

# **S T A T U T E S**

**of**

**Georgian Football Federation**

**(New Edition)**

## Definitions of abbreviations and acronyms used in The Statutes of Georgian Football Federation

The terms given below denote the following:

1. **GFF**: Georgian Football Federation.
2. **FIFA**: Federation Internationale de Football Association.
3. **UEFA**: The Union of European Football Associations.
4. **Regional Federation**: an organization subordinate to GFF.
5. **Congress**: the meeting of delegates, the supreme body of GFF.
6. **Executive Committee**: the executive body of GFF, elected by GFF Congress.
7. **Association**: a football association recognized by FIFA.
8. **Confederation**: a group of associations recognized by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or similar geographic area).
9. **Association Football**: the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
10. **Laws of the Game**: the rules laid down by the International Football Association Board.
11. **Officials**: any person, except for football players, particularly referees, coaches, attendants, as well as other people responsible for medical, technical and administrative matters at FIFA, confederations, GFF, leagues or clubs.
12. **Player**: a football player registered with GFF.
13. **Member**: a legal body, set up in compliance with the legislation of Georgia, which has been admitted into membership of GFF by the Congress.
14. **Associate Member**: a legal body, set up in compliance with the legislation of Georgia, which has been admitted into associate membership of GFF by the Congress.
15. **IFAB**: the International Football Association Board.
16. **Arbitration Tribunal**: private court of justice acting instead of a Common Court.
17. **Common Courts**: state courts which hear public and private legal disputes.
18. **CAS (TAS)**: Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) In Lausanne (Switzerland).
19. **STFRD**: Sports Tribunal Ltd., recognized by GFF and located in Tbilisi, to hear football disputes.

## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. Name, Headquarters, Legal Form

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1. Georgian Football Federation (GFF) is a private legal non-productive (non-profit) legal entity, set up in compliance with the Civil Code of Georgia for an indefinite term. According to the Georgian legislation, GFF is the only body in Georgia which is authorized to conduct football activities fully and independently, and it has jurisdiction (within the framework of the standards of international law) over the territory of the whole country. GFF is the only authorized body that represents Georgian football both within the country and beyond its borders.
2. GFF is a member of FIFA and UEFA. GFF is obliged to participate in competitions organized by FIFA and UEFA, and to pay a membership fee. The GFF, its Members/Associate Members, leagues, clubs, players and officials undertake an obligation to:
  - a) Fulfil the Laws of the Game and the laws of futsal issued by IFAB and approved by the FIFA executive committee.
  - b) Observe principles of loyalty, unity and sportsmanship in accordance with the principles of Fair Play.
  - c) Respect the statutes, provisions, and decisions of FIFA and UEFA.
  - d) Acknowledge jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), located in Lausanne, under the terms of FIFA and UEFA Statutes.
  - e) Pass any kind of dispute related to the fulfilment of terms of GFF Statutes and regulations to Sports Tribunal Ltd., which will settle the dispute without recourse to common courts.
3. GFF headquarters are located in Tbilisi, 76a Chavchavadze Avenue, postcode 0162;
4. GFF has its own flag.
5. GFF has its own logo, which is used for marketing and other objectives and is protected by the existing national laws.
6. sff is the abbreviation of Georgian Football Federation in the Georgian language and GFF in the English language.

### 2. Objectives

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The objectives of GFF are:

1. to continuously improve the game of football throughout the territory of GFF, and to promote, regulate and control it in accordance with the principles of fair play, as well

- as football's unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
2. to organise national football competitions at all levels and in all forms while defining precisely the areas of authority conceded to various Leagues (if applicable);
  3. to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
  4. to protect the interests of its Members/Associate Members;
  5. to respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members/Associate Members;
  6. to control and supervise all formal and friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of GFF;
  7. to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
  8. to host international competitions;
  9. to form and train Georgian national teams;
  10. to ensure qualified refereeing and inspection for all official and friendly matches in Georgian championship tournaments, cup competitions and children's leagues organised by GFF;
  11. to establish business relationships with public organisations and legal entities of public and/or private law to help develop and promote football in Georgia; receive and distribute various funds, including grants, one-off contributions, donations etc.
  12. to conduct any other activities that will help develop football in Georgia.

### **3. Neutrality and Non-Discrimination**

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1. GFF is neutral in matters of politics and religion;
2. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or termination of membership/associate membership.

### **4. Promoting Friendly Relations**

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1. GFF shall promote friendly relations between its Members/Associate Members, clubs, officials and players.
2. Every person and organization involved in the game of football is obliged to observe GFF's statutes, regulations and decisions, as well as the rules and principles of fair play.

3. GFF shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal disputes that may arise between GFF's Members/Associate Members, clubs, officials and players.

## **5. Players**

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1. The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by GFF's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, which are approved by GFF's Executive Committee, and are in compliance with the current FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
2. Players shall be registered in accordance with the aforementioned regulations.

## **6. Laws of the Game**

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GFF and all of its Members/Associate Members play association football in accordance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. In addition, GFF and its Members/Associate Members play beach football and futsal in compliance with the laws of beach football and futsal issued by FIFA's Executive Committee.

## **7. Conduct of Bodies and Officials**

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All GFF bodies and officials must abide by the statutes, regulations and directives of FIFA and UEFA.

## **8. Official Languages**

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1. The official language of GFF is Georgian. Official documents and texts are written in Georgian language. If an official document is executed in two languages, priority is given to the Georgian version.
2. The official language at the Congress is Georgian.
3. GFF must provide FIFA and UEFA with a translated and approved current version of its statutes, as well as any amendments to the said statutes.

## II. MEMBERSHIP

### 9. Admission, Suspension and Expulsion

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1. The Congress of GFF shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member/Associate Member.
2. Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of GFF.
3. Membership/associate membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership/associate membership does not relieve the Member/Associate Member from its financial obligations towards GFF or other Members/Associate Members of GFF, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to GFF.

### 10. Admission

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1. The following may be Members/Associate Members of GFF:
  - a) Regional associations;
  - b) Football clubs;
  - c) Any football-related associations or unions.
2. The current members of GFF are:
  - a) Regional federations:
    - NNLE Abkhazian Football Federation (ID number 249260570);
    - NNLE Adjarian Football Federation (ID number 245434819);
    - NNLE South Ossetian Football Federation (ID number 222014610);
    - NNLE Tbilisi Football Federation (ID number 202886519);
    - NNLE Imereti Regional Football Federation (ID number 212705615);
    - NNLE Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Regional Football Federation (ID number 220016337);
    - NNLE Shida Kartli Regional Football Federation (ID number 218022459);
    - Kakheti Regional Football Federation (ID number 231199823);
    - NNLE Guria Regional Football Federation (ID number 233645393);
    - NNLE Mtskheta-Mtianeti Regional Football Federation (ID number 236090092);
    - NNLE Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Football Federation (ID number 424065852);
    - NNLE Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti Regional Football Federation (ID number 222943527);
    - NNLE Kvemo Kartli Regional Football Federation (ID number 416353118).
  - b) Football clubs:

- LTD Football Club Dinamo Tbilisi (ID number 204423454);
  - LTD Football Club Zestaponi (ID number 230091664);
  - LTD Football Club WIT Georgia (ID number 211367545);
  - LTD Football Club Torpedo Kutaisi (ID number 212917183);
  - LTD Football Club Sioni (ID number 225376189);
  - LTD Football Club Dinamo Zugdidi (ID number 220370738);
  - LTD Football Club Kolkhети-1913 (ID number 215137830);
  - NNLE Football Club Tskhinvali (ID number 218073741);
  - NNLE Football Club Union Samtredia (ID number 238775704);
  - NNLE Municipal Football Club Gori (ID number 417874973);
  - LTD Merani (ID number 235446754);
  - LTD Football Club Gagra (ID number 200112476).
- c) Football-related associations and unions:
- NNLE Veteran Football Players' Union of Georgia (ID number 202062445);
  - NNLE Trade Union of Football Workers of Georgia (ID number 201990177);
  - NNLE Referees' and Referee Observers' Union of Georgia (ID number 205239945);
  - NNLE Futsal Association of Georgia (ID number 202207290);
  - NNLE Women's Football Federation of Georgia (ID number 202218466);
  - NNLE Georgian Amateur Football Association (ID number 402020371).
- d) Associated members of GFF:
- LTD Football Club Saburtalo (ID number 211389665);
  - LTD Football Club Telavi (ID number 405158975);
  - NNLE 7x7 Football Association (ID number 404573323).
3. Regional federations represent the interests of the civil and municipal football federations, football clubs, schools and other football-related groups existing in the regions, and are established in accordance with administrative-territorial divisions of the country.
4. Any entity wishing to become a Member/Associate Member of GFF must submit an appropriate written application to the General Secretariat of GFF.
5. The application must include the following mandatory items:
- a) a copy of the entity's legally valid statutes and regulations;
  - b) a declaration that it will always comply with the statutes, regulations and decisions of GFF, FIFA and UEFA and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, clubs, officials and players;
  - c) a declaration that it will comply with the existing Laws of the Game;
  - d) a declaration that it recognises the authority of the Arbitration Court of GFF and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these statutes;

- e) a declaration that it is located and registered within the territory of GFF;
  - f) a declaration that it will play all official home matches within the territory of GFF;
  - g) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently from any external entity;
  - h) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
  - i) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with prior consent from GFF ;
  - j) a copy of the minutes of its last congress (conference, meeting) or constitutional meeting;
  - k) a copy of the document confirming official registration, issued by a relevant competent body;
  - l) Specification of whether the entity is seeking to obtain membership or associate membership.
6. GFF membership cannot be held by football clubs and/or football-related associations and unions whose owners/beneficiary owners, shareholders (regardless of the size of their stake) or founders are state/local self-governing bodies;
  7. Articles 10.5 and 10.6 shall not affect the status of existing members.

## **11. Requirements and Procedure for Application**

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1. The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the Executive Committee of GFF.  
The Executive Committee shall request that the Congress either admits or does not admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.
2. The new Member/Associate Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted.
3. Only members' delegates are eligible to vote, and must be selected immediately. Associate Members are not eligible to vote.

## **12. Members'/Associate Members' Rights**

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1. The Members of GFF have the following rights:
  - a) to take part in the Congress of GFF, to know its agenda in advance, to be invited to attend the Congress within the prescribed time, and to exercise their voting rights;
  - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
  - c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of GFF;
  - d) to be informed about the affairs of GFF through the official bodies of GFF;

- e) to take part in football competitions and other sports activities organised by GFF;
- f) to exercise all the rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of GFF.

2. The Associate Members of GFF have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the Congress of GFF, to know its agenda in advance, to be invited to attend the Congress within the prescribed time, and to exercise their voting rights;
- b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
- c) to be informed of the affairs of GFF through the official bodies of GFF;
- d) to take part in football competitions and other official activities organised by GFF;
- e) to exercise all the rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of GFF.

### **13. Members'/Associate Members' Obligations**

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1. The Members/Associate Members of GFF have the following obligations:

- a) to comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, UEFA and GFF at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members.
- b) to ensure free election of its decision-making bodies;
- c) to take part in competitions and other sports activities organised by GFF;
- d) to pay their annual membership fees (Associate Members pay half of the amount determined for full Members);
- e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
- f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of GFF, FIFA and UEFA shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate arbitration tribunal, i.e. if it is an international dispute, then it shall come under the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), located in Lausanne (Switzerland), while if the dispute takes place at national level, it shall come under the jurisdiction of Sports Tribunal Ltd.
- g) to communicate to GFF any amendments to its statutes and regulations, as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third persons;
- h) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by GFF or with Members/Associate Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- i) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;

- j) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 10.5 for the duration of their affiliation;
  - k) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA.
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member/Associate Member may lead to sanctions specified within these Statutes.

#### **14. Suspension of Membership/Associate Membership**

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1. The Congress of GFF is responsible for suspending a Member/Associate Member. However, the Executive Committee also may suspend a Member/Associate Member that grossly violates its obligations as a Member/Associate Member with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.
2. A suspension, decided by the Executive Committee of GFF, must be approved at the next Congress by a majority of votes. If it is not approved, the suspension is automatically lifted.
3. A suspended Member/Associate Member shall lose its membership rights. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
4. Members/Associate Members that do not participate in the sports activities of GFF for four consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

#### **15. Termination of Membership/Associate Membership (Expulsion)**

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1. The Congress may expel a Member/Associate Member if:
  - a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards GFF;
  - b) it grossly violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, UEFA and GFF;
2. The presence of an absolute majority (50%+1) of Members entitled to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid;
3. The motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

#### **16. Resignation of Membership/Associate Membership**

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1. A Member/Associate Member may resign from GFF with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the General Secretariat no later than six months before the end of the calendar year.

2. The resignation is not valid until the Member/Associate Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards GFF and the other Members/Associate Members of GFF.

## **17. Status of Clubs, Leagues, Regional Associations and Other Football-Related Associations and Unions**

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1. Clubs, leagues, regional associations or any other football-related associations and unions affiliated to GFF must be subordinate to and recognized by GFF. These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of the aforementioned groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Executive Committee of GFF.
2. The Clubs and groups affiliated with GFF shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
3. In any case, no individual or legal entity (including holding companies and subsidiaries) may exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

### **III. HONORARY PRESIDENT, HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER**

#### **18. Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President and Honorary Member**

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1. The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member upon any persons for meritorious service to football.
2. The Executive Committee of GFF shall make these nominations.
3. The honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

## **IV. ORGANISATION**

### **19. Bodies of GFF**

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The bodies of GFF are:

1. The Congress is the supreme body.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body.
3. Standing and ad-hoc committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee of GFF.
4. The General Secretariat is the administrative body.
5. The Disciplinary and Football Dispute Committee, the Appeals Committee, the Club Licensing Committee and the Club Licensing Appeals Committee are the judicial bodies.
6. The bodies of GFF must be either elected or appointed by GFF itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.
7. The bodies of GFF, as well as their Members, are independent from each other. A member of the aforementioned bodies shall not intervene in discussions and decision-making if there is a conflict of interests or a risk of conflict of interests.

#### **A. CONGRESS**

### **20. Description and Composition of the Congress**

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1. The Congress is the meeting at which all the Members and Associate Members of GFF regularly convene. It represents the supreme authority of GFF. Only a Congress convened in accordance with these Statutes has the authority to make decisions.
2. A Congress may be ordinary or extraordinary.
3. The GFF President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the standing orders of the Congress.
4. The Congress may appoint observers to take part in the Congress.
5. Associate Members may take part in the Congress, but are not eligible to vote.

## **21. Delegates and Votes**

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1. GFF Members and Associate Members are represented at the GFF Congress by their delegates. Each Member has one vote, while Associate Members have no votes. Thirty Members are represented by thirty delegates at the Congress. Only the Member delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
2. GFF Members and Associate Members must be represented by delegates who have been appointed or elected – in case of non-profit, non-commercial legal entities, by the representative bodies of the Members/Associate Members, and in case of commercial legal entities, by the Members'/Associate Members' special authorized bodies. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
3. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary of GFF shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their association.

## **22. Scope of Authority**

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1. The Congress of GFF, where Members are represented by their delegates, has the following authority:
  - a) adopting or amending the Statutes;
  - b) appointing three delegates to check and approve the minutes;
  - c) electing the GFF President and members of the Executive Committee;
  - d) appointing the observers;
  - e) approving the financial statements;
  - f) approving the budget;
  - g) approving the President's activity report as well as approving the reports of the Executive Committee and the current account of GFF administration;
  - h) appointing independent auditors proposed by the Executive Committee of GFF;
  - i) determining membership fees;
  - j) deciding whether or not to bestow the titles of honorary president, honorary vice-president and honorary member to the candidates nominated by the Executive Committee;
  - k) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
  - l) revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of GFF;
  - m) dissolving the GFF.

## **23. Quorum of the Congress**

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1. Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if the absolute majority (50%+ 1) of the Members who are entitled to vote are present.
2. If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place 24 hours after the first, with the same agenda.
3. A quorum is not required for the second meeting, unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of GFF, the election of the President and the members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of GFF, the expulsion of a Member of GFF or the dissolution of GFF.

## **24. Decisions of the Congress**

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1. Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a simple majority in votes from eligible Members is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.
2. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

## **25. Elections**

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1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
2. For a person to be elected, an absolute majority (50%+1) of valid votes is necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other subsequent ballots, a simple majority of votes is sufficient.
3. If there are more than two candidates for any one available position, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the second ballot onwards until only two candidates are left.

## **26. Ordinary Congress**

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1. The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year.
2. The Executive Committee shall determine the location and date of the Congress. The Members/Associate Members shall be notified in writing at least 40 days in advance.
3. The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least twenty days before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the President's activity

report, the financial statements and the auditors' report, as well as any other relevant documents.

## **27. Agenda of an Ordinary Congress**

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1. The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members/Associate Members. Any proposal that a Member/Associate Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least thirty days before the date of the Congress.
2. The agenda of the Congress shall include the following mandatory items:
  - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened in compliance with the Statutes of GFF;
  - b) approval of the agenda;
  - c) an address by the President;
  - d) appointment of three delegates to check the minutes;
  - e) appointment of the scrutineers;
  - f) admission, suspension or expulsion of Members/Associate Members (if applicable);
  - g) approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress (if applicable through the terms of Article 30);
  - h) GFF president, Executive Committee and Administration's reports (containing the activities since the last Congress);
  - i) presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
  - j) approval of the financial statements;
  - k) approval of the budget;
  - l) admission for membership (if applicable);
  - m) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes, the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress (if applicable);
  - n) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members/Associate Members and the Executive Committee (if applicable);
  - o) appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
  - p) dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);
  - q) election of the President and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable).
3. The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided two-third of eligible Members present at the Congress agree to such a motion.
4. The congress shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

## **28. Extraordinary Congress**

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1. The Executive Committee of GFF may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if one-third of the Members of GFF make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within one month of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the Members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves. As a last resort, the Members may request assistance from FIFA and UEFA.
3. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress and elect a new President in case of resignation by the former President.
4. The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least fifteen days before the date of an Extraordinary Congress.
5. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened by the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon a request by the Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members. Upon the request of Members of GFF to hold extraordinary presidential elections, an Extraordinary Congress shall make a decision provided two-third of the Members are present at the Congress.
6. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

## **29. Amendments to the Statutes**

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1. The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes of GFF.
2. Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretariat of GFF by a Member or by the Executive Committee of GFF.
3. For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (50%+1) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.
4. A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if two-thirds of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

## **30. Minutes**

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The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The minutes shall be checked by specially designated delegates and sent to the Members/Associate Members within a month after the Congress. The minutes shall be approved if no complaints regarding its accuracy are sent in writing to the General

Secretariat of GFF within ten days. In case of complaints, the minutes shall be finally approved at the next Congress.

### **31. Effective Dates of Decisions**

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Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members immediately after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

## **B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **32. Composition, Election of the Members**

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1. The Executive Committee consists of the President of GFF, who is also the chairman of the Executive Committee, as well as ten members elected at the Congress, including at least one woman.
2. The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Congress. Every candidate in the election of the Executive Committee members must be nominated by at least one Member. The mandate of members of the Executive Committee is four years. They may be re-elected.
3. The members of the Executive Committee shall be no older than 70 years and no younger than 24 years. They must already be active in football, must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence, and must be Georgian citizens. Candidates for GFF Executive Committee membership shall confirm in writing that they recognise the Statutes, regulations and decisions of GFF, FIFA and UEFA.
4. Candidatures must be sent to the General Secretariat of GFF. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of GFF along with the agenda for the Congress at which the Executive Committee will be elected.
5. A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of GFF. A Member of GFF may not have more than one representative in the Executive Committee.
6. If a position should become vacant, only those Members of GFF that have no representatives within the Executive Committee shall nominate new candidates. The Executive Committee shall fill that position at the next Ordinary Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate.

### **33. Meetings**

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1. The Executive Committee of GFF shall meet at least four times a year.

2. The President of GFF shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If at least five members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 21 days.
3. The President of GFF shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the General Secretariat at least 7 days before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least 5 days before the meeting.
4. The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role.
5. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.
6. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held using long-distance channels.
7. Under special circumstances, the GFF President is authorised to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee within 24 hours. In this case, the time limits stated in this Article shall not apply.

## **34. Powers of the Executive Committee**

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The Executive Committee has the following powers:

- a) pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of GFF;
- c) appoint GFF vice-presidents from the pool of members of the Executive Committee, based on proposal from the president of GFF;
- d) appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- e) appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies;
- f) decide to set up ad-hoc committees, if necessary, at any time;
- g) compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- h) appoint or dismiss the General Secretary based on a proposal by the President of GFF;
- i) propose independent auditors to the Congress;
- j) determine the venue, time and the number of teams participating in the tournaments of GFF;

- k) appoint the coaches of national football teams;
- l) approve provisions to define the organization of GFF according to internal regulations;
- m) ensure that all necessary executive actions are taken to provide enforcement of the provisions of the Statutes as defined for physical persons under articles 58.2 a and 58.2 f) of the Statutes, and for legal entities as defined under articles 58.3 f), 58.3 h) of the Statutes. The final decisions of the judicial bodies are passed to the Executive Committee of GFF to come into effect and are not subject to appeal;
- n) dismiss or appoint a person or body or suspend a Member/Associate Member of GFF provisionally until the next Congress;
- o) delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of GFF or third parties.

## **35. Decisions**

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1. The Executive Committee shall not engage in official discussions unless an absolute majority (50%+1) of its members are present.
2. The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a simple majority of the members present, unless defined otherwise in the Statutes of GFF. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the decisive vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
3. Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the discussion and from the decision-making process if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests taking place.
4. The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
5. The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

## **36. Dismissal of a Person or Body**

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1. The Congress may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the Congress. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a person or body provisionally. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee or Congress.
2. The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the Members/Associate Members of GFF along with the agenda.
3. The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defence.

4. If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the Congress or Executive Committee shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.
5. The person or body dismissed must be relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

## **C. PRESIDENT**

### **37. President**

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1. The President is the GFF's representative and managing authority.
2. He is primarily responsible for:
  - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the General Secretariat;
  - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of GFF in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
  - c) supervising the work of the General Secretariat;
  - d) relations between GFF and its Members/Associate Members, FIFA, UEFA, political bodies and other organisations.
3. Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
4. The President shall preside over meetings of the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Emergency Committee, as well as those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
5. The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
6. The president shall propose candidates from the list of members of the Executive Committee to be elected as GFF Vice-Presidents to the Executive Committee of GFF for approval. The President shall define scope of activities to the vice-presidents.
7. If the President is absent or unavailable, the longest-serving Vice-President available shall deputise.
8. Any additional powers of the President are contained in the internal organisation regulations of GFF.

### **38. Candidates for the Office of the President**

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1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.

2. For the election of the President an absolute majority (50%+1) of recorded and valid votes are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any subsequent ballots, a simple majority of recorded votes is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated from the second ballot onwards, until only two candidates are left. If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, another ballot shall be held to find out which candidate is eliminated.
3. Only Members of GFF may propose candidates for the office of President. Candidates must be proposed by at least three Members of GFF. Members shall notify the General Secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the presidency of GFF at least 15 days before the date of the Congress.
4. Each Member of GFF can only propose one candidate for presidency.
5. The General Secretariat shall notify the Members/Associate Members about the names of the proposed candidates at least a week before the date of the Congress.
6. The members of the Executive Committee shall nominate the candidate for the office of the President, who must no older than 70 and no younger than 24 years of age. He must be actively involved in football, must have higher education, must be a Georgian citizen, and must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence. The proposed candidate shall confirm in writing that he recognizes the Statutes, regulations and decisions of GFF, FIFA and UEFA and present his activity programme.
7. If the President is prevented from performing his official function for 6 months, the longest-serving Vice-President shall represent him until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President.

### **39. Representation and Signature**

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The President represents GFF legally and is entitled to sign for GFF. The Executive Committee may set up internal organisational regulations regarding a collective signature for officials – in particular, for a case when the President may be absent.

#### **D. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

### **40. Emergency Committee**

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1. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall consist of the President of GFF, who is also chairman of the Emergency Committee, and 4

- members chosen from amongst the Members of the Executive Committee of GFF and appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of 4 years.
2. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through other means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.
  3. All decisions taken by the Emergency Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
  4. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest-serving Vice-President available shall deputise.

## E. STANDING COMMITTEES

### **41. Standing Committees**

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1. The standing committees of GFF are:
  - a) Finance Committee;
  - b) Club Tournaments and International Competitions Committee;
  - c) Internal Audit Committee;
  - d) Referees' Committee;
  - e) Committee for Legal Affairs, Player Status and Transfers;
  - f) Futsal, Beach Football, Women's Football and Amateur Football Committee;
  - g) Committee for Relations with Regional Federations;
  - h) Media Relations Committee;
2. Chairmen of the standing committees must be members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of the chairman of the Internal Audit Committee, who may not belong to the Executive Committee. The members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the Members of GFF or the President of GFF. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years. Re-appointment of members, as well as their dismissal, may be possible at any time.
3. Each chairman shall represent his/her committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant organisation's regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
4. Each chairman of a standing committee shall fix the dates of meetings together with the General Secretary, ensure that all the tasks are carried out, and report back to the Executive Committee.

5. Each standing committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.
6. Each standing committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and no more than 3 members.

## **42. Finance Committee**

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The finance Committee shall monitor financial management and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management. It shall analyse the budget of GFF and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary, and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval.

## **43. Club Tournaments and International Competitions Committee**

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The Club Tournaments and International Competitions Committee deals with the following:

- Organising GFF club tournaments in accordance with these Statutes and the existing GFF club tournament regulations;
- Organising international competitions for the Georgian national sides in accordance with FIFA's and UEFA's regulations.

## **44. Referees' Committee**

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The Referees' Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organised by GFF, organise refereeing matters within GFF in cooperation with the administration of GFF, and monitor the education and training of referees.

## **45. Committee for Legal Affairs, Player Status and Transfers**

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The Committee for Legal Affairs, Player Status and Transfers deals with the following:

- Core legal issues relating to football, as well as improving the statutes and regulations of GFF and its Members.
- Presenting recommendations with regards to amending the Statutes of GFF, committee regulations and various other legal documents to the Executive Committee;
- Monitoring the fulfilment of the GFF Statutes, provisions and decisions by the Members of GFF;

- Providing legal support to GFF entities, football clubs, players, coaches and referees;
- Establishing and monitoring the rules on player status and transfers in accordance with the relevant FIFA regulations; determining player status for various GFF competitions.

#### **46. Futsal, Beach Football, Women's Football and Amateur Football Committee**

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The Futsal, Beach Football, Women's Football and Amateur Football Committee deals with the following:

- Organising futsal, beach football, women's football and amateur football competitions;
- All matters relating to futsal, beach football, women's football and amateur football.

#### **47. Committee for Relations with Regional Federations**

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The Committee for Relations with Regional Federations deals with the following:

- Developing relations between GFF and its member Regional Federations;
- Enabling development of the game in the regions;
- Dealing with problematic issues in the regions.

#### **48. Media Relations Committee**

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The Media Relations Committee deals with the issues of establishing good working conditions for the media at GFF events and maintaining relations with media organisations.

#### **49. Internal Audit Committee**

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The Internal Audit Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the external auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee.

#### **50. Ad-hoc Committees**

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The Executive Committee of GFF may, if necessary, create ad-hoc committees to fulfil special duties for a limited period of time. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman, a deputy chairman and the members. The duties and function are defined in

special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Executive Committee.

## **51. General Secretariat**

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The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of GFF under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the General Secretariat are bound by the internal organisational regulations of GFF, and shall fulfil the given tasks in the best manner.

## **52. General Secretary**

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1. The General Secretary is the chief executive of the General Secretariat.
2. He shall be appointed by the Executive Committee after the President of GFF proposes his candidature. He shall work on the basis of an individual labour contract.
3. He shall be responsible for:
  - a) Implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
  - b) Attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and the meetings of other bodies;
  - c) Organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
  - d) Compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, the Executive Committee, the Emergency Committee, as well as the standing and ad-hoc committees;
  - e) Composing the GFF budget and financial report;
  - f) Composing an annual joint account with its affiliated companies;
  - g) Conducting and controlling the correspondence of GFF;
  - h) Maintain relations with FIFA, UEFA, GFF Members/Associate Members and committees;
  - i) Organising the activities of the General Secretariat;
  - j) Presenting administrative apparatus to the President for approval.
4. The General Secretary shall attend the Congress, the meetings of the Executive Committee and standing committees, with voting rights at each of the above. The General Secretary shall appoint his substitute if he cannot attend meetings.

## F. JUDICIAL BODIES

### **53. Judicial bodies**

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1. The Judicial bodies of GFF are:
  - a) the Disciplinary and Football Dispute Settlement Committee;
  - b) Appeals Committee;
  - c) Club Licensing Committee;
  - d) Club Licensing Appeals Body.
2. The responsibilities and functions of the Disciplinary and Football Dispute Settlement and Appeals committees are stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of GFF, which must comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and with players' status and transfer regulations. The responsibilities and functions of the Club Licensing Committee and the Club Licensing Appeals Body are stipulated in the club licensing regulations, which must comply with club licensing and financial fair play regulations of UEFA.
3. The Executive Committee of GFF shall appoint the members of the Disciplinary and Football Dispute Settlement Committee for the period of two years. The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of GFF at the same time.
4. The Executive Committee of GFF shall appoint the members of the Club Licensing Committee and the Club Licensing Appeals Body for a period of two years. They may not belong to any other body of GFF. Besides this, the members of the Club Licensing Appeals Body may not belong to any other administrative body of GFF.
5. A member of the Legal Body may not participate in decision-making process if there is a conflict of interests or the risk of such conflict to arise.

### **54. Disciplinary and Football Dispute Settlement Committee**

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1. The Disciplinary and Football Dispute Settlement Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and three members. The chairman and deputy chairman must have legal qualifications.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of GFF and by the GFF regulations on player status and transfers. The Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of GFF.
3. The Disciplinary and Football Dispute Settlement Committee may apply sanctions stipulated within these Statutes, the Disciplinary Code of GFF and the transfer regulations against Members/Associate Members, officials, players, clubs, as well as match agents and player agents.

4. The disciplinary measures taken by legal bodies of GFF shall not affect the rights of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regards to suspension and expulsion of Members/Associate Members in accordance with these Statutes.

## **55. Appeals Committee**

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1. The Appeals Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and three members. The chairman and deputy chairman must have legal qualifications.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of GFF and by the GFF regulations on player status and transfers. The Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of GFF.
3. The Appeals Committee shall consider the decisions of the Disciplinary and the Conflict Settlement Committees within the framework of appeals dispute.

## **56. Club Licensing Committee**

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1. The Club Licensing Committee's composition, qualifications and functions are defined in the current GFF Club Licensing Regulations, which comply with the demands of UEFA and are approved by the Executive Committee of GFF. The Club Licensing Committee must include one qualified financier and one qualified lawyer. Additional demands with regards to qualifications may be defined in the GFF Club Licensing Regulations.

## **57. Appeals Body for Club Licensing**

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The composition, qualifications and functions of the Appeals Body for Club Licensing are defined in the current GFF Club Licensing Regulations, which comply with the requirements of UEFA and must be approved by the Executive Committee of GFF. The Appeal Body for Licensing must include at least one chartered accountant and one qualified lawyer. Additional demands with regards to qualifications may be defined in the GFF Club Licensing Regulations.

## **58. Disciplinary Measures**

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The following main disciplinary measures apply:

1. For natural and legal persons:
  - a) A warning;
  - b) A fine;

- c) Confiscation of titles.
- 2. For natural persons:
  - a) A caution;
  - b) Expulsion;
  - c) A match suspension;
  - d) A ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
  - e) A ban from entering the stadium;
  - f) A ban on taking part in any football-related activity.
- 3. For legal persons :
  - a) A transfer ban;
  - b) Playing a match without spectators;
  - c) Playing a match at a neutral venue;
  - d) A ban on playing in a particular stadium;
  - e) Annulment of results of the match;
  - f) Expulsion;
  - g) A forfeit;
  - h) Deduction of points;
  - i) Relegation to a lower division

## **59. Sports Tribunal on Football-Related Disputes**

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1. The Sports Tribunal on Football-Related Disputes, which is recognised by GFF, is authorised to rule in final instance (i.e. once all internal processes and means have been exhausted) on disputes between GFF and its Members/Associate Members, clubs, players and officials, as well as any disputes regarding the Statutes, provisions and decisions of GFF. It shall not, however, rule on disputes regarding violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to 4 matches or up to one month, or technical matters.
2. The GFF, its Members/Associate Members, players, officials, match agents and player agents shall not take disputes to common courts, unless explicitly stipulated within the existing Georgian legislation. The decision of the Sports Tribunal is final and must be fulfilled by all parties concerned.
3. The GFF Executive Committee shall approve the regulations and composition of the Tribunal.

## **60. Jurisdiction**

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The GFF's jurisdiction covers national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to GFF. FIFA and UEFA have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

## **61. Court Arbitration for Sport**

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1. Any appeal against a final and binding FIFA and UEFA decision shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. CAS shall not, however, rule on violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months, or decisions passed by an independent arbitration tribunal of an Association or Confederation.
2. GFF shall ensure its full compliance, as well as that of its Members/Associate Members, players, officials, match agents and player agents, with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or CAS.

## **62. Anti-Doping**

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1. GFF shall be committed to fight against doping in order to safeguard sporting ethics, as well as the physical health and mental integrity of players, and to ensure that all the participants in sporting competitions have equal opportunities.
2. GFF shall act in accordance with the FIFA Doping Control Regulations in all doping-related cases. In cases when the FIFA Doping Control Regulations are in conflict with national regulations, priority shall be afforded to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations.
3. GFF shall, without delay, submit a copy of every final decision in doping-related cases at association level to FIFA and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in an official FIFA language.
4. GFF shall recognise that FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) have the right to appeal to CAS against any decision in doping-related cases at association level.

## V. FINANCES

### **63. Financial Period**

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1. The GFF financial period is one year long, beginning on 1 January and ending on 31 December.
2. The revenues and expenses of GFF shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. GFF's major future activities shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up annual consolidated accounts of GFF with its subsidiaries as at 31 December.

### **64. Revenues**

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The GFF has the following revenue sources:

- a) Members'/Associate Members' annual fees;
- b) Revenues generated by the marketing of rights;
- c) Fines imposed by the authorized bodies;
- d) Grants from FIFA and UEFA;
- e) Revenues from commercial activity;
- f) Other fees and revenues necessary for achieving GFF's aims, including government subsidies;

### **65. Expenses**

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GFF bears the following expenses:

- a) The expenses stipulated in the budget;
- b) Other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;
- c) All other expenses that are necessary to fulfil the objectives pursued by GFF.

### **66. Independent Auditors**

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The independent auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting, and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of one year. This mandate may be renewed.

## **67. Membership Fees**

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1. Membership fees are due to be paid on 1 January by both Members and Associate Members. The annual fees for new Members/Associate Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.
2. The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual membership fee every year based on recommendations by the Executive Committee.

## **68. Compensation**

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GFF may debit any assets of Members/Associate Members to settle claims.

## **69. Fees**

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GFF may demand that its Members/Associate Members pay a fee from their matchday revenues.

## VI. COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

### 70. Tournaments

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1. GFF organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
  - a) Georgian domestic championship in each League ;
  - b) Georgian Cup;
  - c) Youth competitions;
  - d) Futsal, beach football and women's football competitions.
2. The Executive Committee of GFF may delegate the authority to organise competitions to subordinate Leagues. The competitions organised by the Leagues shall not interfere with the competitions organised by GFF. Competitions organised by GFF shall take priority.
3. The Executive Committee of GFF may issue special regulations to this end.
4. GFF member football unions and associations must agree regulations for organising Georgian regional leagues, local championships within the respective administrative-territorial units of Georgia, cup tournaments, as well as other full-scale competitions, with GFF.
5. Clubs participating in competitions organised by GFF shall play their home games only within the territory of Georgia. GFF may allow exceptions regarding this regulation only with prior agreement from FIFA and/or UEFA. Clubs participating in UEFA competitions shall play their home games within the territory of Georgia, unless otherwise instructed by UEFA.

### 71. Club Licensing

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1. Clubs may participate in UEFA club competitions, as well as in licensed competitions in Georgia, on the basis of obtaining an appropriate license from GFF. The Executive Committee of GFF shall decide which domestic competitions require a license.
2. The club licensing bodies (the Club Licensing Committee and the Club Licensing Appeals Body) and the process of club licensing, as well as the criteria for the clubs to participate in domestic league competitions and UEFA club competitions, are described in the 'GFF Club Licensing Regulations' and its annexes. They are approved by the GFF Executive Committee, and fully comply with the minimum requirements set forth in the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations.

3. Clubs without an appropriate license may participate in domestic league competitions only with prior permission from the Executive Committee of GFF, which is bound to take the decision regarding allowing any such exceptions in accordance with the Statutes and regulations of GFF, principles of football integrity, as well as its football development policy. The Executive Committee of GFF may appeal to the Disciplinary Committee to apply financial sanctions with regards to such exceptions.

## **72. Rights**

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1. GFF is the original owner of all the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions regarding the content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, all financial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.
2. The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are to be utilised, and draw up special regulations to this end. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether these rights are to be utilised exclusively, jointly with a third party, or entirely through a third party.

## **73. Authorisation**

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GFF may allow other legal or natural persons to make use of images, sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under its jurisdiction, without any restriction with regards to content, time, place, as well as technical and legal aspects.

## VII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

### **74. International Matches and Competitions**

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1. The authority for organising international matches and competitions between national teams, leagues and/or club teams lies solely with FIFA and UEFA.

### **75. Contacts**

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GFF shall not play matches or make sporting contacts with Associations that are not members of FIFA, or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA. In addition, GFF shall not organise matches with teams whose players do not belong to clubs or leagues affiliated with FIFA.

### **76. Approval**

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Clubs, leagues, or other club unions that are affiliated with GFF cannot belong to another Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation from GFF, the other Association in question, as well as FIFA, other than in exceptional cases.

## VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

### **77. Unforeseen Contingencies and Force Majeure**

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The Executive Committee shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in the Statutes or in case of a force majeure.

### **78. Dissolution**

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1. Any decision relating to the dissolution of GFF requires a majority vote from two-thirds of all Members of GFF, which must be obtained at a Congress that is especially convened for that purpose.
2. If GFF is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the Government. The final Congress may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

### **79. Enforcement**

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The new edition of these Statutes was adopted at the XXXI ordinary Congress in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 31 May 2021, and came into force upon being adopted.

Levan Kobiashvili

President