



BFA Senior League Tournament Rules and Regulations 2018-2019

1. Every Club must register the color of its shirts, shorts and socks with the office administrator by the first Monday in October who shall decide as to their suitability. Each club must have its first strip and an alternate strip with a distinctly different color shirt and socks from its first strip. Each club must have a certified first aid and CPR responder during warm-up and during the game. Additionally, they must be trained in the use of a defibrillator which is provided by the BFA. Please supply a list of the responders upon registration.
2. Goalkeepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players and the referees.
3. If in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colors, the home team shall make the change.
4. The time for matches will be as follows: Sundays at 2.00 pm, 4:00 pm and 6.00pm. There will be NO grace period for the start of matches.
5. Schedule will be prepared and presented to all teams. Once completed, charges to the schedule are not allowed. Teams forfeiting matches will be fined \$200.00 for the first forfeiture and \$300.00 for the second and thereafter. Teams withdrawing from the competition once the schedule is

- released will be fined \$1,000.00 and forfeit all representation with the BFA. Fines are payable prior to the next scheduled match.
6. Teams must register a minimum of 18 players and up to a maximum of 22 players will be allowed. Once completed, copies of rosters will be printed by Referees for match days. Players list must be submitted to the BFA office 24 hours before the match failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine.
 7. **All players under the age of 18 (minors) may only play in the senior league with the written permission of their parents or legal guardians.**
 8. Player identifications must be returned to the BFA at the end of the season. BFA issued ID cards will be the only accepted form of identification to enter the stadium without paying.
 9. Transfers between club and registration of new players will ONLY be allowed during the Transfer Window Periods:
 10. The BFA General Secretary must approve all releases, transfers or loan of players.
 11. **Players, who are attached to a team, do so for 3 years, unless released by their team.**
 12. *Players registered in the Senior League, may NOT participate in any other non-sanctioned football league.*
 13. League format will apply and points will be awarded as follows:
 - a. 3 points win
 - b. 1 point draw
 - c. 0 points loss

The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, team ranking will be decided in the following manner:

1. Head to head
 2. Goals Different
 3. Goals Scored
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14. FIFA Laws of the Game will apply and match officials will be given full authority to enforce these laws in the match to which they have been assigned.

 15. Disciplinary sanctions will be according to BFA or FIFA List of Disciplinary Measures and based upon the written report of the match official (referee) and Match Commissioner. Fines will be assessed based on the BFA Infringements in General Fines and Infringements against Match Officials Fines. Letters issuing sanctions will be presented to team representatives and match officials at the next match day. Please note that red cards are an automatic one game suspension and a fine of \$100, payable before **the player's** next match. **Further sanctions will apply based on the severity of the actions.**

 16. Committee meetings will be held on the first Monday 5:30 pm of every month to discuss matters as they arise. Senior Team Representatives are encouraged to contact **League Committee Chair** to include items on the agenda. This will be your opportunity to voice concerns and League officials will not make themselves available for discussion at match day.

 17. Clubs will be allowed to utilize 5 substitutes per match, but the 5th substitute must be a youth player. Youth players will be indicated on your team's roster on match days for ease of identification by match officials.

 18. Qualification of Players

(A) Registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible has:

- (1) Have legal status in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Provide a Bahamas Government issued identification document to the General Secretariat Office.
- (2) Signed a Registration form with a Member Club giving all particulars of his identity and agreeing to abide by the said Club's Rules and Regulations as well as those of the Competition and BFA.
- (3) For foreign players wishing to register, a Transfer Certificate must be obtained from the National Association from which that person was previously registered with.

(B) A player is not eligible to play in this Competition who receives any form of payment or payment for playing.

PLAYERS, COACHES, TEAM STAFF, SPECTATORS

CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. COACHES/TEAM STAFF CONDUCT/RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1** Registration of all coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers etc. participating in the League shall be mandatory with BFA and shall be consistent with these rules ("Rules") and completed on a Coach's/ Volunteer Registration form. Providing inaccurate information may result in disciplinary action and or sanctions.
- 1.2** Adherence to the Rules and Regulations shall be the responsibility of all team staff and ignorance of the Rules shall not in any manner whatsoever relieve them of this responsibility.

Any member found guilty of non-adherence to the Rules may face disciplinary action and or sanctions under the BFA or FIFA rules and regulations and any amendments thereto.

- 1.3** Club's responsibility for player's registration shall include proper and complete registering, rostering and age verification for all players and transfers to their team.

Any member found guilty of non-adherence to the Rules may face disciplinary action and or sanctions under the BFA rules and regulations and any amendments thereto.

- 1.4** A team who submits an electronic registration for, or plays not registered members of the team may have its privileges to participate in BFA-sanctioned games and or events be suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year and or receive a fine. For the purposes of this rule only, team shall be defined as a specific group of players registered with the BFA. A team which changes its name, ownership, etc. is still regarded as the same team.

1.5 POACHING AND OR ATTEMPTED POACHING

There is to be NO improper contact between the prospective team and the players of currently registered and/or rostered players. Any coach or member of a team having contact with a player after a player is registered and/or rostered, without first obtaining written permission from that player's coach, will be construed as having had improper contact with a player, and such action can result in a charge of poaching.

1. Improper contact is defined as any communication with a player other than the most casual, cordial communication necessary such as congratulations at the end of a match or similar such conversations. This contact specifically includes, but is not limited to, players participating in practices, training sessions, scrimmages or other soccer-related functions.
 2. Improper contact shall also include, but is not limited to, attendance at team social functions when the player is not registered to that team, making first contact with a player or parent of a player from another team/club/league to discuss their program, discussing their program with a player or parent from another team/club/league, using a position of authority to persuade or coerce a player to transfer. This may include adults involved with clinics and soccer schools, adults involved with high school programs or other nonaffiliated programs.
 3. Any such improper contact, no matter how generated, is prohibited without prior written notification and written consent of the player's current club, the club director of coaching and/or players, or the Agent of Record of the club to which the player is currently registered and/or rostered. A coach/volunteer or member of a team having contact with a player is charged with the knowledge of that player's registration and/or roster status and shall be held accountable for any unauthorized contact with any player currently not rostered to his team, regardless of how that contact is initiated or by whom.
- A. No coach, assistant coach, trainer, team representative, registered player, parent of a registered player or advertisement may offer any kind of inducement to recruit a player and/or to transfer from his/her respective team, during the seasonal year as defined September 1st through July 1st or as stipulated from time to time by the BFA.

Inducing a player includes, but is not limited solicitation to leave the current affiliate, offering a currently rostered player a roster spot on an

existing team, or a roster spot for the next seasonal year, providing incentives to players including but not limited to reduction in fees, trips, provision of uniforms and or other equipment.

Coaches are responsible for the actions of the all of the above listed participants of their team.

B. Coach:

All coaches are obligated to the registering affiliate for the complete seasonal year defined as September 1st through July 1st or as stipulated from time to time by the BFA. Agreement by contract between the parties may shorten or lengthen this period. A coach who resigns a position shall be bound by the following conditions:

1. For an affiliate to recruit the services of a registered coach, the requesting affiliate must first notify in writing the agent of record of the coach's current club. There shall be no contact with any currently registered coach prior to July 31st, unless permission is granted in writing by the affiliate club or team.
2. A currently registered coach may not contact a prospective club prior to July 31st, without written permission of their currently registered affiliate's agent of record, or designee. After July 31st contact may be affected with written notification to the current affiliate. **Once registered with their club or team, coaches are bound to the affiliate club or team policy.** *Coaches can assist with Training players from other clubs or teams not registered with your club or team is permitted once the team is not in the same age group.*
3. Any coaching, coaching as described in #2, cannot induce or coerce that player/ those players to join his or her club/team. Enrolled in a soccer school, private soccer training program, outside on your parent club, said players are prohibited from joining the club/ team of the coach in

this instance for a period of three years after the transfer request/application is initiated.

4. A currently registered coach who decides during a seasonal year to change clubs shall not solicit, entice or induce in any manner players they are currently coaching to move to his/her new club until July 31st.
5. Violation of any of the above standards is considered as poaching.

C. Disciplinary Sanctions

Minimum disciplinary actions/sanctions to be taken against any coach or member of a team found guilty of the violation of any of the above conditions shall be:

- 1st Offense -- Six (6) months suspension per offense; club to be fined \$200.00 per offence plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing.
- 2nd Offense -- Minimum three (3) year suspension per offense; club to be fined \$500.00 per offense plus any costs associated with the holding of the hearing including but not limited to copying charges, postage, etc.
- 3rd Offense – indefinite expulsion
- Conviction of a poaching charge by any member of a team may cause the team to which that player/coach is registered to forfeit its privilege to participate in any and all BFA-sponsored events for the remainder of the seasonal year. The team sanctioning will apply only to the team that is involved in the poaching incident.

- The BFA, upon receipt of notification of a conviction of poaching, shall empanel a committee of not less than three (3) neutral members that shall request from the convicted party(s) and the affected affiliate a brief in mitigation as to:
 1. Should the team be permitted to continue to compete in BFA sponsored events for the remainder of the seasonal year?
 2. And/or should the player(s) subject of the charges be permitted to participate in BFA sponsored events with said team for the remainder of the seasonal year.
 3. The committee's decision in this matter shall be final and binding.

1.6 TRY-OUTS

No club or organization affiliated with BFA may hold any try-out or any other activity, related to the formation of teams for the next seasonal year involving players **IN ANY AGE GROUP** prior to July 31st. Advertising for Try-outs cannot start before July 1st.

Anybody that signs with a team after this date may not try-out or play with another team.

Violations may result in the Club/team affiliation with BFA being fined and or sanctioned and such fine and or sanction shall be determined by solely the BFA.

2. PLAYER CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Player's conduct, in keeping with the belief that they are the primary representatives of their team, club, league and BFA, shall be exemplary of "good sportsmanship", character, and adherence to the Rules, bringing positive attention to themselves and their team. They shall also comply with the following:

1. Verification of age and date of birth, legal status shall be true and correct as submitted by themselves.
2. Falsification and or submission of falsified documents of birth documentation shall result in suspension and or fine. Such suspension and or fine shall be solely determined by the BFA.

3. SPECTATORS CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 Spectator conduct during games is the responsibility of the coach and team who may be disciplined for such conduct including foul and abusive language, verbal and physical threats of bodily harm to anyone in the facility, will result in the expulsion of offending individual. The Club will be held responsible for these actions.

Any other individuals who may be reasonable construed as being associated with a team such as **relatives and spectators (fans)** shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of this Association. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) at any match that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

3.2 Entering the playing field during the game is not permitted for any

reason other than to assist in an injury and only then if requested to do so. Entering the playing field without permission can result in the offender expulsion from the facility and/or further disciplinary action.

4. DISCIPLINES AND SANCTIONS

4.1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

4.2 Discipline and sanctions may be imposed by BFA and its Affiliates upon anyone for either misconduct during BFA activities (games, practices, etc.) or infraction of administrative rules.

4.3 Discipline during games refers to both players and non-players and shall include pre-game, game and post-game misconduct. Such disciplines may be imposed as a result of a referee caution, ejection/sendoff or post game report or other administrator reports.

4.4 Administrative disciplines and/or sanctions refer to infractions of BFA and/or Affiliate rules and guidelines.

4.5 Players are those registered to BFA, who may be assigned to a team and are involved in the pre-game, game, and post-game activities (on or off the field, in or out of uniform).

4.6 Non-players shall include coaches, assistant coaches, other team staff and spectators involved in the pre-game, game, or post-game activities (on or off the field).

Club President Signature: _____

Date: