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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: **"Budweiser G-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.
- e. All matches shall be played at the GFA National Training Center in Harmon, Guam.

2. Format of Competition

- a. All Team Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Team Captains are to be familiar with the current IFAB Laws of the Game 2023/2024. <https://www.theifab.com/documents>.
 - i. All IFAB Laws of the Game will be followed with the exception of the changes listed in these rules.
- b. The competition format:
 - i. Three Groups of Five(5) Teams
 - ii. Three Rounds with separate draw after each round based on group standings.
 - iii. Standings for the top 4 will be managed throughout each round.
 - iv. Top 4 play-off to declare Champions, runner up and third place trophy,
 - v. Remaining teams will play a single elimination based on overall standings.

No trophies placements
- c. Each match will consist of two (2) equal forty-five (45) minute halves with a halftime interval not exceeding fifteen (15) minutes.
- d. 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:
 - i. Total points gained (Win = 3 points, Draw = 1 point, Loss = 0 points)
 - ii. Total points gained in head-to-head competition.
 - a) If more than two teams, skip to the next tiebreaker
 - iii. Goal differential
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed
 - v. Fewest disciplinary points (Yellow = 1 point, Red = 2 points)
 - vi. Playoff (only to determine first place)
- b. The following awards will be given at the end of the competitions for the **Budweiser G-League**:
 - i. League Champion
 - ii. Runner Up
 - iii. Third Place
 - iv. Golden Boot
 - v. Golden Glove

4. Rescheduled Matches

- a. Clubs are to follow the PowerUP 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 unforeseen circumstances.
- c. There will be no requests for rescheduling of games for the **2024** season due to the following reasons:
 - i. Field closure
 - ii. Hosting of international competition;
 - iii. Limited availability of referees.

5. Participating Team Entry & Obligations

- a. Only GFA Member Club are eligible to participate in the GFA sanctioned adult league.
- b. **Member clubs shall submit the Participating Team Agreement (PTA) by December 15th, 2023, by 5:00pm.**
- c. Club's PowerUP Administrator must enter a team into the PowerUP Convenor >> Manage>> Manage Teams>>Submit Governing Body;
- d. Member club shall submit the team in PowerUp by **January 4th, 2023, by 5:00 pm.**
- e. Should a member club decides to withdraw between **December 15th through January 4th, 2023**, there is no fine to the member club. Should a member club decides to withdraw from the competition beyond **January 4th, 2023**, the member club will be fined \$100.
- f. **Each team entered must have a registered "C" Licensed Coach. (ref. Article 10. Coaches Eligibility)**

- g. Clubs that have any outstanding financial and/or disciplinary obligations will not be allowed entry into the competition. For the current league, the club will have thirty (30) days to pay the competition league fee and any additional fees. **Installment payments are available if needed. Installment schedule will be 3 payments, 60 days after PTA, mid-season and 30 days before season ends.** Failure to pay within the timeline will result in the team and/or individual awards being forfeited.

6. Rosters

- a. Clubs/teams are limited to twenty-five (25) players per match; albeit there is no limit to the number of registered players per club/team.
- b. PowerUP Admin must submit an updated roster at least (48) hours before the scheduled match to ensure correct player information and jersey numbers.
- c. Managers must verify and sign official match report upon completion of each match.
- d. Only twenty-five (25) registered players and **four (4)** non-playing officials (e.g. Team Manager and Coach) may be present in the technical area in any one match. These officials must be listed on the PowerUP official team roster. ***Any extra players, non-playing officials, or other persons, including children, may not be physically present in the technical area or pitch during the match.***
- 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 he has a current PowerUP Sports account and any outstanding balances or fines are “processed”.
- b. All players must be registered in PowerUP complete with proof of birthdate via Driver’s License, Passport, Government ID, 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 in regard to player registration. Failure to provide player’s proof of Date of Birth (or providing erroneous information, or 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 imposed will need to be served and paid before being eligible to participate in a match.
- e. **All players must upload a Yearly Physical before March 31, 2024 into PowerUP personal profile and remain current for the league that the said player is participating in. Failure to maintain a current and valid Yearly Physical will place the player on suspension from participating in the league.**
- f. **All players must load a complete and signed Amateur Player Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (see Item 8) into PowerUP personal profile before the first match into the season.**

- g. GFA will conduct random inspection for validity of each player's profile. Should in event a player is not current with valid documentations as per regulations, the said player will be placed on suspension until records are current.
- h. All players MUST be at least 14 years old during the calendar year of the match in which they intend to play.
- i. The registered player in the Robbie Webber Youth League is not eligible to participate in the Men's G-League simultaneously.
- j. Any player who does not meet the above requirements under Item 7 will be considered ineligible.

8. Amateur Player (Memorandum of Understanding)

- a. All players must sign a Amateur Player Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the player to be eligible to play for the club before the start of the season.
- b. The Amateur Player MOU become binding as soon as the player plays in a match for the club.
- c. The Amateur Player MOU template can be downloaded from the GFA Website:
<https://guamfa.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Memorandum-of-Understanding-Amateur-Player.pdf>
- d. Amateur Player MOU is NOT a contract, it is an acknowledgement Club and GFA that a player is part of said club for the duration of his/her contract. Contracts Do Not have to be uploaded.
- e. The signed Amateur Player MOU shall be **uploaded to PowerUp player profile**.

9. Player Transfers (Transfer Request Form)

- a. Once a player registers, signs a contract, and plays for a club, he must play for that club and may not transfer to another club until the official Transfer Window.
- b. The transfer window will open **mid-season. May 20 – June 6 2024**
- c. The Department will communicate to PowerUP Admin the transfer window details.
- d. All transfers require the Transfer Request Form (TRF). The TRF can be downloaded from the GFA Website: <https://guamfa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GFA-Transfer-Form-2023-2024.pdf>
- e. All transfers require a new Amateur Player MOU signed with the buying club. <https://guamfa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Memorandum-of-Understanding-Amateur-Player.pdf>
- f. The TRF shall have the following completed:
 - ii. Signatures of the player, selling club, and buying club. It is recommended that the selling club does not sign the TRF until any such agreed fee is paid.
 - iii. The buying club shall submit via email the completed TRF and the signed Amateur Player Contract to: gfafed@theguamfa.com;
 - iv. Payment via PowerUP for the Transfer Fee shall be paid in full. Transfer Fee: \$80.00. Payment must be made online.

- g. Clubs must maintain at least fifteen (15) players on the roster. No transfers out of a club will be allowed should the club roster size falls below fifteen (15)

10. Coaching Eligibility

- a. Implementation of Minimum Coaching Requirements. "C" License
- b. It is preferred that the head coach is to be present and remained through the match for the appointed team.
- c. Should the Head Coach not be present, any other appointed and licensed coach (ie. AC, GKC) can assume this role in the head coach's absence
- d. If a team's Head Coach (or other licensed coach is not present or remained for the duration of the match for greater than 50% of the seasons matches, the club will be assessed a fine in the amount of \$250
- e. The club president or the club technical director may submit a letter of exemption for the 2024 league to fulfill the coach licensing requirement. In order for this to be permitted, the club must submit its three (3) year development plan that shows the clubs strategic plan on the player development, coaching development, and the club development at a minimum. This must be submitted and approved before the start of the league.
- f. Should the coach not be properly licensed but registered for the upcoming course, he/she can remain as the assigned coach for the said team. He/she must participate a d pass the course. Should he/she decide to withdraw or fail the course, the team (club) will be fined in the amount of \$350.
- g. There will be a coaching stipends to the club. One team in the men's (\$500) and one team in the women's(\$500) This is only eligible for for the Adult One League (G-League) only. This is payable upon 100% attendance to the season's matches; otherwise, it will be prorated.

11. Disciplinary Matters

- a. All Team Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team 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. Please refer to Item 11.
- c. Disciplinary Matters (decisions) may be posted on the GFA Website.
- d. Should there be any conflict between the language in the Rules and Regulations for the said league, the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Code shall prevail.
- e. All matters related to the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics – Edition 2021 shall be communicated to the GFA Disciplinary Committee.

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

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

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

- a. If a club cannot produce a minimum of seven (7) registered players that are properly geared, as defined by Section 15.b, by scheduled kickoff time (no grace period), they will receive a 0-3 forfeit.
- b. If both teams fail to meet the above requirement, both teams will receive a 0-3 forfeit.
- c. As per Article 59:

The fine for a forfeit is dependent on when the forfeit was officially communicated to the league administrator (Football Events Department). Times are related to the kick-off time of the match in question.

Penalty: More than 48 hours: Fine of at least USD50;
Within 48-24 hours: Fine of at least USD100;
Less than 24 hours: Fine of at least USD150.

The offence is aggravated in repeat offences.

Penalty: Initial fine as defined above, but an additional USD50 for each repeated offence.

Second offence: Initial fine, plus an additional USD50;

Third offence: Initial fine, plus additional USD100;

Each subsequent offence: The additional fine shall increase by USD50 from the previous; possible disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

14. 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, the club will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of \$200 and will, in principle, forfeit the match. (i.e., a team played only first half and declared to no longer play the second half, regardless if the opposing team give consent or not.)
- b. The club will be notified of any sanctions and fines as per Article 60 of 2021 Disciplinary and Ethics Code. The offence is aggravated in repeat offences.

15. 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 its 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 competitions, 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 PowerUP or the 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 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).

16. Match Regulations

- a. Law 3 The Number of Players (Substitutions)
 - ii. Teams have five (5) substitution opportunities during a match and may substitute an unlimited number of players per opportunity. Players may re-enter the match after being substituted. Halftime substitutions shall not count.
- b. Law 4 The Players Equipment
 - ii. With the exception of the goalkeeper, all players on a team must wear identical jerseys, same base color shorts and same base color socks. A variation in color shades for shorts and socks is acceptable. No pockets in shorts allowed.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. League patches are currently being prepared, therefore; patches will be temporarily exempt.
 - v. All players must wear a unique jersey number listed on the official roster and cannot be duplicated. Numbers may not be taped or written onto the jersey.

- vi. 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.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. 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.
 - ix. 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.
 - x. Players may not participate in a match if they are wearing a hard, unyielding cast or splint – even if padded.
 - xi. 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.
 - xii. The match commissioner will be the authority to determine whether players are in compliance with the above rules. If no match commissioner is present, the referee will make the determination.
 - xiii. Any player found in violation of Section 15.b will be considered an ineligible player.
- c. Law 12 Fouls & Misconduct
- ii. 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.
 - iii. Caution Accumulations will be displayed with the weekly stats on the GFA website (www.guamfa.com).
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. Any player or team official that is sent off will be referred to the GFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and may receive additional sanctions.

17. Match Suspension & Termination by the Referee

- 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. The terminated match will be reported to both the Head of Referee and Football Events Manager. The complete report will be submitted to the Competition Committee with recommendation for the match's status/solution.
 - III. No appeals may be made against decisions stated in this section.

18. 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.”

19. Sponsorship

- a. The 2024 G League is sponsored by Budweiser

20. 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
- 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 GFA Disciplinary and Ethics 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, etc.) will not be honored.

21. GFA Office Information

- a. Office Hours: Monday to Friday from 10:00am – 5:00pm
- b. Football Events Department Phone: (671) 637-4321 x202
- c. E-Mail: info@theguamfa.com

22. Matters Not Provided For

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