



## **TOURNAMENT RULES 2023**







# BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

## Tournament Rules

Amended January 2022

### BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1362  
BB11000  
Bridgetown  
Barbados  
West Indies

Tel: 246-538-2255

Cell: 246-836-6364

Website: [www.barbadosfa.com](http://www.barbadosfa.com)

Email: [office@barbadosfa.com](mailto:office@barbadosfa.com)  
[generalsecretary@barbadosfa.com](mailto:generalsecretary@barbadosfa.com)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>- APPLICATION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>- INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>- PLAYERS' ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>- REGISTRATION</b>	<b>6</b>
	CLUBS	6
	PLAYERS	6
	IDENTIFICATION CARDS	8
<b>5</b>	<b>- LAWS OF THE GAME</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>- GEAR AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>- COMPETITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE BFA</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>- PLAYING OF MATCHES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>- WITHDRAWAL, PUNCTUALITY AND     PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO PLAY OR PARADE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>- PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>- WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>- DIVISION ONE LEAGUE</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>- DIVISION TWO LEAGUE</b>	<b>21</b>

TOURNAMENT RULES OF THE BARBADOS FA - Amended January 2022

<b>14 - DIVISION THREE LEAGUE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>15 - CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>16 - RESERVE LEAGUES</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>17 - GENERAL</b>	<b>24</b>
REFEREES FEES	26
MEDIA REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS	29
<b>18 - CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>19 - ABANDONMENT</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>20 - PROTESTS</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>21 - APPEALS</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>22 - TRANSFER OF PLAYERS</b>	<b>33</b>
LOCAL TRANSFERS	33
INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS	35
<b>23 - LOAN AGREEMENTS</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>24 - DOPING CONTROL MEASURES</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>25 - DISCIPLINE</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>26 - COPYRIGHT</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>27 - MEDIA GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>28 - MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR</b>	<b>38</b>

TOURNAMENT RULES OF THE BARBADOS FA - Amended January 2022

<b>29 - INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>30 - ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>APPENDIX A - DUTIES OF THE MATCH COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>APPENDIX B - POLICY ON THE USE OF BANNED SUBSTANCES/PRACTICES IN FOOTBALL</b>	<b>41</b>
1 - PREAMBLE	41
2 - PURPOSE	41
3 - DRUG AWARENESSPROGRAMME	
- NATIONAL SELECTIONS	42
4 - TESTING FOR BANNEDSUBSTANCES	
- NATIONAL SELECTIONS	42
5 - CONFIDENTIALITY	43
6 - IMPOSITIONOF SANCTIONS	44
<b>APPENDIX C - MEDIA GUIDELINES &amp; REGULATIONS</b>	<b>45</b>
PRE-MATCH DAY GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS	45
MATCHDAY GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS	46
STADIUM ARRIVAL & DURING MATCH	46
POST-MATCH GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS	48
<b>COMING INTO FORCE OF THESE RULES</b>	<b>49</b>

## **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 a consent form provided by the

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

- (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 complete the club licensing process yearly. The required information must be returned to the Secretariat, 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 FIFA Connect website at [brb.ma.services](http://brb.ma.services).
- (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. Incorrect information may render the registration invalid.

Each club participating in the BFA's senior competitions shall register a minimum of twenty (20) players and five (5) officials at a registration fee determined yearly by the BFA.

- (VII) The BFA will not sanction any club or player in any competition until such club or player has complied with the requirements of registration.
- (VIII) All registered players in the Premier League, Division One and all National selectees are permitted to play only BFA sanctioned competitions.
- (IX) 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.

- (X) 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 teams will have a minimum of 16 players.

**C. IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

- (I) All registered players and officials in ALL competitions 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. Registered 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 always be worn inside shorts.
- (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.

- (V) The Referee and or Match Commissioner is the sole arbiter of gear and equipment.
- (VI) Players' names may be worn on the backs of jerseys during the tournaments.
- (VII) Matching numbers MUST be worn on jerseys and shorts by all players and players are bounded to the same number for the entire season.
- (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 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 Knock Out Cup
- (IV) The Women's 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 kickoff 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 fine 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 BFA seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled 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 scheduled by the BFA shall be officiated by an official referee of the BFA or an individual (Club “referee”) to whom both teams agree.

In the event both Clubs are not in agreement with the Club “referee”, the Referees’ Manager shall appoint an alternative. If the Referees’ Manager is unable to appoint an alternative referee at that time, the match shall be rescheduled to a date to be determined by the BFA.

**Barbados Football Association referees, 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. Three goals shall be debited against the defaulting team.
- (XV) A club which defaults two (2) games during the season shall be removed from the competition and may be fined Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) and will be subject to further Disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee.
- (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 contained 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.
- (XVIII) An irregular match score between two teams that casts suspicion shall be investigated by the BFA and if any offence is found to have been committed, the Clubs shall be subject to disciplinary action by the BFA, including expulsion and/or demotion.

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 Board, 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 may replace a club(s) withdrawing from the competition by nomination or a playoff.

- (VI) Teams should be present at the match venue at least one hour (1hr) before the scheduled start of matches in the Premier league and Division One and half hour (1/2 hr) for Division Two and Three.
- (VII) Teams defaulting or failing to report for a match except in cases of force majeure shall be fined as outlined below.

A Club is deemed to be in default of a game if:

- (i) the Club fields fewer than the required eighteen (18) players;
- (ii) the Club does not field a team at all; or
- (iii) the Club fields a team after the fixed time for the start of play without informing the BFA in a reasonable period of time of the cause(s).

A Club found to be in default according to above rules (i)-(iii) shall be fined as follows: -

Premier League	- \$1000.00
Division One	- \$500.00
Division Two	- \$300.00
Division Three	- \$200.00

All fines must be paid before the start of the next football season or as determined by the Executive Board of the BFA.

A Club that forfeits a game shall also be fined in the same manner as prescribed above. 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.

## **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) Each team will play each other for points. Positions shall be determined by the aggregate of points achieved by each participating club at the end of the total matches played.

(III) Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.

(IV) Four teams shall be demoted. The bottom four teams at the end of the league table shall be demoted.

(V) Prize money will be distributed for positions first to fourth as determined by the Executive Board yearly. These amounts will be communicated to the clubs prior to the competition.

(VI) Any Premier League team which forfeits a match (walk off or abandon) shall be fined \$500.00 and will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Board.

- (VII) Any Premier League team which defaults a game without giving the BFA a valid reason prior to the game shall be fined \$1000.00 and will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Board.
- (VIII) Any Premier League team which starts a game with less than 11 players shall be fined \$500.00 and will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Board.
- (IX) Clubs shall submit no fewer than eighteen (18) players on the team list for each game. A Club that is unable to field the required number of players 15 minutes after the start of the game shall be subject to disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the BFA.
- (X) Where an incentive is being awarded to a Club for winning games, any Club that violates this rule shall be ineligible to be awarded the incentive.
- (XI) A Club found guilty of delaying the start of the game shall be subject to disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the BFA.
- (XII) Teams/Clubs who have five or more players representing a national selection, and they are being called to national duty simultaneously, can request a postponement of their fixture(s). Such a request must be made at least 72 hours before the scheduled fixture.
- (XIII) 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) Division One games shall be played at such times and venues as determined by the BFA.
- (III) 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

- (IV) Each team will play each other for points. Positions shall be determined by the aggregate of points achieved by each participating club at the end of the total matches played.
- (V) Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.
- (VI) The winner and the team placing second shall be promoted to Premier League.
- (VII) Four teams shall be demoted. The bottom four teams at the end of the league table shall be demoted.
- (VIII) Prize money will be allocated for positions first to fourth as determined by the Executive Board yearly. These amounts will be communicated to the clubs prior to the competition.
- (IX) Any Division One League team which defaults a game without giving the BFA a valid reason prior to the game shall be fined \$500.00 and will be subject to further disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Board or the BFA's Executive Board.

### **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 zones (if necessary), as determined by the BFA.

- (III) If in zones each zone winner shall be promoted to Division One. Alternately the top two teams shall be promoted.
- (IV) 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.
- (V) The two 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 two zones (if necessary), or as determined by the BFA.
- (III) If in zones each zone winner shall be promoted to Division Two. Alternately the top two teams shall be promoted.
- (IV) 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.

#### **15. KNOCK-OUT 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 in the preliminary stage shall be played on a home and away system with the team with the highest aggregate advancing to the next round.
- (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 the aggregate of a fixture is tied at the end normal time of both games, 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. It is mandatory for Premier League Clubs to play the Reserve League.
- (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.
- (VII) There may 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) An irregular match score between two teams that casts suspicion shall be investigated by the BFA and if any offence is found to have been committed, the clubs and individuals shall be subject to disciplinary action by the BFA, including a fine, suspension, expulsion and/or demotion.
- (XIV) REFEREES FEES:
- a. Premier League: All referees'/assistant referees' fees shall be paid by the BFA.
  - b. Division One: 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 fees as determined by the Executive Board.
  - 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 (determined by the Executive Board) to the referee, no later than halftime.

- d. Clubs participating in the Knock-Out Cup shall be responsible for the payment of the referee's fee. Each club shall pay an equal amount (determined by the Executive Board) to the referee, no later than halftime.
- (XV) Where gate receipts are taken the BFA will meet the referee's fee.
- (XVI) Clubs participating in the Reserve League shall be responsible for the payment of the referee's fee. Each club shall pay an equal amount (determined by the Executive Board) to the referee, no later than halftime.
- (XVII) 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.
- (XVIII) Any player or Club official who receives a red card or two (2) yellow cards during a game shall have his ID card withheld by the referee and submitted with the referee's report to the BFA. The player or Club official shall serve a one-match suspension in the competition in which the player or Club official was sent off. If the Club has no more games to be played in the competition in which the player or Club official was sent off, that player or Club official shall serve a one-match suspension in the next scheduled match.
- (XIX) 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.

- (XX) The Challenge Cup Competition shall equate to the highest division in which the offender(s) plays.
- (XXI) 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.
- (XXII) Each Club shall forward to the Secretariat of the BFA, the result of its scheduled games, within twenty-four (24) 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).
- (XXIII) Referees shall submit their match reports within twenty-four (24) 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.
- (XXIV) 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.
- (XXV) The BFA may appoint match commissioners for Premier League games and such other games as determined by the Secretariat.
- (XXVI) The match commissioner shall identify himself to the

referee and the teams and shall facilitate the effective management of the game.

(XXVII) 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 24 hours of the conclusion of the game

(XXVIII) 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 applicable in this section 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 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 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) is acceptable with the signature of the Secretary/President of the Club. All protests must be submitted to the BFA within twenty-four (24) 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) is acceptable with the signature of the Secretary/President of the Club. All appeals must be submitted to the BFA within 24 hours, 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**

Players shall be eligible for transfer once the following conditions are met;

- i. All relevant subscriptions are fully paid up. The BFA shall only recognize subscriptions which are outstanding for one year or less. Any member Club may decide on an annual subscription fee for its members. The collection of subscription fee is the onus of the Club.

If at the time of transfer, a player's subscription arrears are more than \$300.00, the maximum amount a Club shall demand from the player is \$300.00. A player has the right to settle his or her subscription arrears.

Where a player is paid a fee to play for a Club, a written contractual agreement shall be drawn up indicating the terms of the contract and the player's fees. The BFA shall provide a contract template on its website for guidance. A copy of the player's contract shall be lodged at the BFA for their records prior to the commencement of the football season.

- ii. 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.

- iii. Players seeking to transfer their club registration for the football season shall make an application via FIFA Connect to the Club of destination by the stipulated date.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. The transfer window will be opened in accordance with the period set by the Secretariat.
- vii. 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.
- viii. The BFA shall not recognize claims by Clubs for compensation for costs associated with remedial work for injuries suffered by players whilst providing their services to Clubs.
- ix. At the completion of or release from national duty 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.
  - xi. 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.
  - xii. Clubs shall not be permitted to frustrate the transfer of players.
  - xiii. The BFA must approve all transfers.
  - xiv. Clubs shall not implement rules or policies which conflict with the Constitution of the Barbados Football Association.
  - xv. 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 via

FIFA Connect when organizing the loan of a player(s) by the stipulated date.

- (III) Both the Clubs' official & the BFA must approve the loan for the 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 which fails to comply with any of these 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 9th January, 2022.



## 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 the 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**

#### **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 whose 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 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 or the person designated the BFA is in charge of all media related matters and is assigned by the General Secretary 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 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 AND 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 can 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 up 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 can 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 can 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 switch 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.

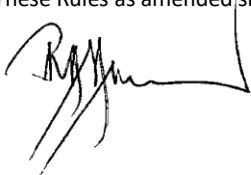
#### POST-MATCH DAY GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS:

- 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 can 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 Disciplinary Committee.

COMING INTO FORCE OF THESE RULES

These Rules as amended shall come into force immediately.



---

Mr. Randolph Harris

President



---

Mr. Edwyn Wood  
**General Secretary**

Dated: January 2023

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







**TOURNAMENT RULES OF THE BARBADOS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
Amended January 2022  
[www.barbadosfa.com](http://www.barbadosfa.com)