



Founded 1967

**STATUTES**  
Of the  
**BAHAMAS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

---

---

## Index

	Preamble	3
	Interpretation Clause	3
<b>I</b>	Title, Constitution and H.Q.	4
<b>II</b>	Object	4
<b>III</b>	Membership	4
<b>IV</b>	Application	5
<b>V</b>	Members Rights & Obligations	6
<b>VI</b>	Legislative, Executive and Administrative Bodies	7
<b>VII</b>	Authority	8
<b>VIII</b>	Representation and Voting	8
<b>IX</b>	Executive Committee	11
<b>X</b>	Standing Committees	12
<b>XI</b>	Judicial Bodies	14
<b>XII</b>	General Secretariat	16
<b>XIII</b>	Finance	17
<b>XIV</b>	Membership Subscriptions	18
<b>XV</b>	Competitions	18
<b>XVI</b>	International Competitions	19
<b>XVII</b>	Players Status	19
<b>XVIII</b>	Laws of the Game	20
<b>XIX</b>	Resignations	20
<b>XX</b>	Expulsion of Leagues or Affiliates	20
<b>XXI</b>	Final Provisions	21

---

---

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **PREAMBLE**

Whereas the game of Soccer is now being promoted, managed and maintained in all countries of the world, with emphasis on the international friendship and goodwill of people participating in the game for their cultural, social and healthy development, we therefore sincerely resolve to constitute the Bahamas Football Association as the National Organization for the sport in all the Bahama Islands.

## **INTERPRETATION CLAUSE**

In interpreting these rules, regulations and standing orders of the Association the words:

1. "Association" or "BFA" means the Bahamas Football Association
2. "Congress" means the Governing Body of the BFA.
3. "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the BFA as constituted in accordance with these Statutes.
4. "Member" means (a) clubs, which are in membership with the BFA or with any properly sanctioned league within the jurisdiction of the BFA  
(b) Any person who is a member of a committee of the BFA.
5. "League or affiliate" means any organized body of teams that is a properly sanctioned subordinate of the BFA.
6. "FIFA" means Federation International Football Association
7. "CONCACAF" means the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football
8. "CFU" means the Caribbean Football Association

---

---

## **I. TITLE, CONSTITUTION AND H.Q.**

### **ARTICLE 1**

1. The name of the organization shall be the Bahamas Football Association, hereinafter referred to as the BFA.
2. The BFA shall consist of "Members" which are affiliated and recognized by the BFA, which controls football in the Bahamas.
3. The Headquarters shall be established in New Providence.

## **II. OBJECT**

### **ARTICLE 2**

The objects of the BFA are:

1. To develop and promote the game of football in every way which seems proper to the BFA or its Executive Committee.
2. To foster friendly relations among the leagues and affiliates, and their officials and players by encouraging football matches at all levels; amateur, non-amateur, professional and in all other appropriate ways.
3. To control football by taking steps as shall be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the regulations and standing orders of the BFA or of the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association Board, to prevent the introduction of improper methods or practices in the game and to protect it from abuses.
4. To prevent racial, religious, gender or political discrimination or distinction among players whether their status is amateur, non-amateur or professional. Leagues or affiliates that tolerates, allows or organizes competitions in which discrimination is practiced shall be expelled. Clubs or Teams when applying to take part in a competition or deciding to organize one shall give assurance to the BFA that its provisions be respected and adhered to.
5. To provide, by regulation and byelaws or otherwise, the methods of deciding and settling differences that may arise between leagues and affiliates, clubs and/or teams.

## **III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **ARTICLE 3**

- 
1. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to grant membership to clubs in properly sanctioned leagues or affiliates, which shall be submitted to the next meeting of the Congress for ratification.
  2. Clubs in leagues or affiliates shall be admitted as members by the Congress only.
  3. The Members of the BFA must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, CONCACAF and the CFU, and of the BFA in their activities.

#### IV. APPLICATION

##### ARTICLE 4

1. A club applying for membership to the BFA shall do so in writing to the Secretariat who shall acknowledge such application and inform the applicant concerned of the date, time and venue of the meeting at which the application will be considered. Should such application, after consideration, be approved, a Certificate of Membership will be issued in the name of the said club or team.
2. The application for membership must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
  - a) A copy of its statutes and regulations;
  - b) A declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of the BFA, FIFA, CONCACAF and the CFU, and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, teams, officials and players;
  - c) A declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
  - d) A declaration that it recognizes the Disciplinary and Appeal Process of the BFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
  - e) A declaration that it is located in the territory of the BFA;
  - f) A declaration that it will play all official home matches on the territory of the BFA;
  - g) A declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
  - h) A list of Officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories, and the persons responsible for conducting on its behalf official correspondence both with the BFA and other members on all matters, including disputes between any of the parties;
  - i) A declaration that it undertakes to organize or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the BFA;
  - j) A copy of the minutes of its last constitutional meeting

- 
- 
3. During the Congress session at which its application for membership is to be decided, the applicant may, through its delegates, address the Congress in support of its application. These delegates must, however, leave the conference hall whilst the application is being considered and voted upon. If the application is accepted, the delegates of the club which has just been granted membership shall immediately be allowed to take part in the remaining work of the Congress.
  4. A club which has just been granted membership must pay the annual subscription fee as laid down in Article 33 of these Statutes for the year of its admission.
  5. Payment of the subscription fee must be made at the time of application for membership. Failing this, the provisions of Article 33 § 3 shall be applied mutates mutandis.
  6. The Secretary shall notify the club or team concerned of the decision of the Executive Committee, subject to ratification of the Congress.

#### **V. MEMBERS RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

##### ARTICLE 5

1. The Members of the B.F.A. have the following rights:
  - a) To take part in the Congress of the BFA, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to 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 the BFA to be elected;
  - d) To be informed of the affairs of the BFA through the official bodies of the BFA.
  - e) To take part in competitions and other activities organized by the BFA.
  - f) To exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of the BFA.
2. The Members of the BFA have the following obligations
  - a) To comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, CFU and the BFA as well as the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
  - b) To ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
  - c) To take part in competitions and activities organized by the BFA;
  - d) To pay their membership subscriptions;
  - e) To respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by the 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 relative to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, CFU, BFA or the League shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal of FIFA,

- 
- 
- CONCACAF, CFU, the BFA or the CAS and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
- g) To communicate to the BFA any amendment of 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 parties;
  - h) Not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
  - i) To observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behavior as an expression of fair play through statutory provision;
  - j) To administer a register of members this shall regularly be updated;
  - k) To comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, CFU and BFA.
3. Violations of the above-mentioned by any Member may lead to sanction provided for in these Statutes.

#### ARTICLE 6

1. The executive body of a league or affiliate or any member shall be appointed only by means of election within that league or affiliate. The statutes of the league or affiliate or members shall provide for an election procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the electorate.
2. The BFA shall not recognize the executive body of a league or affiliate or member, even on an interim basis, if it has not been appointed in accordance with §1 above.
3. Any decision taken by an outside body to suspend a league or affiliate or members' executive body shall not be binding on the BFA.
4. Each league or affiliate, or member affiliated to the BFA shall be subordinate to and be recognized by the BFA. These statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these members and groups. Their statutes and regulations must be approved by the Executive Committee of the BFA.
5. In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

### **VI. LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES**

#### ARTICLE 7

1. The Congress shall be the legislative body of the BFA and, as such, the supreme authority.
2. The Executive Committee shall be the executive body of the BFA.
3. The General Secretariat shall be the administrative body of the BFA.
4. The Standing and Ad-hoc Committees shall serve to assist the various bodies of the BFA in their respective duties. Their composition and functions are stipulated in Articles 17 to 21 of these Statutes.

---

---

## VII. AUTHORITY

### ARTICLE 8

1. The Congress of the BFA is the supreme authority, and shall be held every year.
2. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date .The Members shall be notified in writing at least one month in advance.
3. The Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary Meeting of the BFA if onethird of the Members make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Meeting within fourteen days of receipt of such a request. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
4. The place, date and agenda of the Congress, Special or Extraordinary convention shall be notified to the Members at least fourteen days before it is due to take place.
5. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business, save as herein otherwise provided a majority together representing not less than fifty percent of the total voting rights of all members shall be a quorum.
6. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, or to such other day at such time and place as the Executive Committee may determine.
7. A quorum is not required for the second meeting unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of the B.F.A., the election of the President and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of the B.F.A., the expulsion of a Member of the B.F.A. or the dissolution of the B.F.A.

## VIII. REPRESENTATION & VOTING

### ARTICLE 9

1. Each member shall have the right to one vote and be entitled to be represented by a maximum of two delegates who may take part in discussions.
2. The names of the delegates must be sent to the General Secretary before the opening of the Congress. The one having the right to vote must be indicated. Should this delegate leave the conference hall at any time during the Congress, he shall be replaced by the representative next on the list of delegates drawn up by the member concerned.
3. Only the delegate present and entitled to vote shall decide any question put to vote.
4. No delegate shall be allowed to represent more than one member.



- 
5. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their term of office, members of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible to act as delegates for members.
  6. Voting by letter or proxy will not be allowed.
  7. The member shall bear the cost of travel and accommodations for the two delegates taking part in the Congress.
  8. The agenda, specifying the nature of business to be transacted, the report of the General Secretary, the Balance Sheet and the Auditor's report must be sent to the members at least fourteen days before the opening date of the Congress.
  9. The agenda of the Congress shall be drawn up by the General Secretary based on proposals from the Executive Committee and members. Any proposal and question that a member wishes to submit to the Congress must be sent in writing to the general secretariat at 21 days before the Congress. Only those proposals and questions sent in time and included in the agenda may be discussed at the Congress.
  10. The Congress may, in emergencies, deal with matters submitted after the above closing date, provided an absolute majority of the members are present and a majority of three-fourths of votes recorded thus decides.
  11. Any officer wishing to stand for a further period of office is eligible for re-election. Nomination must be made by a member of the BFA and this must be made to the General Secretary within twenty-one days of the Congress.
  12. The names of all candidates must be forwarded by the General Secretary in writing to all members at least fourteen days before the Congress.
  13. The Congress agenda shall include at least the following mandatory items:
    - a) A declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of the BFA;
    - b) Approval of the Agenda;
    - c) An address by the President
    - d) Appointment of three members to check the official minutes
    - e) Appointment of Scrutineers
    - f) Suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable)
    - g) Formal approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress
    - h) The report covering the period since the preceding Congress
    - i) Submission of balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
    - j) Approval of the financial statements
    - k) Approval of the budget
    - l) Admission and/or resignation of clubs or teams.
    - m) Consideration of proposals for alterations to the Statutes, Regulations governing the Application of the Statutes and Standing Orders of the Congress
    - n) Discussion of proposals or Questions submitted by the Members or Executive Committee in accordance with Article 9 § 9 of these Statutes

- 
- 
- o) Appointment of independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee and approve the annual report prepared by the independent auditors.
  - p) Election of the President (if necessary) and members of the Executive Committee
  - q) Any further items proposed by the Members of the Executive Committee.
14. In the case of an Extraordinary Congress, the notice of the meeting shall include the agenda. No items other than those contained in the agenda may be discussed.
  15. The Congress alone may alter the Statutes, the Regulations governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Order of the Congress.
  16. A proposed alteration to the Statutes may be included in the agenda and put to the vote only if it has been submitted by one member of the General Council and seconded by two others or if proposed by the Executive Committee.
  17. In order to be able to consider an amendment to the Statutes, a Congress must be attended by an absolute majority of the members, which at the time of the Congress have not forfeited their right to vote for any reason.
  18. To be adopted, the amendment must receive the approval of three-fourths of the votes cast by the delegates present and entitled to vote.
  19. An amendment to the Regulations governing the Application of the Statutes or the Standing Orders of the Congress may be proposed by one member or by the Executive Committee.
  20. Proposals to amend the Regulations governing the Application of the Statutes or the Standing Order of the Congress shall be passed by a simple majority of votes cast by the delegates present and entitled to vote.

#### ARTICLE 10

1. Voting for the elections shall be by secret ballot
2. Other decisions, when voting is necessary, shall be taken by a show of hands. If this method does not result in a definite majority in favor of the proposal, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll.
3. For the election of President of the BFA, an absolute majority of eligible and registered votes is required. If there are more than two candidates, the one obtaining the lowest number of votes will be eliminated after each ballot until only two candidates remain in the running.
4. Other decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes recorded with the exception of the following, which can only be taken if an absolute majority of the eligible and registered voters are present and a majority vote of three-fourths of the votes recorded is reached:

- 
- 
- a) Amendments or additions to the Statutes (Article 9 § 18)
  - b) Additions to the Congress agenda (Article 9 § 10)
  - c) Expulsion of a member from the BFA
  - d) Dissolution of the BFA

#### ARTICLE 11

1. The General Secretary shall keep the official minutes of the Congress.
2. The Minutes shall be submitted for verification to three members specifically appointed for this purpose by the Congress.

#### ARTICLE 12

1. Decisions taken at the Congress shall come into operations and become binding on the BFA and its members one month after the closing date of the Congress.
2. Decisions taken by the Congress to accept the affiliation of new members shall, however, come into force immediately. In such cases, the members shall be entitled to vote immediately upon formal acceptance of their candidature.
3. The Congress may, in emergencies, decide that decisions be enforced at a different date. In such cases, the decision shall become operative on the date fixed by the Congress.

### IX. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### ARTICLE 13

1. The Executive Committee of the B.F.A. shall consist of:  
1 President 1 Executive Vice President 5 Vice Presidents
2. The President shall be elected by the clubs and teams represented at the Congress and eligible to vote (cf. Art.10 § 3). Only Bahamian Citizens (and those non-Bahamian Nationals in possession of permanent resident status in accordance with the Immigration Act 1967) will be eligible to hold the offices of President, Executive President, and General Secretary of the BFA.
3. The Executive Vice President and Five Vice Presidents shall be elected in accordance to Art. 10 § 4.
4. The mandates for the elected officials are for a term of 4 years. They may be renewed.
5. If the President ceases to carry out or is prevented from performing his duties, the Executive Vice President shall undertake them until the next Congress at the latest. In such a case, the Congress shall elect a new President.
6. If other members of the Executive Committee relinquish their duties, they shall be replaced immediately by the same election process that provided for them, for the remainder of their term of office.

#### ARTICLE 14

- 
- 
1. The Executive Committee shall be the BFA's executive body. It shall be empowered to take decisions on all matters which are not exclusive to the Congress, with the exception of matters referred by these Statutes to other bodies.
  2. The Executive Committee shall, in principle, meet twice a year.
  3. At the request of 3 members of Executive Committee, the President must convene an extraordinary meeting.
  4. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman, deputy chairman and members of the BFA's Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee
  5. The Executive Committee shall, if need be, form standing or ad hoc committees in addition to those mentioned under Art. 16 hereafter, subject to ratification by the Executive Committee.
  6. The President, on the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the General Secretary. In order to guarantee continuity on the administration of the BFA, this appointment shall take place two years after the election of the Executive Committee and its mandate shall be for a term of four years.
  7. The Congress shall fix the venue and date of the next Congress.

#### ARTICLE 15

1. The President shall represent the BFA legally.
2. However, for real estate transactions, the President and one other member of the Executive Committee shall represent the BFA legally by means of their joint signatures.
3. The President shall have an ordinary vote and, when votes are equal, shall have the casting vote.
4. If the President is absent or unavailable, the Executive Vice President shall automatically perform his duties.

#### **X. STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### ARTICLE 16

1. The Standing Committee shall be:
  - (a) Finance Committee
  - (b) Organizing Committee for International and Cup Matches
  - (c) Referees' Committee
  - (d) Technical Committee
  - (e) Committee for Legal Matters
  - (f) Disciplinary Committee
  - (g) Appeals Committee

All Standing Committees shall report to the office of the General Secretary.

#### ARTICLE 17

- 
- 
1. The Finance Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and three members. They shall be chosen from among the members of the Executive Committee.
  2. The duties of the Committee shall be:
    - (a) To control the financial administration of the B.F.A.
    - (b) To advise the Executive Committee on the management of property and assets
    - (c) To prepare the budget of the Executive Committee and to examine those of the various standing and ad hoc committees and to submit them for approval to the Executive Committee
    - (d) To supervise the financial accounts of the committees
    - (e) To prepare annual financial statements of the B.F.A. for audit purposes

#### ARTICLE 18

1. The Organizing Committee for International and Cup Matches shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and four members. The chairman and at least two of the members shall be selected from the Executive Committee.
2. The Committee shall be responsible for the organizing of International and Cup Matches in accordance with the regulations governing the competition.
3. It shall be empowered to submit to the Executive Committee proposals for the alteration to any special regulations that they may deem necessary. These proposals shall be submitted to the General Council at their next meeting.
4. The Committee shall be responsible for the preparation of an official report on the match/competition.

#### ARTICLE 19

1. The Referees' Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and two members. The Chairman shall be selected from the Executive Committee.
2. The Referees' Committee shall deal with all matters relative to refereeing within the jurisdiction of the BFA and shall be comprised of former referees.  
Its duties shall be:
  - a) To prepare the official interpretation of the Laws of the Game and of any alteration made thereto.
  - b) To compile a list of referees qualified to their satisfaction.
  - c) To appoint the referees for matches in competitions organized by the BFA
  - d) To establish as far as possible uniformity in methods of refereeing and application of the Laws.
  - e) To organize courses for referees and those responsible for the education and preparation of referees.

#### ARTICLE 20

- 
- 
1. The Technical Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.
  2. It's duties shall be:
    - a) To advance training methods
    - b) To take all possible measures to improve the qualification of coaches
    - c) To resolve questions of theory and practice of football
    - d) To take all possible measures to promote familiarization with and experience in teaching football
    - e) To organize courses and conferences for instructors, trainers, coaches and administrators in conjunction with affiliated leagues and associations.
    - f) To recommend coaches, instructors or trainers to the BFA for national team duty or for use in conducting related courses

#### ARTICLE 21

1. The Committee for Legal Matters shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.
2. Its duties shall be:
  - a. To take counsel, give advice and adopt a position on all cases, disputes or enquiries submitted to the Committee
  - b. To follow the development of the Statutes which govern the BFA and propose to the Executive Committee any amendment which the Committee deems useful
  - c. To check the Statutes and Regulations governing affiliated leagues and associations, as the case may be, and to recommend that the Executive Committee intervene to bring about desired amendments.

### **XI. JUDICIAL BODIES**

#### ARTICLE 22

1. The judicial bodies of BFA shall be:
  - i. The Disciplinary Committee
  - ii. The Appeal Committee
2. The responsibilities and function of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of the B.F.A., which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
3. The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected.
4. The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of the BFA at the same time.

#### ARTICLE 23

- 
1. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.
  2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of BFA. 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 BFA
  3. The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce sanctions described in these Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary Code on Members, clubs, officials, coaches or players for any breach of the BFA. Statutes, regulations and instructions, or any violation of decisions reached by a body of the BFA, or for any action violating the spirit or letter of the Laws of the Game.
  4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.
  5. Disciplinary powers are, however, exclusively reserved to the Executive Committee/General Council in respect of the suspension and expulsion of league and /or affiliates (cf. Art. 26 and 41)

#### ARTICLE 24

1. The Appeal Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of the BFA. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three of its members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary code of BFA.
3. The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals lodged against decisions by the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final.

#### ARTICLE 25

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

1. For natural and legal persons:
  - a) a warning;
  - b) a reprimand;
  - c) a fine;
  - d) the return of awards.
2. For natural persons:
  - a) a caution;
  - b) an 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 on neutral territory;
  - d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
  - e) annulment of the result of the match;
  - f) expulsion;
  - g) a forfeit;
  - h) deduction of points;
  - i) relegation to a lower division

#### ARTICLE 26

1. The BFA shall create an Arbitration Tribunal, which shall deal with all internal national disputes between the BFA, its members, players, officials and clubs that do not fall under the jurisdiction of its judicial bodies. The Executive Committee shall draw up special regulations regarding the composition, jurisdiction and procedural rules of this Arbitration Tribunal.
2. The BFA, its members, players, and officials will not take any dispute to Ordinary Courts unless specifically provided for in these statutes and FIFA regulations. Any disagreements shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of FIFA, CONCACAF or the BFA.
3. The BFA shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to the BFA. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or confederations.

#### ARTICLE 27

1. In accordance with Articles 59 and 60 of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding FIFA decision shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals 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 and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.
2. The BFA shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, players and officials with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or CAS.

### **XII. GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

#### ARTICLE 28

1. The General Secretariat of the BFA shall be a permanent administrative body.
2. It may be called upon to carry out administrative, publicity and technical work.

#### ARTICLE 29

1. The General Secretary shall be the chief executive of the permanent secretariat of the BFA.
2. He shall be appointed on the basis of an individual legal agreement.



- 
- 
3. He shall be responsible for, inter-alia:
    - a) Managing and keeping the accounts of the BFA
    - b) The execution of decisions taken by the Executive Committee
    - c) The production of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee, the standing and ad hoc committees. d) The correspondence of the BFA
    - e) Relations among the BFA and FIFA, the confederations, national associations, organizations, committees, leagues and affiliates and members.
    - f) The organization of the secretariat
    - g) The appointment of the staff in the general secretariat.

### **XIII. FINANCE**

#### **ARTICLE 30**

1. The financial period of the BFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1 January and end on December 31 each year, commencing in the year following the Congress.
2. The revenue and expenses of the BFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated account of the BFA with its subsidiaries as at 31<sup>st</sup> December annually.

#### **ARTICLE 31**

1. The revenues of the BFA arise specifically from:
  - a) Members annual subscriptions;
  - b) FIFA Financial Assistance Programme;
  - c) Receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which the BFA is entitled;
  - d) Other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the BFA. 2. The BFA bears:
    - 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 expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by the BFA.

#### **ARTICLE 32**

1. The Congress shall approve a firm of chartered accountants to examine the accounts of the BFA after the accounts have been approved by the Finance Committee. The appointment shall be for four years.
2. The accountants report shall be submitted to the Congress.

---

---

#### **XIV. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

##### **ARTICLE 33**

1. Each Member shall pay a standard annual subscription. This shall be due on 1 January each year.
2. The amount of the annual subscription shall be determined by the Congress every four years following the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every affiliate.
3. A Club which has not paid its subscription by 1 April in any year, may be suspended by the Executive Committee unless it produces a valid reason that is acceptable to the Committee. The suspension shall be confirmed by the subsequent Congress. If the subscription is paid in the meantime, the league or affiliate concerned shall be immediately reinstated.

#### **XV. COMPETITIONS**

##### **ARTICLE 34**

1. The BFA organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territories:
  - a) National Championships
  - b) Knock-Out Cup
  - c) International matches
2. The Executive Committee may delegate to the BFA's subordinate Leagues the authority to organize competitions. The competitions organized by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organized by the BFA. Competitions organized by the BFA shall take priority.
3. The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.

##### **ARTICLE 35**

1. The Executive Committee of the BFA will set up regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in the competitions and sanctioned leagues of the BFA.

##### **ARTICLE 36**

1. The BFA and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual 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 utilized and draw up special regulations to this end. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.
  3. The BFA and its members are exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

## **XVI. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

### **ARTICLE 37**

1. The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams lies solely with FIFA. No match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of the FIFA Executive Committee. In addition, permission from the relevant Confederation may be required in accordance with the FIFA regulations.
2. The BFA is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.
3. The BFA 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.
4. Clubs, Leagues or any other groups of Clubs that are affiliated to the BFA cannot belong to another Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorization of the BFA and the other Association and of FIFA, except in exceptional circumstances.
5. For every international match, including friendly matches, tournaments and any match played against teams from different leagues or National Associations, the club, league or affiliate hosting the match shall pay to the BFA a share of the gross receipts from the match.
6. The minimum amount to be paid for any such match shall not be less than B\$50.00 and shall be payable within 30 days of the conclusion of the match.

## **XVII. PLAYERS' STATUS**

### **ARTICLE 38**

1. The status of players of Clubs affiliated with the BFA are "amateurs".
2. The definitions and dispositions concerning the status of players will be determined by the Executive Committee, until there are regulations covering same.
3. No player shall be allowed to play for more that one Club or Team.

---

---

## **XVIII. LAWS OF THE GAME**

### **ARTICLE 39**

1. Each member of the BFA shall play association football according to the most current Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board, which alone has full authority to alter them.

## **XIX. RESIGNATIONS**

### **ARTICLE 40**

1. A Club wishing to resign from the BFA must notify the BFA of such resignation by registered letter. The intimation of resignation shall, however, only be recognized if it is confirmed by another registered letter within three months of receipt of the first. The Member concerned shall continue to be considered a member of the BFA until the second letter has been received.
2. A Club whose intimation of resignation has been accepted shall lose its status as member and all the privileges conferred by the BFA.
3. A request for resignation shall only be accepted when the Club has settled all financial obligations towards the BFA and its members.

## **XX. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS, AFFILIATES OR NATURAL PERSONS**

### **ARTICLE 41**

1. A Club, League or Affiliate may forfeit its membership with the BFA:
  - a) For non-payment of dues or other debts to the BFA
  - b) For any serious infraction of the statutes and regulations of the BFA
  - c) For any grave dishonor to the BFA or any member affiliated to the BFA or the game of football.
  - d) By ceasing to have a real status of a league or affiliate.
2. The expulsion of a club, league or affiliate for any of the above-mentioned reasons can only be decreed by the Congress. For such a decision to be valid the Congress must be attended by an absolute majority of the members affiliated to the BFA (which have not forfeited their right to vote for any reason at the time of Congress) and the decision must be passed by a majority of three-fourths of the votes recorded.
3. Expelled members shall have the right to appeal to the next Congress or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

---

---

## **XXI. FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 42**

1. Alterations and amendments can be made to the Statutes at any Congress or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.
2. Any matters not provided for under these Statutes or cases of force majeure shall be settled by the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.
3. In the case of conflict of interpretation of these statutes or any rules of the BFA, the President will refer to the regulations as laid down by FIFA, and such decision shall be final.
4. Decisions in matters of legislation shall not become operative until they have been approved by the Congress.

### **ARTICLE 43**

1. Every activity of the bodies and committees shall be subject to strict observation of the Statutes and Regulations of the BFA.

### **ARTICLE 44**

1. Any decision relating to the dissolution of the BFA requires a majority of twothirds of all of the Members of the BFA, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.
2. In the event of the dissolution of the BFA, it's funds shall not be distributed. They shall be transferred to the Supreme Court of the Bahamas, which shall invest them until the re-establishment of the BFA.

### **ARTICLE 45**

1. The present constitution was adopted by the Convention in 1967 and altered by subsequent Conventions in 1975 and 1979, 1996, 2002 and 2006. They supersede those previously dated and come into force as laid down in Art. 11.

Nassau, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006

**FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE B.F.A.**

---

---

**ANTON D. J. SEALEY**  
**PRESIDENT**

**LIONEL E. HAVEN**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

\* \* \* \* \*