

# GFA Men's Masters League Regulations

2024 Edition

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### 1. General Information

- a. 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.
- b. The official name of the competition shall be: **GFA Masters Soccer League**
- c. The competition shall be sanctioned by the GFA Competition Committee (hereafter called "the Committee").
- d. The GFA Football Event (hereafter called "the Department") will bear sole responsibility of league operations, who can be reached at [gfafed@theguamfa.com](mailto:gfafed@theguamfa.com)
- e. All matches shall be played at the GFA National Training Center in Harmon, Guam.

### 2. Format of Competition

- a. All Team's Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team's Captains are to be familiar with the current IFAB Laws of the Game 2023/2024.  
<https://www.theifab.com/documents>.
  - a. All IFAB Laws of the Game will be followed with the exception of the changes listed in these rules.
- b. The competition format: Double-round with NO playoffs
- c. Small-sided games: 9v9 playing on 68 meters in length and 42 meters (GFA-3 Field)
- d. Each match will consist of two (2) equal forty-five (45) minute halves with a halftime interval not exceeding fifteen (15) minutes.
- e. The department reserves the right to make changes to the format if the need arises.

### 3. Standings & Awards:

- a. A club's standing in its division shall be determined in the following manner:
  - a. Total points gained (Win = 3 points, Draw = 1 point, Loss = 0 points)
  - b. Total points gained in head-to-head competition.

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- i. If more than two teams, skip to the next tiebreaker
  - c. Goal differential
  - d. Fewest goals allowed
  - e. Fewest disciplinary points (Yellow = 1 point, Red = 2 points)
- b. The following awards will be given at the end of the competitions for the Masters League:
  - a. League Champion
  - b. Golden Boot
  - c. Golden Glove

## 4. Rescheduled Matches

- a. Clubs are to follow the Power Up Official schedule to ensure the competition may run as efficiently as possible.
- b. The Department will work with clubs for any rescheduled matches due to inclement weather, force majeure, public health restrictions, or any other non-personal or personnel unforeseen circumstances.
- c. There will be no requests for rescheduling of games for the Masters 2024 season due to the following reasons:
  - i. Field closure(s);
  - ii. Hosting of international competition.

## 5. Entry & Obligations

- a. Club's Power Up Administrator must enter a team into the Power Up Convenor >> Manage>> Manage Teams>>Submit Governing Body;
- b. Team entry must be submitted on time for the department to schedule the league accordingly.
- c. Clubs that have any outstanding financial and/or disciplinary obligations will not be allowed entry into the competition.
- d. Any player(s) or coach(es) with outstanding disciplinary and fines must be cleared before being eligible to participate in any match. Player(s) or coach(es) who participates in a match while failing to clear suspensions and fines will result in further sanctions as per the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 6. Rosters

- a. Clubs/teams are limited to twenty-five (25) players per match; albeit there is no limit to a number of registered players per club/team.
- b. Power Up Admin must submit an updated roster at least forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled match to ensure correct player information and jersey numbers.
- c. Managers must verify and sign the official match report upon completion of each match.
- d. Only twenty-five (25) registered players and two (2) non-playing officials (e.g. Team Manager and

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Coach may be present in the technical area in any one match. These officials must be listed on the Power Up official team roster. Any extra players, non-playing officials, or other people may not be physically present in the technical area or pitch during the match. No Exceptions.

- e. Suspended players and officials are not allowed in the technical area. No Exceptions.

## 7. Player Eligibility

- a. A player may participate in the competition if the player has a current Power Up Sports account.
- b. All players must be registered in Power Up complete with a Birth Certificate or GFA Verification of Birth Document, Player Photo, and no outstanding disciplinary sanctions and/or fines.
- c. GFA retains the right to its policy regarding player registration. Failure to provide the player's proof of Date of Birth (or providing erroneous information, or an unacceptable document) will cancel the player's application for registration. The Guam Football Association reserves the right to modify or supplement the provisions of player registration at any time.
- d. Any suspension and fines will need to be served and paid before being eligible to participate in a match.
- e. All players must be at least 40 years of age during the season in which they intend to play.

## 8. Disciplinary Matters

- a. All Team Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team's Captains are to be familiar with the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code – Edition 2021.
- b. Any suspension and fines will need to be served and paid before being eligible to participate in a match.
- c. Disciplinary Matters (decisions) may be posted on the GFA Website.
- d. Should there be any conflict between language in the Rules and Regulations for the said league, the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code shall prevail. (supersede the league rules and regs)

## 9. Player Ineligibility (per Art. 58 of 2021 GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code)

- a. If a player is fielded in a match despite being ineligible, an offence has been committed. Both the player(s) and the team/club he is affiliated with shall be fined at least \$50 and forfeit of the match.

## 10. Forfeit (per Art. 59 of 2021 Disciplinary and Ethics Code)

- a. The Team Manager and Coach must read Article 59 of the Disciplinary and Ethics Code regarding Forfeit as the clause has changed. The document is available on the website.
- b. If a club cannot produce a minimum of five (5) registered players that are properly geared, as defined by Section 14.b, by scheduled kickoff time (no grace period), they will receive a 0-3 forfeit.
- c. If both teams fail to meet the above requirement, both teams will receive a 0-3 forfeit.

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- d. Per Article 59.1.2 of GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code, forfeit is dependent on when the forfeit was officially communicated to the league administration. Times are related to the kick-off time of the match in question.
- e. Any subsequent offenses will be reported and follow Article 59.2 of 2021 Disciplinary and Ethics Code.

## 11. Abandonment (per Art. 60 of 2021 Disciplinary and Ethics Code)

- a. If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it has committed an offence. The penalty for such offense is a forfeit of the match and a fine of at least USD200.

## 12. Team Conduct

- a. As this is a competition, teams must follow and set by example the level of good sportsmanship and fair plays.
- b. GFA recognizes that participation in competitive activities is a source of strong emotional feelings, which with the desire to win will often during sporting matches lead to misunderstanding, disagreements, and other conflicts. However, GFA also believes that every participant has a duty to respect the right of competitors to hold conflicting views and accept the limits of amateur sports officiating.
- c. GFA expects coaches, players, referees, and spectators, as well as their friends and families to deal with conflicts in a spirit of good sportsmanship and to cooperate in promoting the enjoyment of football to the greatest extent possible.
- d. Illegal, unfair, rowdy, violent, dangerous, and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated, whether on the field of play or on the GFA Facility.
- e. GFA expects all participants and spectators to show respect for opponents, officials, and participants of GFA competition, activities, and promotions, regardless of their skill.
- f. All participants agree to abide by the Release of Liability, Zero Tolerance Policy, Code of Conduct, IFAB 2023/2024, and the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code. Available via Power Up or GFA website.
- g. Unacceptable conduct shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a. All coaches and players are not allowed to use the locker rooms or gym during league games.
  - b. Consumption of alcohol by players and coaches is strictly prohibited immediately before the match and during the match. Furthermore, alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the technical area.
  - c. Vulgarity by coaches, players, or spectators directed toward anyone;
  - d. Harassment of referees, coaches, or players by anyone;
  - e. Debasement or degradation of referees, coaches, or players by anyone;
  - f. Physical violence or threat of violence directed toward anyone or encouraged by

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- anyone;
- g. Verbal or physical assault on a referee. Physical assault is defined as any physical contact initiated by a player, coach, team official, spectator, elected officer, or appointed official.
- h. Use of illegal drugs/doping and smoking (all forms).
- h. To file any compliant, concerns, incident or any witness to any violation should complete the form on this link (also available on the Guam FA website): [Incident Report Form](#)

## 13. Match Regulations

- a. Law 3 The Number of Players (Substitutions)
  - a. Teams have UNLIMITED **substitution** opportunities during a match and may substitute an unlimited number of players. Players may re-enter the match after being substituted.
- b. Law 4 The Players Equipment
  - a. With the exception of the goalkeeper, all players on a team should wear identical jerseys, (male and female jerseys may vary slightly as they may be using official club jerseys worn if different leagues) same color shorts and same color socks. A variation in color shades for shorts and socks is acceptable. No pockets in shorts allowed.
  - b. Identical is defined as referring to design and color. All sponsor logos and patches must be properly applied per manufacturers' recommendations. Long sleeve jerseys can be considered identical to short sleeve jerseys.
  - c. All players must wear a unique jersey number listed on the official roster.
  - d. A field player substituting a goalkeeper must wear a number different than the goalkeeper he is replacing. It may be a different number than his field player jersey as long as no other player on the roster has the same number.
  - e. A goalkeeper substituting a field player must wear a number different than the field player he is replacing. It may be a different number than his goalkeeper jersey as long as no other player on the roster has the same number.
  - f. 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.
  - g. 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.
  - h. Players may not participate in a match if they are wearing a hard, unyielding cast or splint – even if padded.
  - i. 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, and the referee deems it not to be a conflict. It is recommended that all teammates wear same color.
  - j. The match coordinator will be the authority to determine whether players are in compliance with the above rules. If no match coordinator is present, the referee will make

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the determination.

k. Any player found in violation of Section 13b will be considered an ineligible player.

c. Law 12 Fouls & Misconduct

- a. Caution Accumulation: A player or team official who receives a caution in three separate matches will be suspended for the match that immediately follows the third caution. A player or team official 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. Any player determined to have intentionally initiated the receipt of a third yellow card or red card, in order to be suspended for an upcoming match and to ultimately have a clean record will be subject to Article 50.1.2 of the Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
- b. Caution accumulations shall be monitored by the club team manager and/or coach.
- c. A player or team official 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.
- d. Players and team officials sent-off must leave immediately from the playing area and technical area. The suspended player or team official may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded and shall not disrupt the on-going match (verbally or physically). The Match Commissioner reserves the right to direct the suspended player or team official off the premise should he/she continues to disrespect the on-going match from the stands.
- e. Any player or team official that is sent off will be referred to the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and may receive additional sanctions. Per Art. 50.2 is imposed. The player and club are responsible for compliance before being able to play.

## 14. 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:
  - a. 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.
  - b. If a match is terminated after the halftime whistle, the result shall be considered final.
  - c. If a match is terminated before the halftime whistle, the Committee shall determine if the result is final, if the match should be replayed, or if an alternate solution is needed.
  - d. No appeals may be made against decisions stated in this section.

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## 15. Anti-Doping

- a. Doping is prohibited. The FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations (ADR), AFC Anti-Doping Regulations, the GFA Disciplinary Code, and all relevant GFA directives in relations to anti-doping are applicable to the Competition.
- b. The GFA shall inform each member association by means of a circular of the doping control procedure for the Competition.
- c. The GFA Medical Committee shall be responsible for the approval of the WAD 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."*

## 16. Protests

- a. All protests must be submitted within 24 hours of the match in question in writing. This will be submitted via email to: [gfafed@theguamfa.com](mailto:gfafed@theguamfa.com)
- b. A \$100 deposit shall accompany all protests. The protest fee must be transmitted to GFA account before the expiry of the time limit for submitting the protest (or the next business day after the protest is filed if the protest is submitted after hours/weekend); otherwise, the protest will be considered invalid.
- c. If the Committee rules against a protest, the team that filed the protest will forfeit the \$100 deposit.
- d. Protests concerning refereeing decisions (e.g. foul, offside, goal/no goal, actions required by the referees to better control the match, etc.) will not be honored.

## 17. GFA Main Office Information

- a. Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 10:00am – 5:00pm
- b. Phone: (671) 637-4321 x202 (Competition / Football Events Department)
- c. E-Mail: [info@theguamfa.com](mailto:info@theguamfa.com)
- d. Website: [www.guamfa.com](http://www.guamfa.com)

## 18. Matters Not Provided For

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

**I have received, read, and understood the 2024 Budweiser Masters Soccer League Rules and Regulations.**

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Team Manager/Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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