be determined by the aggregate of points achieved by the participating Club at the end of the competition.

## **17. GENERAL**

- (I) Players, Clubs and Leagues affiliated to the BFA shall only take part in football competitions which are sanctioned by the BFA.
- (II) The Organisers of leagues and or tournaments sanctioned by the BFA shall inform the BFA, in writing, within forty-eight hours, of all disciplinary decisions taken by such leagues and or tournaments
- (III) Organizers of Leagues and or tournaments sanctioned by the BFA shall honour disciplinary actions taken on players, officials or Clubs, other Leagues and or tournaments sanctioned by the BFA. The responsibility to police this measure rests with the Leagues and or tournaments. If a player or Club feels aggrieved by a decision taken by the organizers of a tournament, such player or Club may appeal to the BFA, which shall adjudicate in the matter.
- (IV) Each Club shall provide public liability insurance for all matches played on its home ground in all BFA competitions.
- (V) Proof of such Public Liability Insurance shall be submitted to the BFA prior to utilization of the ground for BFA matches.
- (VI) The BFA shall provide Public Liability Insurance for all matches which it (BFA) schedules on neutral grounds.
- (VII) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players



and spectators attending games and are liable to disciplinary action where such behaviour is deemed unsporting. The BFA reserves the right not to play future games at that venue.

- (VIII) Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their home grounds are fit for play. This includes having in place correct markings, nets, corner flags, and other necessary equipment. The BFA shall carry this responsibility for games scheduled on neutral grounds.
- (IX) Clubs participating in a game staged by the BFA on an enclosed ground are permitted free entrance for a total of twenty-five (25) members, (players and officials). A Club official must be present to ensure the authenticity of the list of persons allowed to enter.
- (X) The home Club, (the Club mentioned first on the Fixtures List), shall provide the match ball, and shall be required to change team strip, in the event of a conflict of colours.
- (XI) The BFA shall provide the match ball, flags and nets at all games where gate receipts are collected on its behalf.
- (XII) Only the designated seven (7) substitutes and a maximum of seven (7) officials shall be allowed on the team bench whilst the game is in progress. The Referee may at any time, for due reason, request any player or team official to leave the bench area.

(XIII) **REFEREES. FEES:**

- a. Premier League: All referees'/assistant referees' fees shall be paid by the BFA.
  - b. Division One and Women's Premier League: The referee's fee shall be paid by the BFA. The two Clubs participating in a game shall be responsible for the fees of the assistant referees. Each Club shall pay \$30.00.
  - c. Division Two and Three: Clubs participating in a game shall be responsible for the payment of the referee's fee. Each club shall pay an equal amount [Division Two - \$25.00 and Division Three - \$23.00] to the referee, no later than halftime.
  - d. Clubs participating in the Challenge Cup or Knockout Tournament shall be responsible for the payment of the referee's fee. Each club shall pay an equal amount [BDS \$ 30.00] to the referee, no later than half-time.
- (XIV) Where gate receipts are taken the BFA will meet the referee's fee.
- (XV) Clubs participating in the Reserve League shall be responsible for the payment of the referee's fee. Each Club shall pay an equal amount [BDS\$25.00] to the referee, no later than half-time.
- (XVI) Clubs which contravene Rule 14 shall be liable to automatic forfeiture of the game(s), and such further

disciplinary action as determined by the Disciplinary Board of the BFA.

- (XVII) Any player or team official, who receives a red card or two (2) yellow cards during a game, will have his ID card withheld by the referee and submitted with the report to the BFA. The player will miss all games within that period until the ID card is retrieved after serving a one game suspension in the league which the player was sent off.
- (XVIII) The receipt by any player or team official of four (4) yellow cards, in separate games, shall equate to the receipt of a red card, and the penalty of a one match suspension shall be enforced.
- (XIX) The Challenge Cup Competition shall equate to the highest division in which the offender(s) plays.
- (XX) Any player(s) who leaves the field of play without the referee's permission shall, when the incident is drawn to the attention of the referee, be immediately issued a yellow card.
- (XXI) Each Club shall forward to the Secretariat of the BFA, the result of its scheduled games, within forty-eight (48) hours of end of the game, on the prescribed forms. In the event of a game not taking place the report shall include appropriate reason(s).
- (XXII) Referees shall submit their match reports within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the game. However, for Premier League games, referees shall

submit their match reports to the Match Commissioners immediately after the conclusion of the games.

- (XXIII) All Division Two and Three teams shall select a match coordinator to assist in the management and control of the game. The assigned coordinator must come from the home team. Where a neutral ground is being used the team mentioned first will provide the coordinator.
- (XXIV) The BFA may appoint match commissioners for Premier League games and such other games as determined by the Executive Board.
- (XXV) The match commissioner shall identify himself to the referee and the teams and shall facilitate the effective management of the game.
- (XXVI) In all instances where there is a breach of security and/or the bringing of the game into disrepute, the match commissioner shall submit a report to the BFA within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game
- (XXVII) The duties of the match commissioner are detailed in the attached Appendix A.

**XXVIII. MEDIA REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS**

- a. A request may be made to the media officer /match commissioner for the coach and or player to attend a media conference or interview at the end of the match. This request shall not be refused.
- b. If a coach refuses to give an interview after the match

he will be fined Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and in case of repetition be referred to the Disciplinary Board.

- c. If a player refuses to give an interview after the match he will be fined One hundred Dollars (\$100.00). In case of repetition the player will be referred to the Disciplinary Board.
- d. All fines shall be payable two weeks after the match.
- e. The media guidelines and regulations are at Appendix C.

## **18. CANCELLATION / POSTPONEMENT**

- (I) The BFA is the sole authority for the cancellation or postponement of games scheduled in its tournaments.
- (II) The BFA is obligated to provide the maximum notice possible, given the circumstances attendant in each instance, to the Clubs concerned.

## **19. ABANDONMENT**

- (I) In the event that, after the commencement of a game, the referee is forced to abandon the game because of the weather, the pitch becomes unfit for play or the failure of the stadium lighting, the BFA shall investigate the incident and determine the process to be followed in order to conclude the game.
- II. Should the action be caused by a breakdown of the

- stadium lighting, every step shall be taken to correct the fault immediately. It is advisable to try to switch the lights on again after a period of time at the discretion of the referee and or match commissioner.
- III. If the referee and the match commissioner are convinced that the damage cannot be repaired in good time and the lighting is insufficient to continue the game, the referee is entitled to abandon the game.
  - IV. Only the referee shall decide how long the game may be interrupted before being abandoned.
  - V. In such an event it is important to establish whether the failure is confined solely to the stadium or whether the stadium environs has been affected.
  - VI. For their investigation, the BFA shall require that the reports of the referee and the match commissioner are detailed and accurate.
  - VII. The BFA, after due consideration of all the circumstances and facts, may direct that abandoned games be either: replayed from the beginning or continue from the point of abandonment. All circumstances i.e. teams' personnel, off and on the pitch, officials, etc., shall be the same as at the abandonment.

## **20. PROTESTS**

- (I) (a)Protests as to the state of the pitch, markings accessory equipment or the ball shall be made to the referee before the commencement of the

game. If, in the opinion of the captain of the team concerned, the pitch has become unplayable, the captain of the team concerned shall immediately inform the referee, in the presence of the opposing captain.

- b Protests against incidents which occur during a game shall be directed to the referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed event and before the resumption of play.
  - c Protests against the eligibility of players taking part in a game shall be made to the referee and the match commissioner immediately on conclusion of the game. This should be followed by a formal written protest submitted to the BFA (follow procedure at Rule 20 item II).
  - d All protests shall be reported to the match commissioner at the conclusion of the game.
  - e No protests shall be entertained against the referee's decision on points of fact connected with play, such decisions being final.
- (II) All protests must be lodged in the following manner (written, e-mail or fax) is acceptable with the signature of the Secretary/President of the Club. All protests must be submitted to the BFA within forty eight (48) hours of the match/ event, excluding weekends and holidays and must be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50).

- (III) Failure to comply with the procedures detailed at Rule 20 item II shall render the protest(s) invalid.

## **21. APPEALS**

- (I) All appeals, shall be submitted in the following manner (written, e-mail or fax) is acceptable with the signature of the Secretary/President of the Club. All appeals must be submitted to the BFA within three (3) working days, excluding weekends and bank holidays, of notification of the decision out of which the appeal arises, and shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars (BDS \$100.00).
- (II) Failure to comply will render the appeal(s) invalid.
- (III) Lodging an appeal shall not defer a decision except with respect to any financial provisions which have been contested (fines, compensation and expenses).

## **22. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

### **(I) LOCAL TRANSFERS**

- i. Players shall be eligible for transfer once the following conditions are met;
- ii. All relevant subscriptions are fully paid up. The BFA shall only recognize subscriptions which are outstanding for one year or less.
- iii. A player under the age of eighteen (18) at the time of the transfer request shall be given a



- free transfer with the signature of the parent/ guardian.
- iv. Players seeking to transfer their club registration for the football season shall make application to the BFA, through the Club of destination by the stipulated date.
  - v. Players, who have not been registered at the beginning of the season and were abroad during the transfer period, will be allowed to transfer to any local Club, if so desired, with immediately effect.
  - vi. Players who may/may not register at the beginning of the season, but did not play for a club in the present season will be allowed to transfer during the transfer window.
  - vii. The transfer window will be opened for two consecutive weeks after the start of the season.
  - viii. All personal financial obligations between the player and the Club, as stated in writing and agreed to by the player and the Club with an affixed signature of both parties, are resolved.
  - ix. The BFA shall not recognise claims by Clubs for compensation for costs associated with remedial work for injuries suffered by players whilst providing their services to Clubs.
  - x. At the completion of or release from national duty

and other teams, national youth selectees must return to their original Clubs and be transferred, if so desirous, in the same manner as a normal transfer.

- x. Where players were primarily attached to a youth team/Club, Clubs shall follow the procedure for the transfer of youth players.
- xii. Players under the age of eighteen at the time of the transfer request cannot transfer unless the written permission of their parent or guardian is obtained.
- xiii. Clubs shall not be permitted to frustrate the transfer of players.
- xiv. The BFA must approve all transfers and the relevant fees paid in order to effect the transfer.
- xv. Clubs shall not implement rules or policies which conflict with the Constitution of the Barbados Football Association.
- xvi. In any such instances the Constitution, Rules and Bye-Laws of the BFA shall take precedence.

## II. **INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS**

- i. Refer to Rule 3, Item II.

### **23. LOAN AGREEMENTS**

- (I) A player maybe loaned to another Club for a specific period, but shall return to their former Club at the end of the stated period.
- (II) The Club(s) shall complete the BFA Loans Agreement form when organizing the loan of a player(s) by the stipulated date.
- (III) Both the Club's official & the players must sign the document for the loan agreement to be enforced.

### **24. DOPING CONTROL MEASURES**

- (I) ALL member Clubs and Leagues are directed to obtain and follow the BFA's Policy on Doping as at Appendix B.
- (II) THE BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IS A SIGNATORY TO THE PROTOCOL OF THE NATIONAL ANTI DOPING COMMISSION (NADC) FOR THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE IN SPORT AND, BY EXTENSION; ALL MEMBERS OF THE BFA ARE SUBJECT TO THE CONVENTIONS OF THE PROTOCOL.
- (III) The BFA reserves the right to carry out doping tests during any competition it organizes and/or sanctions. This right shall extend to training sessions and to all registered players and officials.
- (IV) Such tests may be carried out at any or all matches during any competition.

- (V) All players/officials on a Club's team sheet, including reserves, shall be subject to doping control during a game.
- (VI) Any player/official who:
- a Refuses to submit to a drug test;
  - b Falsifies or attempts to falsify the result of a test;
  - c Intentionally or unintentionally takes banned substances;
  - d Intentionally or unintentionally encourage players/officials to use banned substances; shall be subject to disciplinary action by the BFA and the National Anti-Doping Commission (NADC) of Barbados.
- VII. The BFA is empowered to apply all the sanctions contained in the FIFA list of disciplinary measures for infringements of the doping control regulations

## **25. DISCIPLINE**

Any affiliated player, Club, League or official who fails to comply with any of the above rules, shall be liable to disciplinary action by the BFA.

## **26. COPYRIGHT**

The copyright of these rules and the fixtures lists, arising from these rules, as well as that of all games scheduled by the BFA, or any of its affiliates is the property of the BFA and may not be reproduced, copied or photographed in part or whole, by any form of technology, except with the prior, written

permission of the BFA..

## **27. MEDIA GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS**

ALL member Clubs, Leagues and media houses are directed to obtain and follow the BFA's Media Policy as at Appendix C.

## **28. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the Executive Board of the BFA subject to the relevant FIFA rules.

## **29. INTERPRETATION**

These rules are made by the authority of the Executive Board of the BFA, which is the sole authority of their interpretation

## **30. ENFORCEMENT**

These rules shall be enforced with effect from 1st January, 2015.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **DUTIES OF THE MATCH COMMISSIONER**

The Match Commissioner is the official representative of the Barbados Football Association when appointed to a particular game.

As such the Match Commissioner:

- ensures all match organization logistics are in place (including but not limited to)
- teams, referees notified, first aid personnel in place, venue and field of play etc ready and other equipment (match balls, first aid, substitution boards etc as applicable) are in place
- inspects the venue to ensure dressing rooms, warm up areas, playing surface are all fit for play
- ensures adequate safety and security provisions are met
- ensure match is played in keeping with the tournament rules and regulations
- ensures all post match reports are completed and submitted in a timely manner
- works with the local organiser to ensure provision of match summary info to the media (line-ups, score, cards, times)

- exercises role of event coordinator for the particular match along with other appointed officials, coordinators, referees and team officials, venue officials etc
- chairs crisis management meeting in the event of an incident which causes a delay, suspension or aborting of a match

The Tournament Rules and Regulations would set out the operating environment for the role, function and duties of a Match Commissioner.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **POLICY ON THE USE OF BANNED SUBSTANCES/PRACTICES IN FOOTBALL**

#### **1. PREAMBLE**

- 1.1 The Barbados Football Association is a signatory to the Barbados Policy on Doping in Sport.
- 1.2 The Barbados Football Association, as a member of FIFA, is committed to the pursuit of drug-free sport, specifically football, in the interest of, the players, coaches, team and club officials, referees and assistant referees, administrators, the general public and the Government of Barbados.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

- 2.1 This policy seeks to give guidance to officials and administrators of the Barbados Football Association, and its affiliates, in the provision of consistent and effective responses to the use of banned substances and practices in sport in general, and in football, in particular, to deter those who may engage or seek to engage others in the use of such banned substances and practices and to protect those who are committed to the sport based on the principles of fair play.
- 2.2 This policy ensures that appropriate penalties are imposed on players, team officials and others who use or promote the use of banned substances or engage in banned practices.



- 2.3 This policy sets out the procedures for determining infractions, dealing with individuals found to have committed such infractions, handling protests and appeals relating to Doping Control Procedures and the determination of infractions and the reinstatement of individuals sanctioned as a result of such infractions.
- 2.4 This policy is mandatory to ALL affiliates of the Barbados Football Association.

### **3. DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMME – NATIONAL SELECTIONS**

- 3.1 The management team of each national selection MUST include ongoing sessions on drug awareness in the training programme for the selection.

### **4. TESTING FOR BANNED SUBSTANCES – NATIONAL SELECTIONS**

- 4.1 The management team of each national selection MUST ensure that continuous, random testing of the members of the training squad, for banned substances, is carried out by the medical team affiliated to the Association during the training programme.
- 4.2 The management team of each national selection MUST ensure that each member of the final selection has tested negative for banned substances, a maximum of seven (7) days prior to the date of a fixture.
- 4.3 The testing regime at 4.1 above is at the discretion of the medical team

- 4.4 Players who test positive during the testing regime at 4.1 above are permitted to continue to participate in the training programme, on the condition that they attend counseling programmes as arranged by the Association. Such players are NOT ELIGIBLE to represent Barbados unless they test negative in two subsequent occasions, as determined by the medical team, and continue the counseling sessions as directed by the counseling personnel identified by the Association.
- 4.5 Players may challenge the result of the first test. Where the result is confirmed, 4.4 above applies. If the result of the second test is negative, then the result of the first test is voided.
- 4.6 Players who refuse to be tested and/or refuse counseling after testing positive are to be cut IMMEDIATELY from the training programme.

## **5. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 5.1 The medical team MUST communicate results of the tests at 4.1 / 4.2 above to the management team of the national selection in confidence.
- 5.2 The manager of the national selection affected is obligated to first inform the player(s) who test positive, individually and in confidence, of the result of the test and of the relevant procedures in the Association's policy.
- 5.3 The manager of the national selection affected is obligated to inform the General Secretary of the

Association, under confidential cover, of the player(s) who test positive and the reaction of such player(s) to the policy of the Association.

- 5.4 The General Secretary of the Association is obligated to inform the President and the Chairman, Selection Committee, of the Association, under confidential cover, of these circumstances.

## **6. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS**

- 6.1 Players who refuse to be tested or, when tested positive, refuse counseling, are subject to sanction by the Disciplinary Board, under the Barbados Policy on Doping in Sport.
- 6.2 It is to be noted that the sanctions detailed in the Barbados Policy on Doping in Sport are the MAXIMUM recommended sanctions.
- 6.3 There is no appeal against such sanctions.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **MEDIA GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS**

The Barbados Football Association's Media Officer is in charge of all media related matters and is assigned by the Executive Board as the liaison between clubs within the Association and press for the following events:

1. Home and away fixtures for all local clubs - men and women
2. All local leagues under the control of the BFA - Premier League, Div 1, 2 & 3

In the case where there is a Premier League, Knock-out competition or match played within a stadium environment in the country, the BFA Media Officer in conjunction with the Match Commissioner are responsible for overseeing press operations, media opportunities and assuring the club's compliance with media guidelines of the organizations involved.

#### **Pre-match day guidelines & regulations:**

- 1 For any finals or selected matches there will be a day dedicated for the media at the official stadium. During that day media operations will take the form of a mix zone, press conference or both at the start or conclusion of team training and must be organized through the BFA Media Officer or Match Commissioner.
- 2 (a) Clubs are allowed the option of closed or part-

open training sessions held at the official stadium.

- (b) When there is a part-open training session, all media are allowed into the stadium. Clubs are forbidden to open training sessions for specific media personnel;
  - (c) Training sessions are only open for 15 minutes and may include a 5 minute mix zone, shooting of photos and video footage
- 3 The BFA Media Officer must notify the media whether training is open for the first 15 minutes or last 15 minutes with 24 hours notice.

### **Match day Guidelines and Regulations:**

Only event accredited members of media are allowed field access and other privileges due to their status. In addition, all media are required to wear the bibs given to them in order to distinguish between television and all other forms of media.

### **Stadium Arrival and During Match**

- 1 (a) Media members are allowed to take photographs and take visual footage (mood setting) of the players' locker rooms no less than 2 hours before the start of the match but only after the team equipment manager has finished setting the room. This process must be completely supervised by the BFA Media Officer or Match Commissioner and all video and camera equipment must not be in the room when the players arrive at the

stadium

- (b) A request to take footage of the dressing room must be made to the BFA Media Officer no less than 3 days before the match day.
- 2 Members of the media are allowed to be in the mix zone and request interviews with selected players or team officials; however, the intended interviewee is not entitled to give an interview.
- 3
  - (a) During the pre-match protocol photographers are allowed to take official starting eleven photos guided by the BFA Media Officer or match official;
  - (b) After the protocol photographers must select which goal line they want to operate from and stay there until half-time;
  - (c) Photographers are not allowed to switch ends by crossing the front or back of the players benches. Only at half time photographers allowed to switched ends and stay there until the match is over.
  - (d) Photographers can operate behind the goal line (between corner flags) field boards but must not touch nets or goal post;
  - (e) At no time are members of media allowed to cross the touch line or goal line and this carries on even at the end of the game.

- 4 During half-time media may request a flash interview for selected players. This interview can only take place for 45 seconds and will be timed. However, players are not obligated to be interviewed at this stage.
- 5 No members of the media are allowed in the players' or match officials' locker area during game time.

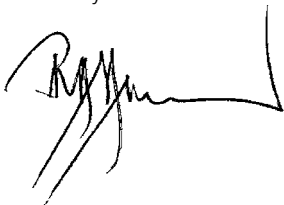
### **Post- Match Guidelines and Regulations:**

- 1 Players and team officials must allow time for flash interviews at the end of each game. This process should be no longer than 90 seconds.
- 2 Head Coaches are obligated to attend the post match press conference and may have a selected player with him or her. They are allowed a cool down time of 15 minutes after the match. Both Rights holders and non-rights holders along with other journalists are allowed into the press conference - all must be accredited
- 3 The order of the post game press conference starts with the losing coach and then the winning coach, unless it is a draw and the order will be decided by the Venue Press Officer.
- 4 Members of the media also have the opportunity to ask additional questions to team players and officials in the mix zone when they are departing the stadium.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action taken by the Barbados Football Association Executive Board.

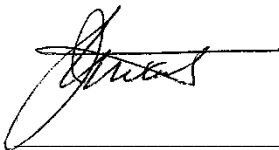
## **COMING INTO FORCE OF THESE RULES**

These Rules as amended shall come into force on the first day of January 2015.



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Mr. Randolph Harris  
**President**



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Ms. Joyce Stewart  
**General Secretary**

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE  
BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION











**TOURNAMENT RULES OF THE BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
Amended January 2015  
[www.barbadosfa.com](http://www.barbadosfa.com)