



**NATIONAL LEAGUE
RULES REGULATIONS
*2019/2020***

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is promulgated by Law and Statutes thereof, the Liberia Football Association (LFA) is empowered to organize, control, direct, and regulate all football activities within the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA;

WHEREAS, the LFA, realizing its statutory responsibility to organize a football league amongst its members;

NOW, IT IS RESOLVED that

These Rules and Regulations shall be used as the Working Tool for the smooth running of all LFA National Leagues/ Competitions.

All clubs and affiliates are obliged to adhere to the letter and spirit of these Rules and Regulations for the betterment of football.

Where a particular matter is not adequately covered in these Rules and Regulations, provisions in the relevant CAF and FIFA Statutes shall apply. Otherwise, these Rules and Regulations shall be applied as part of and/or in conjunction with other relevant LFA and FIFA Statutes and Principles.

CHAPTER 1 TITLE AND CONTROL OF FOOTBALL

Article 1 Title and Control

- Section 1.0 These regulations shall be known and referred to as the Liberia Football Association (LFA) National Leagues Rules and Regulations and shall be applicable to LFA National Leagues. All other domestic tournaments and competitions rules shall be formulated by the organizers.
- Section 1.1 The LFA shall organize and administer annual football competitions called the First Division, Second Division, Women's Division, National Third Division, Community Football Leagues, the Petro Trade Cup, Super Cup, Youth league (Academies).
- Section 1.2 The LFA may also organize and administer the President's Cup, Who Owns the Land Cup, District league, Beach Soccer & Futsal's well as other competitions as needed.
- Section 1.3 All LFA registered clubs are obliged by the statute to participate in all competitions. Failure of any member club to participate in organized League season shall lead to automatic relegation.

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITION OF THE SEASON

Article 1: Definition of the Season

- Section: 1.0 a season shall be the period within which all LFA competitions are played. ALL members shall be notified about the start of the season at least six weeks in advance.
- Section: 1.1 The 2019/2020 season shall begin in the third week of November and ends in June 2020. In the event of force majeure or other circumstances, the LFA may extend or shorten the duration of the season.

CHAPTER 3 ANNUAL DUES AND ENTRY

Article 1: Annual Dues and Entry

Section 1.0 All members shall pay an annual due to remain a member with all right and privileges as stated below: Any member who fails or neglects to pay its annual due and entry, shall not be permitted to participate in Congress and or be entitled to any assistance whatsoever;

- i. Clubs - LD 30,000.00

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- ii. Affiliates - LD 40,000.00

Section 2.0 All Member clubs **MUST** meet the following requirements by email:

- I. Club contact details: email address, contact numbers and official representative (General Secretary).
- II. Listing of Club Officials and members of the technical staff (PDF format with all positions indicated and signed by the president).
- III. All Technical staff must be licensed
- IV. Medical certificates for each player and technical staff member signed by a doctor. (Scanned copies in PDF format. Each certificate should be saved in the player or technical staff member name)
- V. Signed TPO (Third Party Ownership) document by each player (Scanned copies in PDF format).
- VI. Signed TPO (Third Party Ownership) document by the club for all players (Scanned copy for all players and signed by the club authorized official).
- VII. Player's data: Full name, Date of birth, license number, birth certificate or national ID number for virgin players, passport number if available and digital photo 2*2 In (Excel format).
- VIII. Player history (Scanned copies for each player in PDF format indicating all teams played for and years).
- IX. Article of Incorporation (Scanned copy in PDF format).
- X. Business registration for the period 2019 (Scanned copy in PDF format).
- XI. Bank details in full (Scanned copy in PDF format) Liberia dollars account, with a minimum of not less than thirty thousand Liberian dollars LD \$ 30,000.
- XII. Home, away and alternate colors.

Section 2.1 Registration Fees for the various categories are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| i. First Division - | LD 100,000.00 |
| ii. Second Division - | LD 50,000.00 |
| iii. Women's Division - | LD 25,000.00 |
| Applicable for 2019/2020 Season | |
| iv. First Division | LD 32,000.00 |
| v. Second Division - | LD 18,000.00 |
| vi. Women's Division - | LD 5,000.00 |

Section 2.2 All registration and membership payments must be deposited into the Liberia Football Association designated account and receipt scanned and submitted in a PDF format to the LFA. Payments must be specified (i.e.) for registration only. Account number and Bank

Section 3.0 Players registration shall be closed at **5:00 PM** after the deadline set for the National League Season registration. Clubs wishing to register players within

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a one week window after the commencement of the league shall pay the sum of thirty thousand Liberian dollars (LD \$ 30,000.00) for each player. Mid-season registration and transfer shall begin at the end of the first phase and ends one week into the second phase.

CHAPTER 4: National LEAGUES, PETRO TRADE CUP, Super cup, The President cup, Who Owns the land, Youth Leagues (U-15 & U-17)

Article 1: Composition and Structure

- Section 1.0** The Leagues shall comprise of the First Division, Second Division, Women's Division, Third Division, Community Football and Youth League.
- Section 1.1** The PETRO TRADE CUP shall comprise of the Men's & Women's Divisions and the Super Cup shall be played between the League Champion and the Petro Trade Cup Champion
- Section 1.2** The President cup shall comprise of two categories (Male and Female). The following clubs shall qualify to participate in the President Cup male category:
- i. First eight clubs from the first division league
 - ii. First five clubs from the Second division
 - iii. First three (3) clubs from the National third division playoff
- Female category:
- iv. First four clubs from the Women league
- Section 1.3** The Who Owns the Land cup shall comprise of four teams as follows:
- i. Champion and Runner-up from the first division
 - ii. Champion and Runner-up from the second division
 - iii. Petro Trade Cup Champion or Runners Up in case the Petro Trade Cup champion is the same as the league champions or league runners up.
 - iv. Two from the National Third division Play-off
 - v. In women's Division,
 - vi. The first four clubs
 - vii. Petro Trade Cup Champion, Runner-up and third place
 - viii. National league Champion
- Section 2.0** The First Division consists of twelve (12) Clubs that compete nationally each season with one another.
- Section 2.1** The Second Division consists of fourteen (14) Clubs that will compete during the 2019 /2020 league season.
- Section 2.2** The Women's Division shall consists of not more than ten (10) that will compete during the 2019/2020 league season.

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- Section 2.3 First, Second and women's divisions leagues will be run on a home and away basis, with three (3) points being allotted for a win, one (1) for a draw, zero (0) for a loss.
- Section 2.4 For the First Division, Second Division, and Women's Division leagues, the club which has accumulated the highest amount of points at the end of the league shall be declared the Champion.
- Section 2.5 If two or more clubs obtain the same number of points at the end of the league season, their rankings shall be determined as follows:
- Total goal difference
 - Total goals scored
 - Total goal against
 - Head-to-head
 - If everything is equal : One match shall be played
- Section 3.0** The Petro Trade Cup (Men's) shall consist of 32 clubs and shall be played on a knock-out basis; however, in the event a match in the first round and round of sixteen (16) ends in a draw, a second away leg match shall be played to determine a winner. If the second leg match ends in a draw, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine a winner. The quarter finals and semi-finals matches shall be played on a home and away basis and the away goal rules shall applied; if the both legs are equal at the end of the second match, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine a winner. The grand final match shall be a one match. If the grand final match ends in a draw, thirty (30) minutes of extra time shall be played to determine a winner. If the extra time ends in a draw, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner. It shall be opened to all First Division clubs (12), Second Division clubs (13), excluding Gardnersville FC, the five losers of the national 3rd division playoffs[Kandakai FC(Bomi), Beauty FC(Sinoe), God Power FC(Grand Gedeh), Field Marshall FC(Bong) and Skills FC(Grand Gedeh)] and the two best losers from the regional playoff [Finda FC River Gee), Paynesville FC, Montserrado)]The county clubs above will all play first at home during the Petro Trade Cup draw.
- Section 3.1 The 2019/2020 edition of Petro Trade Cup finals venue will be decided by the Executive committee as part of the Liberia Football Association decentralization program as the tournament progresses.
- Section 3.2 The women's Petro Trade Cup (Women's) shall consist of all clubs in the Women's Division and shall be played on a home-away knock-out basis and the away goal rule shall applied. If the both legs are equal at the end of the second match, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine a winner. At the end of the first round, a draw shall be held only for an elimination match in order to equal the clubs. The first two clubs be drawn

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shall play the elimination match. The grand final match shall be a one match. If the grand final match ends in a draw, extra time of thirty (30) minutes shall be played to determine the winner. If the extra time ends in a draw, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine a winner.

Section 3.3 The 2019/2020 LFA Super Cup shall be played between the LPRC Oilers 2019 First Division Champion and LISCR FC of the 2019 Petro Trade Cup shall play in the Super cup match.

The following awards shall be provided by the LFA

Winner (Men)	LD 150,000.00 + Trophy + Gold Plated Medals
Loser	Silver Medals

Winner (Women)	LD 100,000.00 + Trophy + Gold Plated Medals
Loser	Silver Medals

ARTICLE 1: AWARDS

Section 1.0 In the **ORANGE** National Leagues and the Petro Trade Cups, the below listed cash and other prizes shall be awarded for Leagues and Cups:

First Division

Winner -	LD 1,600,000.00 + Cup+ Gold Plated Medals
Runner up	600,000.00 + Silver Medal

Second Division

Winner -	LD 700,000.00 + Cup + Gold Plated Medals
Runners-Up -	450,000.00+ Silver + Medals

Women's Division

Winner -	LD 600,000.00 + Cup + Gold Plated + Medals
Runners-Up -	350, 000.00 + Medals

THIRD DIVISION SUB ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONS

Winner-	LD 20,000.00 + Cup + Gold Plated + Medals
Runner-up	10, 000.00 + Silver Medals

THIRD DIVISION-NATIONAL PLAYOFF

Winner -	LD 250,000.00 +Cup + Gold Medal
Runner up	120,000.00 + Silver Medals

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL LEAGUE-PLAYOFF

Winner -	LD 16,000.00 + Cup + Gold Plated Medals
Runner up -	8,000.00 + Silver Medals

PETRO TRADE CUP

Preparation fees to all participating clubs shall be provided by Petro Trade as follows:

First rounds:

Men (32 Clubs):	LD 40,000.00 each Club
Women (17 Clubs)	LD 30,000.00 each Club

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Men (Group of 16) LD 50,000.00 each Club
Women (Group of 8) LD 40,000.00 each Club

Men (Group of 8) LD 60,000.00 each Club
Women (Group of 4) LD 50,000.00 each Club

Men (Group of 4) LD 70,000.00 each Club

PETRO TRADE CUP WINNER CASH AND OTHER PRIZES

Winner (M) - LD 1,500,000.00 + Cup + Gold Medals
Runners-Up (M) LD 500,000.00 + Silver + Medals
Winner (W) - LD 1,000,000.00 + Cup + Gold Plated Medals
Runners-Up (W) - LD 500,000.00 + Silver + Medals

Other awards in all categories (shall be determined by special rules)

- + MVP (1st Div. Award a Car, a Sedan)
- + Best sports reporter
- + Best Referee (only One Referee and one Assistant Referee)

First, second, women and Third division National Play-off

- + MVP
- + Highest scorer
- + Best Coach
- + Best goal keeper
- + Best defender
- + Fair-play Award

Additional support to clubs participating in the CAF champions league and CAF Confederation CUP LFA shall:

- Purchase the flights tickets for 8 Referees
- Purchase the flights tickets for 2 match commissioners
- Provide hotel accommodation and feeding for 10 match officials during their stay In Liberia
- Provide local transportation for 10 match officials

Section 2.0 The holder of any of the LFA's trophies shall be responsible for its up-keep and return same to the LFA in good condition two months as of the date of receipt of said trophy. Failure on the part of any club (s) to return trophy in time, said club shall pay ten percent (10%) of the cash prize awarded. The club shall be provided a trophy for its keep as part of its history.

Section 2.1 Where the trophy is lost or damage by any cause, the LFA shall impose a fine on said club in addition to any other penalty, for the replacement value of the trophy.

Section 2.2 Any club winning the LFA Championship Trophy, Petro Trade Cup, or the LFA Super Cup three times shall have it for keeps.

CHAPTER 6 LFA REPRESENTATIVES IN CAF COMPETITIONS

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ARTICLE 1: Representative in CAF Competitions

Section 1.0 The LFA's representatives in CAF International Club competitions shall be the following:

- i. First Division League Champions – CAF Champions League
- ii. Petro Trade Cup Champions – CAF Confederations Cup

Section 1.1 In the event the champions or as per the above specification in either categories are unable to participate in any of the Inter-Club continental competitions, the next runners-up in line is eligible to participate. In that case, said qualified club shall notify the LFA in writing of its inability to participate within two weeks after the close of the league season.

CHAPTER 7 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

ARTICLE 1: Promotion & Relegation

Section 1.0 The Champion and Runners-Up of the Second Division League shall automatically be promoted to the First Division League. In the case where a related party exists, the club next in line shall be promoted.

Section 1.0 a The third and fourth placed clubs will be engaged in a home and away promotional playoff for the third spot; the away goal rule shall apply. In the case where Gardnersville FC is in the third and/or fourth place the club next in line shall engage in the promotional play-off.

Section 1.2 The three lowest placed clubs in the First Division League shall automatically be relegated to the Second Division League.

Section 1.3 Feeder teams of First Division League clubs playing in the Second Division are not eligible for promotion but can be relegated.

Section 2.0 The first, second and third in Third Division National play-off shall automatically be promoted to the Second Division.

Section 2.1 The two lowest placed clubs in the Second Division League shall automatically be relegated to their respective Third Division League.

Section 2.2 The eleventh and twelfth placed clubs shall be engaged in a home and away relegation playoff for the eleventh position in the second division. The loser of the play-off, will be relegated along with positions thirteenth and fourteenth,

Section 3.0 There will be no Promotion in the Women's upper League, but the eighth and ninth clubs at the bottom of the league table shall automatically be relegated to the lower women's division.

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Section 3.1 The sixth and seventh placed shall be engaged in a home and away relegation play-off for the sixth position in the women upper league division. The loser of the play-off will be relegated along with positions eighth and ninth

Section 4.0 The number of clubs within a division may be changed if approved by the Executive Committee of the LFA which will only be implemented during the following season.

CHAPTER 8 VENUES, DATES, POSTPONEMENT, WITHDRAWAL, REFUSAL TO PLAY, FORFEITURE

ARTICLE 1: Date and Venue of Matches

Section 1.0 All league venues must be cleared club Licensing section, verified by the First Instance Board and approved by the competition Department before being placed on the fixture.

Section 1.1 The LFA has the authority to order the closure of any league venue(s) where the safety of the clubs, match officials, or spectators cannot be guaranteed.

ARTICLE 2 Postponements of Matches

Section 2.0 The LFA Secretariat has the right to postpone any league match for cause of force majeure. Only the LFA Secretariat shall determine force majeure.

Section 2.1 Where a match is postponed due to force majeure, it shall be rescheduled and played for the remaining time left in said match according to the match officials' reports. In the case of abandonment by a club, interruption by fans, supporters and sympathizers, the LFA shall make a decision on the match as per the match officials' reports.

Section 2.2 Where the LFA sanctions the postponement of a match for a club engaged in an Inter-Club continental competition, the postponed match shall be played one week after the said Inter-club continental match, a date to be determined by the completion department of the LFA.

Section 2.3 Where a club has contributed five of its players or two of its goalkeepers in any of the National Teams home or away matches, the club may request for postponement of its match(es) and same shall be rescheduled by the Secretariat five days after the National Teams international engagement.

Section 2.4 Clubs affected by postponement of any match shall be notified by the LFA Secretariat no later than five (5) days of said match except that in the following circumstances the notice period may be shorter at the discretion of the LFA Secretariat:

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ARTICLE 3: Withdrawals of Clubs from Competitions/Matches

Section 3.0 It shall be an offense for any LFA registered club to withdraw from any competition once placed on the league fixture.

Section 3.1 Without prejudice to any provision in these regulations, the LFA reserve the rights to take appropriate disciplinary actions, including fines, expulsion, and relegation against any club which withdraws from a competition or fails to honor any of its matches.

Section 3.2 Any club failing to honor a match except in a case of force majeure determined by the LFA shall forfeit the match and fined as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| i. First Division - | LD 200,000.00 |
| ii. Second Division - | LD 150,000.00 |
| iii. Women's Division - | LD 100,000.00 |

Said payment **MUST** be made before the club's immediate next match. Any club failing to make the said payment shall be immediately relegated to the next division.

Section 3.3 The LFA shall expunge from the competition any points and/or goals earned in respect of matches played with a club that withdraws, and/or is banned or expelled from the competition.

Section 3.4 Any club failing to honor three (3) matches at any time during the season shall constitute a withdrawal and thus relegated to the next division.

Section 3.5 Clubs which withdraw from the league upon the drawing of the fixture prior to the commencement of the league shall be relegated to the next lower division and fined as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| i. First Division - | LD 500,000.00 |
| ii. Second Division - | LD 300,000.00 |
| iii. Women's Division - | LD 200,000.00 |

Section 3.6 The following shall apply to clubs withdrawing from the league after playing its first league match. The club concerned shall pay to the LFA the following fines as specified below in addition to relegation as provided for in this rules and regulations before participating in any LFA or off-season football competitions:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| i. First Division - | LD 600,000.00 |
| ii. Second Division - | LD 400,000.00 |
| iii. Women's Division - | LD 300,000.00 |

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ARTICLE 4: Refusal to Play

Section 4.0 Any club refusing to continue a match for a period of up to ten (10) minutes, walks off the field or engage in tactics to abort the match shall forfeit the match to its opponent and pay a fine before its next match as follows:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|---------------|
| i. | First Division - | LD 300,000.00 |
| ii. | Second Division - | LD 150,000.00 |
| iii. | Women's Division - | LD 75,000.00 |

Section 4.1 Any club engaged in tactics to abort a match by deliberately appearing with only seven (7) players for a match hoping to abandon the match, such act shall be considered a Refusal to Play and shall be penalized as follows:

- | | | |
|------|------------------|---------------|
| i. | First Offense - | LD 200,000.00 |
| ii. | Second Offense - | LD 100,000.00 |
| iii. | Third Offense - | Relegated |

ARTICLE 5: Forfeiture of Matches

Section 5.0 A club shall be punished with the forfeiture of a match when:

- The club walks off the field of play.
- The club refuses to continue play.
- The player/club supports initiate an act responsible for the abrupt end of the match.
- When a club plays a match which has been declared non complete or the results has been found to be pre-determined or fixed.
- A club is late for a scheduled match.
- No matter what the scores shall be at the time of the offence or the end of the match, the offending club shall forfeit and three (3) points with two (2) goals shall be awarded to the offended club, unless the offended club is leading by more than two-goal margin at the time of the offence, in which case the score will stand.

CHAPTER 9 TECHNICAL MEETINGS

ARTICLE 1 Technical Meetings

Section 1.0 Technical meetings shall be held at 10:00am a day before a match in Monrovia and two (2) hours before the kick-off outside Monrovia.

Section 1.1 Clubs failing to attend technical meetings shall be fined as follows:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|
| i. | First Division - | LD 10,000.00 |
| ii. | Second Division - | LD 8,000.00 |
| iii. | Women's Division - | LD 5,000.00 |

CHAPTER 10: TEAM ARRIVAL, MATCH DURATION, TEAM

ARTICLE 1: Arrival at the Venue

- Section1.0 All teams are requested to report to the match officials at least one (1) hour prior to kick-off for pre-match formalities. Breakdown of vehicles and traffic jam shall not be considered as force majeure.
- Section 1.1 Inspection of players will commence thirty (30) minutes before kick-off time.
- Section 1.2 A club reporting twenty-five (25) minutes to kick-off will be fined LD 15,000.00 and said amount shall be paid before the club immediate next match. If the club reports five (5) minutes after kick-off, said club forfeits the match in question.
- Section 1.3 Failure of a club showing up for a scheduled match constitutes a forfeiture and any team forfeiting three (3) league matches due to lateness constitutes expulsion from the League and automatic relegation.
- Section 1.4 On the day of its match, a club shall be allowed into the stadium and the perimeter of the field with a maximum delegation of twenty-five (25) persons which include eighteen (18) players and seven (7) technical officials.
- Section 1.5 During LFA organized matches, only one licensed coach who is certified by the LFA or certificated by other National Associations, verified by the LFA shall give instructions at a time within the technical area.
- Section1.5a Reference to section 1.5 above a minimum of CAF License B shall be permitted in the first and second division. While CAF minimum license C shall be permitted in women and third division leagues and LFA national license D for community football league. Any club in violation shall be penalized in accordance with these rules and regulations.
- Section1.5b The LFA shall issue accreditation cards to all Licensed coaches which MUST be worn at all games and the license number must be placed on the referee's match form for proper identification. No active player in the First and Second Divisions shall be allowed to coach in any of the lower leagues, except as a player coach in his/her own club.
- Section 1.6 Violators of Section 1.5, 1.5a and 1.5b shall be ejected from the club's bench by the match officials and any other punitive measures deem necessary shall be taken by the LFA. Coaches ejected from the bench shall not engage in any coaching activity during the match, coaches caught in such act shall be fined. Such fine shall be payable before the club next match.
- Section 1.6b The LFA shall issue accreditation cards to all club sports medics which MUST be worn at all games and the accreditation number must be placed on the referee's match form for proper identification

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- Section 1.7 Coaches of First Division clubs are urged to submit to pre- and post-match press conferences which shall be organized by the LFA media and the Competitions Department
- Section 1.8 All clubs participating in the league must have LFA trained and certified Sports Medics on their bench at all times. The LFA shall conduct medic workshop before the league begins. The LFA shall deploy its sports medical team at all of its own venues during the league season.

The LFA shall issue accreditation cards to all club sports medics which MUST be worn at all games and the accreditation number must be placed on the referee's match form for proper identification

ARTICLE 2: Duration of Matches

- Section 2.0 Each match shall last for ninety (90) minutes with two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes each.
- Section 2.1 The duration for other LFA affiliated organization leagues and friendly matches shall be decided by their own rules and regulations and MOU.

ARTICLE 3: Team Sheets

- Section 3.0 Clubs will submit completed signed team sheets to the referee at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the match.
- Section 3.1 The team sheet will record the following information:
- i. Full names of the eleven (11) starters;
 - ii. Full names of the seven (7) substitutes;
 - iii. Full names of the seven (7) technical staff members.
- Section 3.2 Changes to the team sheet may be made at any time prior to the start of the match provided that:
- i. The opposing team captain, the referee and the match commissioner are informed;
 - ii. No Player may be added to the team sheet that was not listed on the team sheet submitted.

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Section 3.3 If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named starting Player at the start of the match and the requirements of Rule 10.3.3 are not complied with:

- i. The referee will allow the named substitute to continue the match;
- ii. The number of substitutions allowed by the offending team will not be reduced;
- iii. The Club will be charged with misconduct.
- iv. If a Player's name appears on the team sheet and is not fielded in the match, said player is considered as a none participant.

ARTICLE 4 Substitutions

Section 1.0 Three (3) substitutions shall be permitted a club in the First, Second, and Women's Divisions, while four (4) substitutions shall be allowed in the LFA Sub Associations as well as the LFA Third Division and five (5) substitutions in the Community League and Academicals competitions. Copy of the substitution sheets shall be provided to members clubs via email. Substitutions in all other LFA affiliated organizations leagues and friendly matches shall be decided by their own rules.

CHAPTER 11: REGISTERED COLOURS AND NUMBERING SYSTEM

ARTICLE 1 Registered Colors and Numbering System

Section 1.0 Each club shall register a Home, Away and alternative colors/strip, along with photos, distinct from each other on forms to be supplied by the LFA. A club must appear in its home colors when playing at home.

Section 1.1 In the event of a clash of colors between the visiting team and the home team, the visiting team shall change to its alternative colors. Where also the clash of colors affects any of the goalkeepers, the said goalkeeper shall change to an alternative color.

Section 1.2 In the event, where an away team refuses to wear its away colors or a home team who refuses to wear its home color, thereby delaying the start of the match, the team violating section 1.0 shall forfeit said match and be fined as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| i. First Division - | LD 30,000.00 |
| ii. Second Division - | LD 20,000.00 |
| iii. Women's Division - | LD 15,000.00 |

Section 1.3 The LFA Secretariat shall publish the home and away colors of teams prior to the commencement of the league season.

Section 1.4 The Referees and Assistant Referees shall appear in colors quite distinct from those of the two teams.

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- Section 1.5 All jerseys and shorts must be numbered 1 to 30 with the name or logo of the Club printed on the upper left corner of the jersey for First, Second, Women's Divisions as well as the Third Division National play-offs.
- Section 1.6 Each player must maintain a jersey number for the entire course of the season. A club whose player(s) uses alternative numbers shall pay the following:
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| i. First offence - | Caution |
| ii. Second offence - | LD 1,000.00 |
| iii. Third offence - | LD 2,000.00 |
| iv. Fourth offence - | one match ban (next match) |

CHAPTER 12. LICENSING OF CLUBS/ INTERMEDIARIES

ARTICLE 1: Licensing Of Clubs/Intermediaries

- Section 1.0 Prior to the commencement of every national league, the Referees' Committee must draw up a list of referees and categorize them according to each division and their positions (Assistant referee and Center referees).
- Section 1.1 All assignments for Referees, Match Assessor and Match Commissioners must Be submitted to the LFA Secretariat through the integrity officer within a week for implementation. In the case of force majeure the match officials shall be notified within 24 hrs.
- Section 1.0 The LFA will grant licenses to clubs who meet the minimum requirements set during the National league season. Only clubs who have met the minimum requirement will be allowed to participate in the league and CAF competition. Clubs are obliged to seek all registration requirements from the LFA.
- Section 1.1 The LFA shall also issue new licenses to players of clubs during the league season. This procedure is another CAF License requirement. A player without said license cannot be featured in the LFA leagues.
- Section 1.2 The First Instance Board of the Liberia Football Association shall be responsible to certificate clubs participating in the leagues.
- Section 1.3 The LFA shall grant licenses to intermediaries who meet the minimum requirements set by the LFA. Minimum criteria include:
- | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------|
| i. | USD 400 or its Liberian dollar equivalent. |
| ii. | Article of incorporation |
| iii. | Valid Business registration |
| iv. | Police Clearance |
- Section 1.4 All member clubs and players must use the services of LFA licensed intermediaries on matters of transfer and player's representation.

CHAPTER 13.REFEREES, MATCH COMMISSIONERS, REFEREE ASSESSORS & STATISTICIANS

ARTICLE 1: Referees, Match Commissioners, Referee Assessors & Statisticians

- Section 1.0 No Referee(s) shall be a member or hold any position with a registered Club and affiliates of the LFA.
- Section 1.2 When it is deemed appropriate, the LFA shall request any Football Association to assign International match Officials to officiate a specific match or matches.
- Section 1.3 A **Match Commissioner** shall be appointed as the Official Administrative Representative of the LFA at all matches held under its auspices.
The duties of the match commissioner shall be but not limited to the following:
- Section 1.4 To observe and report on the appearance, punctuality and performance of the referees.
- Section 1.5 To observe the behavior of the players, club officials and supporters.
- Section 1.6 To report on the arrival of teams and to ensure that the match starts on time in keeping with the LFA Regulations. And to exercise all other authorities in connection with said match.
- Section 1.7 The **Referee Assessor** shall be responsible to report the performance of a Referee during a match and recommend appropriate actions for poor performance or otherwise.
- Section 1.8 The **Statistician** shall be responsible for recording the statistics and data of a match.

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- Section 1.9 The Match Commissioners, Referee Assessor, Referees and Statisticians shall each make report of the match to the LFA Secretariat within 24 hours after the end of the match. The LFA shall provide the Match Report Forms. Any match official who violates this regulation shall be subject to Disciplinary action by the LFA below:
- Delayed reports more than 24 hours: Caution for first offense
 - Delayed reports more than 48 hours: No assignment
 - Failure to show up for a match after assignment: Suspension from the league.
 - Late arrival to assigned match: 50% reduction in compensation.
 - Match official (s) under the influence of alcohol, drugs and other related substances, Shall be ejected from the match and subsequently suspended.
- Section 2.0 No person against whom disciplinary action has been taken shall be appointed to officiate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the LFA.
- Section 2.1 The power to suspend or remove a person from the list of persons qualified to officiate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the LFA is reserved exclusively to the LFA.
- Section 2.2 The Referee Committee shall appoint a Referee Assessor to observe a match and report on it. A Referee Assessor's report shall be considered together with other match reports by the Disciplinary and Competitions Committees.
- Section 2.3 Any referee(s) or match official(s) accused of taking bribe shall be investigated by the disciplinary committee. If found guilty, such Match Official shall be banned for two (2) years. Any referee arriving late at assigned matches shall be fined and or suspended by the LFA.
- Section 2.4 No matter the source of information, if it is discovered that match officials, LFA officials and club officials were found in aiding any club(s) to match fix, said official(s) shall be suspended pending full investigation into the allegations.
- Section 2.5 If after investigation it is proven that the allegations leveled against the accused, he/she shall be suspended for two years. In an event an international referee is involved, said referee(s) names shall be withdrawn from the FIFA International referees listing.
- Section 2.6 Match officials are not allowed to accept gifts of any kind from members of clubs etc, (Cash or Kind) before, during and after a match. Match officials found guilty will be immediately suspended.
- Section 2.6a: The Integrity Officer shall investigate suspicions on match official(s), club official(s) integrity Matters and forward perpetrator(s) for disciplinary action(s);

CHAPTER 14 ABSENCE OF MATCH COMMISSIONER **ARTICLE 1 Absence of Match Commissioner**

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Section 1.0 In the absence of the Match Commissioner, the Referee shall act as the Match Commissioner.

Section 1.1 Where the referee and/or one or both of the Assistant Referees do not show up, the LFA Secretariat provides a speedy remedy.

Section 1.2 Where it is not possible to appoint such alternative officials on the match day, the match shall be postponed and played at date and time decided by the LFA Secretariat.

Section 1.3 Any match official(s) who fails to report for a match without reasonable cause and notice shall be administratively dealt with by the LFA.

CHAPTER 15 MATCH OFFICIALS INDEMNITIES

ARTICLE 1: Match Officials Indemnities

Section 1.1 Match Officials Indemnities shall be the full responsibility of the LFA through the secretariat; to the referee's, Match Commissioner's, Medic's and statistician's representatives.

CHAPTER 16. ATTENDANCE OF QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL

ARTICLE 1: ATTENDANCE OF QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Section 1.0 All clubs shall ensure that a qualified and LFA approved medical practitioner or paramedic accompanies their teams throughout the LFA league season. Said medic or paramedic MUST have membership with the Sports Medic Association of Liberia. The LFA shall ensure that all clubs medical personnel/officers keep detailed up-to-date medical records of all players.

Section 1.1 When a player is about to be transferred, the club must make such records available to the medical officer of the signing club.

CHAPTER 17 DISTRIBUTIONS OF GAME PROCEEDS

ARTICLE 1: Distribution of Game Proceeds

Section 1.0 The LFA shall approve the hosting of all matches. The LFA Secretariat shall be responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and supervising all processes relating to matches and their related expenses.

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Section 1.1 Clubs having their own fields as home venues will receive gate-intake after tax as follows:

i.	Home Team-	50%
ii.	2 nd home team	20%
ii.	Teams support accounts	10%
iii.	LFA	10%
iv.	Youth Development	10%.
Others Field		
a)	Home team	60%
	i. Two home teams(30% each)	
	ii. Three home teams(20% each)	
b)	Sub Association	20%
c)	Team support account	10%
d)	Youth Development	10%

Section 1.2 The club is responsible to provide detailed accounting of the intake received in a PDF file format to the email of the secretariat 48hrs after the match. The club shall be liable to pay to the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) the relevant government taxes on the gross before distribution of shares. The club MUST deposit the Liberia Football Association share into GT Bank Liberia dollars account #: 201103279110.

Section 1.3 Funds generated from the Teams support account shall be distributed evenly between participating teams as part of preparation for International engagements.

Section 1.4 In the event that the venue is that of the LFA, Clubs will receive the following portion of the gate-intakes after the deduction of the relevant government taxes:

i.	Home Team (s) -	30%
a)	In case two 1 st divisions	(15% each)
b)	In case one first division and lower division	
	First Division	20%
	Lower division	10%
c)	in case of three games	
	First Division	15%
	2 nd division	7.5 %
	Women's division	7.5%
ii.	Teams support account -	10%
iii.	LFA -	40%
iv.	Youth Development	20%

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Section 1.5 Funds generated from the Teams support account shall be distributed evenly between participating teams as part of preparation for International engagements.

CHAPTER 18 SPONSORSHIP

ARTICLE 1: Sponsorship

- Section 1.0 The LFA National League is being sponsored by Orange Liberia for the league season. During this period, all clubs are to wear the Orange logo on the left sleeves and LFA logo on the right sleeves of their jerseys if provided.
- Section 1.1 Every Club has the right to seek its own sponsorship; however, said club must consult with the LFA to avoid Conflict of Interest and duplication.
- Section 1.2 A Club, Club Official or Player will not make direct contact with any Sponsor or Supplier of the LFA without the prior written permission of the LFA.
- Section 1.3 In the case of club(s) participating in the CAF competitions, 10% of all revenue received from sponsorship of said club(s) shall be remitted to the LFA including gate intakes and CAF shares.

CHAPTER 19 CLUBS PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

ARTICLE 1: Clubs Participation in Int'l Matches

- Section 1.0 The LFA shall serve as Head of Delegation at all times. However, if the club received sponsorship, the Head of Delegation shall be at the expense of the club participating. Otherwise, the LFA shall be responsible for the Head of Delegation.
- Section 1.1 The LFA has jurisdiction on the organization of all Club participating in international competitions including revenue generation, unless otherwise directed.
- Section 1.2 The LFA will provide technical assistance to all clubs qualified for international club competitions. The LFA will assign technician from its technical department who will work with each club during preparation as a support to their respective technical staff, if needed by the club. All courtesy must be provided by the clubs.

CHAPTER 20 MERGER AND CHANGE OF NOMENCLATURE

ARTICLE 1: Merger and Change of Nomenclature

- Section 1.0 Merger of clubs, sale or change of nomenclature is permissible under these rules and regulations; however, it must be done through a notarized agreement between the clubs concerned and submitted to the LFA for endorsement. The clubs merging, selling or changing its name must declare their respective assets in the agreement

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and the parties' adherence to the terms of the agreement. Moreover, the following fees shall be paid:

i. Merger -	LD 700,000.00
ii. Change of Nomenclature -	LD 500,000.00
iii. Sale of club	LFA 10% plus GOL tax

Section 1.1: Clubs that sells or changed nomenclature, Shall ceased to exist and if a club changed Nomenclature or buys another club, said club shall return to where the selling club was First associated in case of relegation.

Section 1.2 In case of abrogation of the merger and change of nomenclature in contract, the assets of the club before said process shall be divided accordingly. The team abrogating the contract shall be relegated due to the disposition. All properties acquired after the merger and change of nomenclature is equally divided between the parties concerned. Affected players shall be declared FREE AGENT.

CHAPTER 21 PLAYERS REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

ARTICLE 1: Players Registration & Eligibility

Section 1.0 All players must be registered and licensed by the LFA to be eligible to participate in the leagues.

Section 1.1 The maximum number of players to be registered per team shall be thirty (30) including five foreign players with valid resident and work permits. This maximum number of 30 players includes registration during mid-season.

Section 1.1a In case where the club has not registered the required number of players, said club has the option to complete their registration during midseason. However players dropped from the club previous registration list; said player(s) shall be deregistered from his/her previous club after the club shall have settled all sporting just and unjust cause claim(s) to the player(s).

Section 1.2 No Player shall simultaneously be registered with more than one (1) Club. A player guilty of double or multiple registrations shall be suspended from participating in matches and competitions organized by the LFA and its affiliates for a period of one (1) year. The club(s) registering the player shall be fined accordingly.

Section 1.3 Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In Particular, a player shall not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same Cup during the same season.

Section 1.5 Players may be registered with a maximum of two (2) clubs during one season. Registration during this provision occurs during both phases of the league.

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- Section 1.6 Players shall only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the relevant association. As an exception to this rule, a professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside that registration period. Associations are authorized to register such professionals provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. Where a contract has been terminated with just cause, LFA may take provisional measures in order to avoid abuse.
- Section 1.7 A semi-professional who ends the career upon expiration of the player contracts and amateurs who terminate the activity shall remain registered at the association of the player last club for a period of 30 months. This period begins on the day the player made his/her last appearance for the club in an official match.
- Section 1.8 Save for Players whose registration is expressly permitted to take place outside of the prescribed registration periods, Players shall only be registered during a registration period, which periods are as follows:
- Section 1.9 The first registration period will be from 14 October until seven (7) days before the commencement of the National League Season, provided that in the event that the Season is extended by the Executive Committee beyond 30 June, then the aforesaid period will be from the first day after the end of the extended Season until seven (7) days before the commencement of the National League Season;
- Section 2.0 The second registration period will begin after the end of the First Phase of the National League Season and ends seven (7) days into the Second Phase.
- Section 2.1 Should the last day of the first or second registration period fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, the registration period will be extended to include the next day and will end at midnight on the last day of the registration period.
- Section 2.2 The LFA Competitions Department shall direct when registration shall open and close.
- Section 2.3 In cases where the Player is not a Liberian citizen or permanent resident, proof that the Player is lawfully entitled to be employed in Liberia for the full duration of the contract with the Club which is submitting the registration.
- Section 2.4 In cases where a Player was previously registered for a club in another country, an International Transfer Certificate is required;

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- Section 2.5 In addition, in cases where the Player was previously registered as a professional with a Club, the following must be submitted to the League where applicable:
- In the event of a transfer, a copy of the written transfer agreement and a clearance certificate; or
 - In the event of a loan, a copy of the written loan agreement and a loan clearance certificate; or
 - In the event of a terminated or expired contract, a clearance certificate; or
 - An order declaring the player a free agent.
- Section 2.6 In compliance with the requirements set out in these Rules the LFA Secretary General or his delegate will issue the Club of the Player with a registration card.
- Section 2.7 In any dispute proceedings, all relevant documents appertaining to the player and the issuance of a registration card will be conclusive proof of the valid registration of a Player unless it can be shown that the Player was registered:
- on the basis of materially false information;
 - Irregularly, and in circumstances where there was impropriety on his part or the part of his Club; or
 - In contravention of the Rules regulating the maximum number of Foreign Players or Players on loan that a Club is permitted to register.
- Section 2.8 No club shall be allowed to register a player(s) without a valid Medical Certificate issued by legally registered medical Institutions; with the Hospital full address, medical Doctor full name and signature, Medical License number, Hospital stamp the medical certificate MUST indicate the type of medical tests carried on each player. Absolutely, no drug store, unrecognized and unregistered medical Institution certificate will be accepted.
- Failure on the part of any club to obtain a medical certificate, the player(s) shall not be permitted to register; any circumvention of this section, violating club will be fined LD 20,000.00, the player suspended for five league matches; and shall only return after serving the ban along with the presentation of a valid medical certificate by his club;
- section 2.9 Only registered players are eligible to participate in the LFA organized football match. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederation and the LFA. A player may only be registered with one club at a time.

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- Section 3.0 Players may only be registered subject to the exception provided in this rules and regulations upon submission of a valid application from the club to the association during a registration period.
- Section 3.1 This provision concerning registration periods do not apply to LFA Sub Associations Third Division National Leagues.
- Section 3.2 A team which fields an illegal player who is not properly registered, transferred or suspended in a match shall forfeit the match in which the player participated and all previous matches by three (3) points and two (2) goals. The team concerned shall be fined as indicated below before its next league or competition match:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| i. First Division - | 30,000.00 |
| ii. Second Division - | 20,000.00 |
| iii. Women's Division - | 10,000.00 |
- Section 3.3 If the player is found guilty of misleading the team which may result to his/her illegal registration, the said player shall be banned for one football league season.
- Section 3.4 Any player not registered with a club feature in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the association or the organizer of the competition concerned.

Article 2: Player Eligibility (for the Player status committee)

Section 1.0 All players are eligible who have met all registration requirements:

- The player **MUST** have a valid contract. In the absence of a contract, the player shall sign no more than one season.
- Duration of a player's contract should reflect football seasons **NOT** in years
- In case of a foreign player, Must have a valid resident and work permits
- Must have a valid medical certificate
- All minors **MUST** present a parent/guardian consent documents and can only be registered for one season.

ARTICLE 3: Amateur Players in the League

- Section 1.0 The registration of an amateur Player will be valid only for the Season in respect of which the registration form is signed by that Player. The registration will expire at the end of the Season for which he is registered.
- Section 1.1 An amateur Player will be free to sign for another Club after having obtained a clearance certificate from the Club the Player was last registered with. It will constitute misconduct for a Club to unreasonably withhold a clearance certificate.

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- Section 1.2 A provision in a clearance certificate purporting to specify the Club or club to which the registration of an amateur Player may be transferred will be of no force though the validity of the clearance certificate will not be affected.

ARTICLE 4: Professional Players in the League

- Section 1.0 The registration of a professional Player will be valid for the entire period of his contract with a Club, and it will only be necessary for a Club to reregister the Player when he signs a new contract with Club.
- Section 1.1 Notwithstanding this the Member Club will submit a current medical certificate for each Player at the commencement of each Season failing which the registered Player will be ineligible to play until such time as the medical certificate is furnished.

ARTICLE 5: Foreign Players in the League

- Section 1.0 A foreign Player is any Player who is not a Liberian citizen unless the Player has obtained permanent residence in terms of Liberian Law.
- Section 1.1 A Club intending to register a foreign player must present original residence and work permits of the player before registration. The Competition Department will not accept payment receipt as residence or work permit.
- Section 1.2 Refugee Players shall apply to the LFA Secretariat to be issued a letter to enable the LFA issue a provisional clearance after presenting an official letter from the UNHCR indicating that said player is a refugee from a particular country.

CHAPTER 22. STATUS AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

ARTICLE 1: Player Status

Semi-Professional and Amateur

- Section 1.0 Players under the jurisdiction of the League are classified as either Semiprofessional or amateur.
- Section 1.1 A professional is a Player who has a written contract with Club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs in playing football.
- Section 1.2 A Semi-professional is a player who has a written contract and paid for his footballing activity not equivalent to the terms and conditions of a professional players.
- Section 1.3 Players who do not meet these criteria are considered to be amateurs.

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Section 1.4 A player registered as a Semi-professional may not register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a semi-professional. No compensation is payable upon acquisition of amateur status.

Section 1.5 If a player re-registers as a semi-professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an amateur, the player's new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with FIFA regulations.

ARTICLE 2: Free Agent

Section 1.0 Free Agent is a player whose contract has expired with a club or a player who has not played in any registered league under a member association.

ARTICLE 3: Virgin Player

Section 1.0: A virgin player is a player who has not participated in any organized Association football league.

Section 1.1 A virgin player who is registered and developed by a club shall be transferred at any time deemed necessary by the club and/or upon the request by the player, provided the player is of legal age of which the player's parents/guardians would have to consent.

Section 1.2 The LFA Sub Associations are obliged to provide the clubs with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the seasons of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player passport shall indicate the club with which he was registered during the season following his birthday.

ARTICLE 4: Transfer of Amateur Players within Liberia

Section 1.0 The registration of an amateur Player may be transferred from one (1) Club to another only with the written consent of that Player and:

- The Player has been issued with a clearance certificate by his previous club; or
- The financial agreements are concluded by the parties (Selling and buying clubs);
- The Player has been declared a free agent; or
- The registration of the Player is transferred by written agreement of his current Club and his future Club.

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Section 1.1 A Club will be entitled to compensation for the training and development of an amateur Player transferred to another Club only in terms of these Playing Rules.

Section 1.2 An addition of Ten percent (10%) of the agreed transfer fees shall be paid to clubs as training compensation for players transferred under the age of 23 years. This amount shall be distributed amongst the clubs involved in the training of the player (s). The club with who participated in longer training of the player gets more.

ARTICLE 5: Transfer of Semi-Professional Players within Liberia

Section 1.0 A Club wishing to engage the services of a Player is obliged to inform his present Club in writing of its interest before commencing any negotiations with that Player. As an alternative, all clubs are encouraged to utilize the services of LFA licensed Intermediaries only.

Section 1.1 A Club may grant a Player a free transfer, in which event it will issue the Player with a clearance certificate. All clubs not having interest in a player must release the player as a free agent as a result of sporting unjust cause pay all of the players' benefit as a result of his/her contract termination.

Section 1.2 If the club is indebted to the player, the club must ensure that it pays in full all of the amounts due the player prior to termination.

Section 1.3 Clubs failing to meet up with its financial obligations to players will be barred from the transfer of any player.

Section 1.4 Clubs will also have its financial assistance from the LFA used to address payments due to players and other members of the technical staff if it is established that the club is indebted to the players and staff.

Section 1.5 The transfer of the registration of a Player who has neither been granted a free transfer nor declared a free agent will be effected as follows:

Section 1.6 The previous Club and the registering Club will enter into a written transfer agreement which will be signed by authorized signatories of both Clubs. In the case of a Player who is minor, the Player and his parent or legal guardian will sign the players' contract.

Section 1.7 Clubs signing minors without the involvement of their parents or legal guardian shall be sanctioned.

Section 1.8 Together with its application to register the Player, the registering Club will forward to the League two (2) copies of the signed transfer agreement with proof of payment to the LFA including the declared and agreed amounts and the applicable government taxes.

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- Section 1.9 The LFA will investigate whether the registering Club's application to register the Player complies with the requirements of these Playing Rules.
- Section 2.0 If the LFA approves the transfer, it will register the Player with his new Club.
- Section 2.1 Until such time as the League approves any transfer of the registration of a professional Player and issues the registering Club with a registration card for the Player, the Player will remain registered with the previous Club.
- Section 2.2 A Player who ends his career or terminates his activity will continue to be recorded by the LFA as a Player of the last Club for which he played for a period of three (3) calendar years from the date of his last appearance in an official match.
- Section 2.3 A transfer fee may not be paid to any person other than a Club.
- Section 2.4 The LFA reserves the rights to issue a provisional Clearance to the following categories of players:
- Section 2.5 Local players who are to be transferred to another club provided all LFA Requirements are met; a provisional clearance will be awarded if the player first club refuses to transfer the player.

ARTICLE 6: Loan Transfer

- Section 1.0 A club may loan player(s) to another club by written agreement for minimum one (1) league season.
- Section 1.1 The loan of a Player's registration by one (1) Club to another Club constitutes a transfer of a Player's registration for the period specified in the loan agreement.
- Section 1.2 The transfer of the registration of a Player pursuant to the loan of that Player's registration will be affected as follows:
- Section 1.3 The loaning Club and the registering Club will enter into a written loan transfer agreement which will be signed by the authorized signatories of both Clubs and countersigned by the Player or, in the case of a Player who is a minor, by the Player and his parent or legal guardian;
- Section 1.4: The loan agreement will specify the dates upon which the loan transfer will begin and end;
- Section 1.5: The loaning club will issue a loan clearance certificate;
- Section 1.6 The registering Club will forward two (2) copies of the signed and countersigned loan agreement to the League together with the loan clearance certificate and loan registration form;

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- Section 1.7 Such agreement must be presented to the LFA Secretariat and the LFA is obliged to issue a new registration card upon receipt of the original loan agreement.
- Section 1.8 The loaning club shall be responsible for the continuous salary payments of the player except otherwise agreed by the parties as established in the loan agreement.
- Section 1.9 At the end of the loan period, the Player will no longer be eligible to play for the Club with which the Player was registered on loan and his registration will automatically revert to the loaning Club.
- Section 2.0: Player(s) on loan shall not play against his loaning club.
- Section 2.1 A club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer the said player to a third club without the written authorization of the club that released the player on loan, and the player concerned.

ARTICLE 7: International Transfers

- Section 1.0 A Player who wishes to play for a Club, but is registered as a Player in another national association, may only be registered after the LFA has received an international transfer certificate issued by the national association with which the Player is currently registered.
- Section 1.1 The LFA reserves the rights to issue a provisional Clearance to a Foreign Player who's National Association has not forwarded his/her ITC thirty (30) days after the original request was made.

ARTICLE 8: Semi-Professional Players' Contracts

- Section 1.0 All clubs are obliged to have a contractual agreement with their players. Any player who does not have a contractual agreement with his/her club shall be declared FREE AGENT at the end of the season by the LFA.
- Section 1.1 The application for registration of a professional player must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract indicating a minimum salary of:
- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------|
| i. | First Division Players - | LD 23,000.00 |
| ii. | Second Division Players - | LD 15,000.00 |
- Section 1.2 Players in the first division with a salary less than LD \$ 23,000.00 buyout of contract shall not exceed more than LD \$ 1,000,000.00.
- Section 1.3 The LFA shall not take into account any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.

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- Section 1.4 The following provisions shall apply to contracts between professional (players) and their clubs. If a licensed intermediary is involved in the negotiation of a contract he/she must be named in that contract:
- Section 1.5 The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five (5) seasons. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws.
- Section 1.6 Players under 18 years may not sign a semi-professional contract for a term longer than three (3) seasons and with training and education benefit. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognized.
- Section 1.7 A club intending to conclude a contract with a player (professional) must inform the player's current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him. A player (professional) shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or is due to expire within six (6) months. Any breach of the provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions by the LFA.
- Section 1.8 The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a successful medical examination and/or the grant of resident and work permits.
- Section 1.9 A contract between a professional and a club may only be terminated upon expiration of the term of the contract or by mutual agreement. A contract may also be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (Either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is a cause.
- Section 2.0 A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during the course of a season. The following provision shall apply if a contract is terminated without just cause:
- Section 2.1 In all cases, the party in breach shall pay compensation. Subject to the provision on Semi-professional registration and relating to training compensation, and unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for the breach shall be calculated with due consideration for the laws of Liberia and any other objective criteria. These criteria shall include, in particular, the remuneration and other benefits due to the player under the existing contract and/or the new contract, the time remaining on the existing contract up to a maximum of five (5) years, the fees and expenses paid or incurred by the former club (amortized over the term of the contract) and whether the contractual breach falls within a protected period;
- Section 2.2 Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. If a semi-professional is required to pay compensation, the professional and his new club shall be jointly be liable for its payment. The amount may be stipulated in the contract or agreed between the parties;

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- Section 2.3 In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on any club found to be in breach of contract or found to be inducing a breach of contract during the protected period. Any club which signed a professional player to commit a breach shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two registration periods;
- Section 2.4 Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes and Regulations (club officials, players' agent, players, etc.) who acts in a manner designed to induce a breach of contract between a professional player and a club in order to facilitate the transfer of the player shall be sanctioned.
- Section 2.5 No club shall enter into a contract which enables any other party to that contract or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its terms.
- Section 2.6 An established professional, who has, in the course of the season, appeared in fewer than ten percent of the official matches in which his club has been involved may terminate his/her contract prematurely on the ground of sporting just cause.
- Section 2.7 Due consideration shall be given to the player's circumstances in the appraisal of such cases. The existence of a sporting just cause shall be established on a case by case basis in such a case, sporting sanctions shall not be imposed though compensation may be payable. A professional may only terminate his contract on this basis in the days following the last official match of the season of the club with which he is registered.
- Section 2.8 The LFA shall impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in these regulations.
- Section 2.9 A non-contracted player whose club did not engage in the current league season shall be declared a FREE AGENT.
- Section 3.0 A contracted player whose club does not engage in the current league season shall be declared a FREE AGENT.
- Section 3.1 A contracted player whose registration tenure has expired with his/her former club shall be declared FREE AGENT. All contract extension MUST be sanctioned by the LFA.
- Section 3.2 No contracted player(s) shall be permitted to play for another club during offseason without the knowledge and written consent of said player(s) current Club.
- Section 3.3 Any contracted player(s) who knowingly or unknowingly violate Article 39 of the regulations shall be suspended as follows and be held liable for any injuries cause his current Club:
- i. First Division Club - Two (2) Months or fined by its club
 - ii. Second Division - Two (2) Months or fined by its club

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- iii. Women's Division - Two (2) Months or fined by its club

Section 3.4 All transfer arrangements of a player shall be between his/her current club and the new club he/she is to be transferred to with the consent of the player. The transfer document (CLEARANCE) shall be issued by the selling club to the buying club who shall subsequently submit it to the LFA for the registration of the player.

Section 3.5 Transfer fee distribution:

- i. Former Club - 100%
- ii. Applicable GOL Tax
- iii. Copy of the GOL tax receipt must be resented prior to registration of the player.

Section 3.6 A buy-out clause **MUST** be included in the player's contract clause and the fee required must not exceed 100% of the contract value of the player at the moment of the transaction.

Section 3.7 In the case of transfer of a player, all payments owed the player from the contract due to salary will be deducted from transfer fees and paid to the player.

Section 3.8 Copies of all documents of transfer and employment between the club on one part and any player, official or other employee of the club on the other part shall be deposited with the LFA and all such document shall specify that, that person is directly under the disciplinary control of the club and of the LFA.

Section 3.9 Wherein the player's present club and the new club to which he/she is to be transferred cannot reach an agreement within seven (7) days of interactions, the LFA Secretariat in consultation with the Player status committee shall intervene and its decision on the matter shall be final and binding based on the terms of the CAF and FIFA rules and regulation on players' transfer.

Section 4.0 No contract to play for a club shall be recognized by the LFA, unless a copy of such a contract has been duly deposited with the LFA in compliance with this Section.

CHAPTER 23. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Article 1: Cautions

Section 1.0: Any player/club official who is shown a yellow Card for any cautionable Offense shall be fined as follows:

First Division	Second Division	Women's Division	Club Official
LD 750.00	LD 500.00	LD \$250.00	LD 1,500.00

Section 1.0a: All cautionable fines must be paid prior to the club's immediate next match. If the fine is not paid and player is fielded in the immediate next match, the player shall become illegal..

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Section 1.0 b. Second caution in the same match:

First Division	Second Division	Women's Division
LS\$1,500.00	LS\$1,000	LS\$ 500.00

Section 1.1 Any Player who accumulates three (3) cautions (i.e. "yellow cards") in three different matches shall be suspended from participation in the club's immediate next match. If the player is fielded, said player becomes illegal.

Section 1.2 Any player(s) who is suspended (Yellow/Red card) or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a Season must be served at the commencement of the next Season.

Section 1.3 Any expulsion that occurs during the interruption of a match or abandonment before the end of regular time shall be maintained.

Section 1.4 Club Officials who are shown red card by the referee, shall not be permitted to enter the perimeter of the field or seen giving instructions from behind his/her club's bench. If an official(s) are caught in such act, he/she punishment shall be double.

Section 1.5 When a Player is transferred or the official moves to a new club during the period of suspension, the suspension shall remain enforce.

Section 1.6 A Club may request a review in writing on the grounds of mistaken identity for disciplinary actions. The review shall be directed to the LFA Referees' Committee.

Section 1.7 Any player who is shown a Red Card and sent off the field of play for the following offenses shall be banned from further participation in the club's next two (2) matches and fine as follows:

- i. Serious Foul Play: LD 3,000.00
- ii. Violent Conduct: LD 5,000.00 and the LFA has the right to impose further punishment depending on the severity of the offense
- iii. Spitting on an opponent, Referee or spectator(s): LD 10,000.00
- iv. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures: LD 3,000.00
- v. Second caution in the same match (player suspended from the club's immediate next match): LD 1,500.00
- vi. Physical attack of the match officials: 1 year ban.
- vii. Club Officials who shall be shown the red card for, using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and or gestures, false accusation, shall be fine and ban as follow:

- i. LS\$5,000.00 and five match banned

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- Section 1.8 Payment of fines shall be done prior to the day of the club's immediate next match, whether the player(s) or official(s) is/are fielded or not.
- Section 1.9 If a player is fielded without the payment of the fine, said player shall be considered an illegal player. Club shall be penalized with the forfeiture of the match (es) the player(s) is fielded and all points will be deducted from the club.
- Section 2.0 If the Club Official(s) is found sitting on the club's bench or listed on the referee's match form without the payment of the fine, the club shall forfeit the match; where the club loses the match and the club did violate, the official(s) shall be given additional five match ban.

ARTICLE 2: Misconduct

- Section 1.0 Any club official(s) who shall castigate a match official(s) or LFA Official(s) before, during and/or after the match shall be suspended for three (3) months for the first offence, six (6) months for the second offence, one (1) years for the third offence and ban from all LFA activities for any further offence.
- Section 1.1 Any player(s) or club official(s) who shall assault a match official(s) or LFA Official(s) before, during and/or after the match shall be suspended for all LFA activities for one (1) year and pay all expenses incurred by the match official or LFA Official(s) for the first offense, two (2) years for the second offence, three (3) years for the third offence and banned from all football for any further occurrence
- Section 1.2 A club official, player or member of a club who shall encourage or authorize the team to abandon a match or bring a match to a standstill, shall be fined LD 50,000.00 and suspended for a period not less than one (1) year and not exceeding two (2) years for the second offence; for the third offence, said person shall be banned from all LFA activities.
- Section 1.3 Misconduct towards a match official(s) and LFA Official(s) away from the field of play where that misconduct can be related or traced to a match, shall be dealt with as if it has been committed on the field of play.
- Section 1.4 The sprinkling of water, powder or other concoctions in liquid or solid form in or around the field of play, including the dressing room, is forbidden and shall be punishable with a fine of LD 150,000.00 at all levels of the competition.
- Section 1.5 The LFA shall hold clubs responsible for the misconduct of their members, fans, supporters, sympathizers and followers, etc. before, during and after a match. Clubs will be held liable to pay a fine of no less than LD \$ 75,000.00 for fans invading the pitch.

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- Section 1.6 Any LFA Official(s) or club official(s) or player(s) of a club who instigates, commands, counsels, solicits, procures, or in any manner purposely aids, facilitates, encourages or promotes the playing of a fixed match or a match of convenience, involving his club, or involving other clubs, the result of which may in one way or the other, affect his club, commits a grievous offence and the offender shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions. Individual(s) involved shall be immediately suspended pending the outcome of the Disciplinary Committee's decision and or findings.
- Section 1.7 Any Club who instigates, commands, counsels, solicits, procures, or in any manner purposely aids, facilitates, encourages or promotes the playing of a fixed match or a match of convenience or involving other clubs, the result of which may in one way or the other, affect the club in question, commits a grievous offence and the offending Club shall be referred to the LFA Ethics Committee for appropriate sanctions. The Club shall be immediately suspended pending the outcome of the LFA Ethics Committee's decision and or findings.
- Section 1.8 Any First, Second and/or Women's Division player(s) found in acts of indiscipline and vandalism within other leagues shall be suspended for one (1) year for the first offence and two (2) years for the second offence.
- Section 1.9 The LFA shall uphold disciplinary action on any player(s) and official(s) guilty by his/her club, LFA Sub-Associations and affiliates. However, the club concerned must inform the LFA in writing of any such disciplinary action.
- Section 2.0 All teams shall remain within their dressing rooms prior to the commencement of their matches and return to the dressing rooms during half time of said match, unless otherwise advised by the Match Officials.
- Section 2.0a Any player(s), Club Official(s) found urinating on the perimeter or undressing in the open of the playing pitch shall be booked and penalized accordingly;
- Section 2.1 The LFA reserves the right to investigate matter relating to players or officials' suspended by their clubs where the affected player(s) or official(s) seek redress from the LFA.
- Section 2.2 All clubs shall be responsible for acts and damages of LFA and Match Officials properties caused by their players, officials, followers or supporters.

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Section 2.3 No First, Second, Third, Division player(s) shall play game under LONA. However, if any LONA registered player(s) is transferred to the LFA National League, the club of said player must negotiate with the Old-timer club for the appropriate transfer certificate.

Section 2.4: The Integrity Officer is empowered through these regulations to probe into all suspicions of match fixing, integrity breached, such as receiving of gift(s) and favours from people to whom services must be rendered free of charged.

Section 1,17a: All findings of the Integrity Officer shall be compiled and forwarded to the Ethics Committee through the General Secretary for further investigation and appropriate actions.

CHAPTER 24: PROTESTS, COMPLAINTS, AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 1: Protests

Section 1.0 Protests emanating from a match must be registered on the referee's game sheet, before, during and immediately after the match in question and followed by a formal letter within twenty-four (24) hours to the Secretariat of the LFA (excluding the day of the match, Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays). If a club fails to pursue the protest with a formal written communication, the case shall no longer be heard nor consider as a protest.

Section 1.1 The formal protest must be accompanied with the following nonrefundable fees:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|
| i. | First Division - | LD 50,000.00 |
| ii. | Second Division - | LD 35,000.00 |
| iii. | Women's Division - | LD 15,000.00 |

Section 1.1a In the event the protesting party wins the protest, the guilty party shall refund the protest fees. Terms of payment shall be communicated to the guilty party by the LFA.

The Grievance committee shall receive 60% of the protest fees as sitting fees.

Section 1.2 The formal protest must set out the reasons for the protest including the facts and evidence on which it is based and must refer to the Article or Rule allegedly contravened by the alleged offender.

Section 1.3 The provision of fact relative to the protest is on the protesting Club to ensure that the provisions of this Rule are complied with, failing which the protest will not be entertained by the LFA.

1.4 The LFA reserves the rights to take action in case of violation of any provision in these rules and regulations not cover herein.

ARTICLE 2: Complaints

Section 1.0 Complaints are also grievance matters which surpassed the twenty-four (24) hours timeline mentioned in Article 25.1. All complaints emanating from a match must be filed within thirty (30) days after the match with a non-refundable fee of:

- i. First Division - LD 100,000.00
- ii. Second Division - LD 50,000.00
- iii. Women's Division - LD 30,000.00

ARTICLE 3: Disciplinary Committee

Section 1.0 The Disciplinary Committee deals with all cases of alleged misconduct, protests and complaints.

Section 1.1 All grievance and Disciplinary matters emanating from a match shall be initially reviewed by the Competitions Department before been forwarded to the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee which requires judicial sitting.

1.1a: The LFA secretariat also reserves the right to take prompt actions to any violation of these rules and regulations.

Section 1.2 The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be based inter alias on the written reports of the Referees, the Match Commissioners, Referee Assessor, Statisticians and other evidence acceptable by the grievance and Disciplinary committee; provided by the parties concerned. However, the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee is not obliged to invite any party.

Section 1.3 In the event where there is a conflict of reports about activities on the field of play, the Referee's report shall be supreme.

Section 1.4 The Grievance and Disciplinary Committee shall have first jurisdiction in all protest matters and complaints, and must advise the parties concerned through the LFA Secretariat in writing of its decision after a complete and thorough investigation not exceeding seven (7) days.

Section 1.5 If within four (4) weeks following a match or seven (7) days after the league season, the LFA is informed, no matter the source, that a fraud was committed by a club, an investigation shall be conducted immediately by the Disciplinary Committee. The Committee shall take the appropriate disciplinary actions in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, for event(s) which in its opinion have occurred.

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Section 1.6 Following the decision of the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee, either party may file a formal written Appeal to the LFA Appeal Committee within seventy-two (72) hours upon receipt of GDC's decision with a non-refundable fee as follows:

1	First Division -	LD 125,000.00
2	Second Division -	LD 100,000.00
3	Women's Division -	LD 50,000.00

Section 1.7 Where the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that there is misconduct by a player a club official, a referee or a match commissioner, the Committee may act as follows:

Section 1.8 Impose suspension from all or specific football matches or competitions either indefinitely or for a stated period;

Section 1.9 Impose fines either with or without suspension; such fines shall be paid within stipulated time mentioned under disciplinary matters of these regulations; and the amount to be determined by the LFA

Section 1.10 No club shall revert to court action in response to disciplinary action taken against it by the LFA as a result of violation of any provision of the LFA Rules and Regulations. This must be indicated in the articles of Incorporation of all Clubs and Affiliates.

CHAPTER 25 GENERAL GUIDELINES

ARTICLE 1 General Guidelines

Section 1.0 The LFA Secretariat shall keep registry in which the names, birth dates and other particulars of all players for each club shall be recorded.

Section 1.2 Completion of the registration shall be done at the Secretariat of the LFA via online submission.

Section 1.3 In registering players, any changes in full names (Surname, First and middle names) the LFA shall be notified of any such changes, and in any event, not later than seven (7) days from the date of the change. Clubs must also submit legal documents in relations to the name change.

Section 1.4 Every club shall keep proper books of accounts in which shall be entered all receipts and payments. Every club shall file a copy of duly audited accounts with the LFA.

Section 1.5 LFA deserves the right to probe in a club financial situation at any time and any moment.

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Section 1.6 Only LFA and CAF certificated or licensed coach and medics shall be permitted to be on team bench during LFA Championship League matches and LFA organized competitions and with a compulsory goal keeper coach for First and Second Division.

Section 1.7 No First Division, Second Division or Women's Division club shall be allowed to register without presenting the coach license and a duly signed contract to the Secretariat. Only persons holding a Minimum CAF License "B" will be allowed to serve as head coach at the First Division, while CAF License "C" will be allowed to serve as head coach at Second and Women Divisions for the league season. No club will be allowed to participate in any LFA organized match without a licensed coach. Club found in violation of any provision in this section will be fined as follows:

First Division:

- i. LD 5,000.00 first offense;
- ii. LD 10,000.00 second offense;
- iii. LD 15,000.00 third offense, payable before the club next match.

Second Division:

- i. LD 2,500.00 first offense;
- ii. LD 5,000.00 second offense;
- iii. LD 7,500.00 third offense, payable before the club next match.

Women's Division:

- i. LD 2,500.00 first offense;
- ii. LD 5,000.00; second offense;
- iii. LD 7,500.00 third offence, payable before the club next match.

Section 1.8 Failure on the part of any club to make full payment as stipulated in Article 26.7 shall forfeit the match in question.

Section 1.9 All CAF licensed coaches will be accredited by LFA before the commencement of the league and provided an accredited tag to be worn at all matches. Failure of any club coach to do so, said club will be fined as seen in Articles 26.7.1-3.

Section 1.10 The accredited tag will be charged the following amount:
LD 1,500.00 for local coach and LD 15, 000 for foreign coach.

ARTICLES 2: Affiliated Association Leagues

Section 1.0 The leagues of affiliated associations shall be administered in closed consultation and collaboration with the LFA Secretariat. Hence, all affiliates must conduct annual league. If an affiliate does not run football activities said affiliate membership shall be suspended.

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Section 1.1 LFA registered clubs shall not participate in any affiliated association sponsored competitions which are not sanctioned by the LFA.

Section 1.2 An organization or affiliated association(s) of the LFA wishing to organize or play against an LFA registered club shall apply for approval to the LFA Secretariat at least seven (7) days before the match or the competition, except where the Secretariat of the LFA otherwise decide.

CHAPTER 26 REVIEW, VARIATION & AMENDMENT

ARTICLE 1: Review, Variation & Amendment

Section 1.0 These Play Rules and Regulations may be reviewed, verified, and amended by the Executive Committee from time to time either to add new ones or to incorporate changes ordered by FIFA and/or CAF.

Section 1.2 Any changes, variations and/or amendments made shall take immediate effect notwithstanding that they have not yet been incorporated into these Playing Rules and Regulations provided that the change, variation and/or amendment shall have been adequately communicated to all LFA affiliates and structures.

Section 1.3 The Executive Committee may suspend the application of any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations for such period as it shall deem necessary in the interests of the game of football.

CHAPTER 27 ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

ARTICLE 1: Adoption And Enforcement

Section 1.0 The LFA Executive Committee adopted these Rules and Regulations on ____ day October A.D. 2019

Section 1.1 These Rules and Regulations come into force on ____ day of October 2019

DULY SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE LFA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Signed: _____
Mustapha I. Raji
LFA President

Signed: _____
Isaac T.Z. Montgomery
LFA Secretary General

Revision venue and date: Monrovia, October 2019