



# RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

## Regulations

2021 Edition

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#### 1. General Information

- a. Current FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply except as amended herein.
- b. By participating in this competition, all players, coaches, team officials, parents, and spectators agree to abide by these rules and any sanctions for violating these rules.
- c. The official name of the competition shall be **2021 Women's Recreational League.**
- d. The competition shall be organized by the GFA Competition Committee.
- e. The POC shall be GFA Competition Director, Sam San Gil, who can be reached at [competition@theguamfa.com](mailto:competition@theguamfa.com).
- f. All matches shall be played at the GFA National Training Center in Harmon, Guam.

#### 2. Format

- a. Small sided games: 8v8 playing on 68 meters in length and 42 meters in width fields.
- b. 2 – 25 minute halves, 5 minute break between halves.
- c. Off-sides, unlimited substitutions, and all other FIFA Rules apply
- d. Games are RECREATIONAL in nature and should be kept low key and good, fun competition.



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3. **Promotion & Relegation:** Not applicable.
4. **Standings & Awards:**  
As this is a recreational league, standing will be kept and NO Playoffs
5. **Schedule**
  - a. Matches will be played on Sundays for NINE weeks.
  - b. GFA reserves the right to make changes to the schedule based on availability of the facility.
6. **Rescheduled Matches:** Not applicable.
7. **Entry & Obligations**
  - a. Clubs must notify GFA Competition Department of intent to play in upcoming competition by providing information to include but not limited to: official club name, team colors, names and contact info for at least two POCs.
  - b. Failure to pay the fee in full by the deadline will result in a late fee of \$100.
  - c. Clubs that have any outstanding financial and/or disciplinary obligations will not be allowed entry into the competition.
  - d. If a club fails to pay the competition fee and subsequent late fee before kickoff of the 1st match of the season, any team and/or individual awards will be forfeited.
8. **Rosters**
  - a. Roster limit of **20** players per team.
  - b. Managers must work with the match commissioner to ensure roster is accurate with regard to player information.
  - c. Only 20 registered players and two non-playing officials (e.g. coach or assistant coach) may be present in the technical area in any one match. Any extra players, non-playing officials, or other people (including children) may not be present in the technical area or pitch.
9. **Player Eligibility**
  - a. A player may participate in the competition if she has a current adult GFA RECREATIONAL – and does not have any outstanding disciplinary suspensions and/or fines.
  - b. A player may only be registered to one team during the competition in the season and MUST be born on or before 2003.**



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- c. A player in the competitive division is prohibited from playing in the recreational Mom's League division.
- d. To protect the integrity of the League but to also allow a player to determine their capability to participate; *A Soccer Mom's player who moves up and plays in the Women's Recreational & Aside League will be allowed immediately after the season to move back down to Soccer Mom's should they elect to do so.* Current and former GFA National Team Players are not eligible. A National Player is defined as any player who was selected to a traveling team in the last FIVE (5) years.
- e. *It is the responsibility of each Team Manager/Coach to know who is not eligible on his/her team.*
- f. Any player who does not meet the above requirements will be considered ineligible.

### Non-Competitive

**Recreational** – Minimal knowledge of the game, Non-elite experience, Returning from major injury, Casual player.

**Mom's League** – First-time playing mother, Little to no knowledge or exposure of the Game.

*To protect the integrity of the leagues, in order to move down or "play down" a player must wait at least 1 calendar year to participate in the non-competitive leagues.*

### Competitive

**Premier** - National Player Level, elite and collegiate player. Highest level of play on island.

**Amateur** – Some elite experience, lapse between playing periods (Some years since high school/college).



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### 10. Player Transfers

- a. A player may only transfer her registration to another club during the season on the condition that she has not played any matches, in whole or in part, for her original club. Once a player plays for a club, she may NOT register to play for another club in the same competition.
- b. Once the player transfers, she must reregister with GFA, surrender her current card and purchase (\$10) a new player card with her NEW team displayed on the player card.

### 11. Player Ineligibility (Per Article 55 of the GFA Disciplinary Code-Edition 2014)

- a. If a player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, her club will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of \$50.

### 12. Failure to Play & Abandonment (Per Article 56 of the GFA Disciplinary Code-Edition 2014)

- a. If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it will be sanctioned with a minimum fine and will, in principle, forfeit the match.

### 13. Failure to Appear

- a. If a club fails to give proper notice and fails to produce the minimum of five registered players by the scheduled kickoff time, they will receive a forfeit.
- b. If both teams fail to meet the above requirement, both teams will receive a forfeit.
- c. Any subsequent offences by the same team will incur a fine and the possibility of additional sanctions.
- d. Any fines must be paid prior to the forfeiting team's next scheduled match. Failure to pay will result in an additional forfeit.

### 14. Team Misconduct (Per Article 52 of GFA Disciplinary Code-Edition 2014)

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular:

- a. A fine may be imposed where the referee sanctions at least five members of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion);
- b. A fine may be imposed where several players or officials from the same team threaten or harass match officials or other persons. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious offences.



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- c. Consumption of alcohol by Players and Staff is strictly prohibited immediately before the match and during the match. Furthermore, alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the technical area.
- d. All Participating Players agree to:
  - i. Respect the spirit of fair play, non-violence, and the authority of the Match Officials;
  - ii. Have read, understood and signed Zero Tolerance Policy (online); and Code of Conduct;
  - iii. Behave accordingly; and
  - iv. Refrain from doping.
- e. Anti-Doping:
  - i. Doping is prohibited. The FIFA ADR, AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the GFA Disciplinary Code, and all relevant GFA directives in relations to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
  - ii. The GFA shall inform each member association by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.
  - iii. The GFA Medical Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the WADA Accredited laboratory which shall carry out the analysis of all doping samples.

*“In doping-related matters, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations apply in full. In the event of any discrepancy between the national regulations and the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the provisions set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall prevail.”*

### 15. Match Regulations

- a. Minimum number of players to play a game is 5. If both the teams agree, a waiting period of NO MORE than 10 minutes will be given to allow a team to have 5 players. No time will be made up for this waiting period and the game is shortened by the delayed time.
- b. All games must start on time. If teams are not ready by kick off time, the time starts regardless and your game is shortened to ensure it ends on time. It is the team’s responsibility to be ready to start when the referee blows the whistle. Half time can be shortened to allow the game to be played. This is to be mutually agreed between the Team representatives and appointed referees.
- c. Substitution is on the fly. Entry and exit point for substitution will be at the halfway line. Players must exit the pitch before substitute player can enter.



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d. **MERCY RULE**

The “Mercy Rule” will apply once a team is up by 5 goals (or has a goal differential of 5).

Once a team is ahead by 5 goals, the leading team must remove a player. If the leading team scores again, the team must remove another player but no less than five players. If the losing team scores, the leading team can put back a player and so on. Once a team is at five players, no further players will be removed.

e. Charging the goal keeper will not be permitted.

f. Sliding tackling a player to dispossess her of the ball is NOT permitted. Slide tackling will be called based on the referee’s discretion. Note: To avoid turf burns, it is highly recommended that slide tackling is to be avoided.

### 16. **Laws of the Game**

a. *Law 3 The Number of Players (Substitutions)*

An unlimited number of substitutions may be made and players may re-enter the match after being substituted.

b. *Law 4 The Players Equipment*

- i. With the exception of the goalkeeper, all players on a team must wear similar color jerseys, similar color shorts and similar color socks. A variation in color shades for shorts and socks is acceptable.
- ii. All players should wear a unique jersey number listed on the official roster.
- iii. A field player substituting a goalkeeper must wear a number different than the goalkeeper she is replacing. It may be a different number than her field player jersey as long as no other player on the roster has the same number.
- iv. A goalkeeper substituting a field player must wear a number different than the field player she is replacing. It may be a different number than her goalkeeper jersey as long as no other player on the roster has the same number.
- v. If – in the opinion of the referee – there is a uniform conflict, the home team must use a different-colored jersey. A uniform set of bibs may be used as an alternative.
- vi. With the exception of a Medical Alert necklace/bracelet, players may not wear jewelry of any kind. This includes watches, fashion bracelets, rubber bands, necklaces, etc.
- vii. Players may not participate in a match if they are wearing a hard, unyielding cast or splint – even if padded.
- viii. Players may wear undergarments (e.g. compression shorts) of a different color than the sleeve or shorts as long as it is a solid color.



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- ix. The match commissioner will be the authority to determine whether
    1. Players are in compliance with the above rules. If no match
    2. Commissioner is present, the referee will make the determination.
  - x. Any player found in violation of **Section 16b** will be considered an ineligible player.
- c. *Law 12 Fouls & Misconduct*
- i. Caution Accumulation: A player who receives a caution in three separate matches will be suspended for the match that immediately follows the third caution. A player sent off for two cautions in the same match will not count as two cautions (it is a red card). However, a player who received a caution and then a straight red card in the same match will have the caution counted in the accumulated caution tally.
  - ii. Clubs are responsible for keeping a count of their own cautions.
  - iii. A player who is sent off – after receiving two cautions in the same match or shown a straight red card – shall not play in the next match of the competition.
  - iv. Ejection – Team officials in the technical area who, at the discretion of the referee, are guilty of committing a sending-off offence will be asked to leave the field of play.
  - v. Players sent-off and team officials ejected must leave immediately and may come no closer than 30 yards from the perimeter of the field of play.
  - vi. Any player or team official that is sent off or ejected will be referred to the GFA Disciplinary Committee and may receive additional sanctions.

### 17. Match Suspension & Termination

- a. If a referee stops a match for reasons of- but not limited to- safety (e.g. bad weather), serious infringement of the Laws of the Game (e.g. broken leg), and interference by spectators, the following procedures must be followed:
  - i. The match is stopped and suspended for up to 15 minutes to allow conditions to improve. If conditions do not improve sufficiently to restart the match after the 15 minutes, the referee shall terminate the match.
  - ii. If a match is terminated after the halftime whistle, the result shall be considered final.
  - iii. If a match is terminated before the halftime whistle, the GFA Competition Committee shall determine if the result is final, if the match should be replayed, or if an alternate solution is needed.
  - iv. No appeals may be made against decisions stated in this section.



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**18. Protests**

- a. As this is a recreational league, no protests shall be heard. Constructive comments are welcome. Please email concerns to [competition@theguamfa.com](mailto:competition@theguamfa.com).

**19. Sponsorship:** Not applicable.

**20. GFA Office Hours**

- a. The GFA Main Office is open Monday to Friday from 10:00am-6:00pm.
  - a. **Phone:** (671) 637-4321
  - b. **Email:** [info@guamfa.com](mailto:info@guamfa.com)
  - c. **Website:** [www.guamfa.com](http://www.guamfa.com)
- b. Saturdays (during Robbie Webber Season) from 9:00 – 4:00 and closed on Sundays.

**21. Matter Not Provided For**

- a. The GFA Competition Committee shall rule on any matters not provided for in this document.