



# **Statutes of the Premier League of Belize**

2021 edition

Approved by Congress

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## DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

**PLB:** Premier League of Belize

**FFB:** Football Federation of Belize.

**CONCACAF:** Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football.

**FIFA :** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

**Association:** a football association recognised by and a member of FIFA.

**Premier League of Belize:** an organisation that is subordinate to an Association.

**Confederation:** a group of Associations recognised by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or assimilable geographic area).

**Club:** a member of an Association (that is a member of FIFA) or of a League recognised by an Association.

**Official:** every Executive Committee member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person (except Players) responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in an Association, a League or a Club as well as any other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes.

**Player:** a football player registered with FFB.

**Congress:** the supreme and legislative body of the Premier League of Belize.

**Executive Committee:** the strategic and oversight body of the Premier League of Belize.

**Member:** a legal person that has been admitted into membership of the Premier League of Belize by the Congress.

**Association Football:** the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**The IFAB:** The International Football Association Board (IFAB).

**Ordinary Courts:** state courts which hear public and private legal disputes.

**Arbitration Tribunal:** an independent and duly constituted private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

**CAS:** Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (Switzerland).

NB: Terms referring to natural persons include both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Article **1** Legal form, headquarters and trademarks

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<sup>1</sup> The Premier League of Belize is a private organisation of an associative nature registered under Chapter 250 of the laws of Belize. It is formed for an unlimited period.

<sup>2</sup> The headquarters of the Premier League of Belize is located at # 26 Hummingbird Highway, City of Belmopan.

<sup>3</sup> The Premier League of Belize is a member of the FFB.

<sup>4</sup> The logo of the Premier League of Belize is.



<sup>5</sup> The abbreviation of the Premier League of Belize is PLB.

<sup>6</sup> The logo and abbreviation are legally registered with Companies Registry of Belize.

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Article **2** Objectives

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In coordination with the FFB, the objectives of the Premier League of Belize are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of the Premier League of Belize in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
  - b) To protect the interests of its Members;
  - c) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and the Premier League of Belize as well as the Laws of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
  - d) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, Players;
  - e) to control and supervise all friendly football matches played throughout the territory of the Premier League of Belize;
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Article **3** Human rights

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The Premier League of Belize is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

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Article **4**    **Non-discrimination and equality**

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Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion and/or other disciplinary measures.

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Article **5**    **Neutrality and institutional independence**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Premier League of Belize is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
  - <sup>2</sup> The Members of the Premier League of Belize shall also be neutral in matters of politics and religion and shall ensure that their own members remain neutral.
  - <sup>3</sup> The Premier League of Belize shall remain independent and shall avoid any form of undue political interference. The Premier League of Belize shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.
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Article **6**    **Promoting friendly relations**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Premier League of Belize shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
  - <sup>2</sup> The Premier League of Belize shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between the Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of the Premier League of Belize.
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Article **7**    **Players**

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- <sup>1</sup> The status of Players and the provisions for their registration shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of the FFB in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
  - <sup>2</sup> Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of FFB.
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Article **8**    **Laws of the Game**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Premier League of Belize and each of its Members shall play League football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

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Article **9** **Conduct of bodies and Officials**

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<sup>1</sup> The bodies and Officials of the Premier League of Belize shall observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of CONCACAF and of FFB in their activities.

<sup>2</sup> Every person and organisation involved in the game of League football, in the territory of the Premier League of Belize is obliged to observe the relevant statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

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Article **10** **Official languages**

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<sup>1</sup> The official language of the Premier League of Belize shall be English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language.

<sup>2</sup> The official language at the Congress shall be English.

II. MEMBERSHIP

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Article **11** **Admission, suspension and expulsion**

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<sup>1</sup> The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member solely on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of the Premier League of Belize in accordance with its statutes.

<sup>3</sup> Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards the Premier League of Belize or other of its members but leads to the loss of all rights in relation to the Premier League of Belize.

<sup>4</sup> The Premier League of Belize shall ensure that all relevant stakeholders are represented within its Congress.

<sup>5</sup> This Article shall not affect the status of existing members.

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Article **12** **Members**

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The Members of the Premier League of Belize are:

- a) Altitude FC;
- b) Bandits Sports;
- c) Belize Defence Force FC;
- d) Freedom Fighters FC;
- e) Placencia Assassins FC;
- f) Police United FC;
- g) San Pedro Pirates FC;
- h) Verdes FC;
- i) Wagiya SC;

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Article **13** **Admission and request and procedure for application**

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<sup>1</sup> Any legal person (registered under chapter 247 or chapter 250 of the laws of Belize) wishing to become a Member of the Premier League of Belize shall apply in writing to the secretariat of the Premier League of Belize.

<sup>2</sup> The application shall be accompanied by the following mandatory items:

- a) a copy of its legally valid statutes or constitutional document and, if applicable, regulations;
- b) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of the Premier League of Belize, the FFB, FIFA and CONCACAF and ensure that these are also respected by its own members, clubs and officials.
- c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force as laid down by The IFAB;
- d) a declaration that it will not take matters of interpretation and application of the FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and the Premier League of Belize Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives to Ordinary Courts, unless the regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB or the Premier League of Belize, or binding national law, provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts;
- e) a declaration that it recognises the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
- f) a declaration that it is located and registered [if legally required] in the territory of the Premier League of Belize;
- 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 declaration to the effect that the members of its own bodies were elected or appointed as a result of a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
- i) a list of officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- j) a copy of the minutes of its last general meeting or constitutional meeting;

- k) if applicable, a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of the Premier League of Belize;
- l) if applicable, a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of the Premier League of Belize.

<sup>3</sup> The Executive Committee shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.

<sup>4</sup> The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

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Article **14** **Members' rights**

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<sup>1</sup> The Members of the Premier League of Belize have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the Congress of the Premier League of Belize, to receive 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 elections to all bodies of the Premier League of Belize;
- d) to be informed of the affairs of the Premier League of Belize through the official bodies of the Premier League of Belize;
- e) to take part in competitions [if applicable] and/or other sporting activities organised by the Premier League of Belize;
- f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of the Premier League of Belize.

<sup>2</sup> The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations of the Premier League of Belize.

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Article **15** **Members' obligations**

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<sup>1</sup> The Members of the Premier League of Belize have the following obligations:

- a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and the Premier League of Belize at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
- b) to ensure the election of its decision-making body at least every four years;
- c) to take part in competitions [if applicable] and other sporting activities organised by the Premier League of Belize;
- d) to pay their membership subscriptions, if any;
- 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 of national dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the Premier League of Belize may only be referred in the last instance (i.e. after exhaustion of all internal channels within the Premier League of Belize) to an arbitration tribunal, which shall definitely settle the dispute to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in Belize;
- g) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute of international dimension arising from or related to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA or of CONCACAF may only be submitted in the last instance to CAS as specified in the Statutes of FIFA and CONCACAF;
- h) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with art. 19 of these Statutes;
- i) to ensure that their bodies are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
- j) to communicate to the Premier League of Belize any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- k) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
- l) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
- m) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 13 par. 2 for the duration of their affiliation;
- n) to administer a register of club members, at the beginning of a tournament within the registration period, which shall regularly be updated;
- o) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes of the FFB and the Premier League of Belize;
- p) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and the Premier League of Belize.

<sup>2</sup> Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

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## Article 16 Suspension

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<sup>1</sup> The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.

<sup>2</sup> A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Ordinary Congress by a three-quarter majority of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote. The presence of a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote is necessary for such a vote to be valid. The Member shall have fulfilled its requirements in order for the motion to have been tabled at the next Ordinary Congress.

<sup>3</sup> A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee of FFB may impose further sanctions. Other Members shall not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member.

<sup>4</sup> Members that do not participate in the sporting activities or tournament of the Premier League of Belize for one year shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

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#### Article **17** Expulsion

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- <sup>1</sup> The Congress shall expel a Member if:
    - a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards the Premier League of Belize;
    - b) it seriously and repeatedly violates the Statutes, regulations directives or decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and PLB.
  - <sup>2</sup> The Presence of a majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid and the motion for expulsion must be adapted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes casted.
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#### Article **18** Resignation

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- <sup>1</sup> A Member may resign from the Premier League of Belize with effect from the end of a football season. Notice of resignation must reach the secretariat at least six months in advance.
  - <sup>2</sup> The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards the Premier League of Belize and the other Members of the Premier League of Belize.
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#### Article **19** Independence of the Members and their bodies

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- <sup>1</sup> Each Member of the Premier League of Belize shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third parties.
  - <sup>2</sup> The Members' bodies shall be either elected or appointed. The Members' statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
  - <sup>3</sup> Any Members' bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of par. 2, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the Premier League of Belize.
  - <sup>4</sup> Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with par. 2 shall not be recognised by the Premier League of Belize.
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#### Article **20** Status of Clubs, groups of Clubs and other stakeholders

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- <sup>1</sup> Clubs, any groups of Clubs or other stakeholders affiliated to the Premier League of Belize shall be subordinate to and recognised by the Premier League of Belize.

<sup>2</sup> These Statutes define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of the entities mentioned in par. 1 above. Their statutes and regulations shall be in line with the requirements and obligations of the Statutes and regulations of the Premier League of Belize. Matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of Players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and measures required to protect the integrity of competitions shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of FFB.

<sup>3</sup> The entities mentioned in par. 1 above shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

<sup>4</sup> 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 jeopardised.

Article **21** **Bodies of the Premier League of Belize**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
- <sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee is the strategic and oversight body.
- <sup>3</sup> The Secretariat is the executive, operational and administrative body.
- <sup>4</sup> The bodies of the Premier League of Belize shall be either elected or appointed by the Premier League of Belize itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes. The members of the bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.
- <sup>5</sup> The Electoral Committee of FFB is the body in charge of supervising the election process.
- <sup>6</sup> Any member of the bodies of the Premier League of Belize must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest. In particular, members of the bodies of the Premier League of Belize shall always be aware of, and comply with, the relevant provisions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of FFB on conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary (e.g. abstain from performing their duties, notify the chairperson in cases of potential conflicts of interest).

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Article **22** **Dismissal of a member of a body of the Premier League of Belize**

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- <sup>1</sup> The Congress may dismiss a member of a body. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a member of a body provisionally. The provisional dismissal approved by the Executive Committee shall be confirmed by the next Ordinary Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime. If the next Ordinary Congress is of an elective nature, a dismissed member shall be allowed to be an elective candidate (provided that he fulfils the relevant eligibility criteria) on a conditional basis depending on the final decision of the Congress on his dismissal which shall be taken before the election.
- <sup>2</sup> The motion for dismissal must be justified and shall be sent to the members of the Executive Committee and/or to the Members of the Premier League of Belize along with the agenda.
- <sup>3</sup> The member of the body in question has the right to defend himself in front of the Executive Committee and/or the Congress.
- <sup>4</sup> The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot at the Executive Committee and/or the Congress. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.
- <sup>5</sup> The member dismissed (provisionally or not) is relieved of his functions with immediate effect.

## A. CONGRESS

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### Article **23** Definition and composition of the Congress

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The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of the Premier League of Belize regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the Premier League of Belize. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

- <sup>1</sup> The Congress of the Premier League of Belize shall be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and shall take into account the importance of gender equality in football.
- <sup>2</sup> A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress. Since Covid-19 Pandemic continues to significantly influence the way, our League conduct our affairs. PLB Congress (whether Ordinary or Extraordinary) shall be able to be convened henceforth in a Virtual format (Organization of Virtual Congresses).
- <sup>4</sup> The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.
- <sup>6</sup> The Congress is composed of [9] delegates allocated as follows:
  - a) Altitude FC [1] delegate;
  - b) Bandits Sports [1] delegate;
  - c) Belize Defence Force FC [1] delegate;
  - d) Freedom Fighters FC [1] delegate;
  - e) Placencia Assassins FC [1] delegate;
  - f) Police United FC [1] delegate;
  - g) San Pedro Pirates FC [1] delegate;
  - h) Verdes FC [1] delegate;
  - i) Wagiya SC [1] delegate;
- <sup>7</sup> Each member is entitled to 2 delegates but only one delegate shall be entitled to vote in the Congress. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- <sup>8</sup> Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.
- <sup>9</sup> The Executive Committee and the Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights and may not be appointed as delegates during their terms of office.

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### Article **24** Areas of authority

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The Congress has the following areas of authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes of the Premier League of Belize;
- b) electing or dismissing the delegates of the Premier League of Belize to the FFB Congress;

- c) electing or dismissing the President, the vice-president and members of the Executive Committee;
- d) appointing [2] Members to check the minutes of the Congress and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- e) approving the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report, the budget and the activity report;
- f) fixing the membership subscriptions on the recommendation of the Executive Committee;
- g) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member;
- h) dismissing a member of a body of the Premier League of Belize (if applicable);
- i) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;
- j) dissolving the Premier League of Belize.
- k) shall elect (6) six delegates as representative at the next Congress of the FFB of the same year. The President is a de facto delegate by virtue of his office. Therefore, the PLB has a total of (7) seven delegates.

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Article **25** Quorum of the Congress

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- <sup>1</sup> Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present.
- <sup>2</sup> If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place within 24 hours with the same agenda.
- <sup>3</sup> A quorum is not required for the second meeting of the Congress unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of the Premier League of Belize, the election of the President, vice-president and members of the Executive Committee of the Premier League of Belize, the election of the delegate to the FFB Congress, the dismissal of a member of a body of the Premier League of Belize, the suspension or expulsion of a Member of the Premier League of Belize or the dissolution of the Premier League of Belize.
- <sup>4</sup> Once it is declared that the Congress has been convened and the quorum met in accordance with these Statutes, the quorum shall not be influenced by the departure of delegates.

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Article **26** Decisions of the Congress

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- <sup>1</sup> A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands, unless decided otherwise by the Congress. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.
- <sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

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Article **27** Elections

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- <sup>1</sup> Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- <sup>2</sup> Elections of the Premier League of Belize shall be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of FFB.
- <sup>3</sup> The election for the positions of the Executive shall take place by position. At least one position shall be reserved for a female candidate. Every candidate in the election for the positions of the Executive shall be proposed by at least [2] Members. Each Member shall support one candidate for each given position only. If a Member supports more than one candidate, none of its expressions of support shall be considered valid.
- <sup>4</sup> Elections of the members of the Executive Committee shall start with the election of the President, then the election of the vice-president and finally the election of the ordinary members.
- <sup>5</sup> For the elections of the President and vice-president of the Executive Committee, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary in the first ballot. If there are more than two candidates for each of the respective position, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
- <sup>6</sup> For the election of the ordinary members of the Executive Committee, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.
- <sup>8</sup> In case of a tied vote, new ballots shall be conducted until the respective candidate is elected in accordance with the procedure set forth in this article. If the tied vote remains, the relevant position shall remain vacant until a new Ordinary Congress convenes to proceed with new elections according to these Statutes.
- <sup>9</sup> Blank ballot papers, invalid votes as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.
- <sup>10</sup> Candidatures for any of the positions of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the secretariat of the Premier League of Belize at least 30 days before the relevant elective Congress. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of the Premier League of Belize at least 10 days before the Congress at which the Executive Committee shall be elected. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply when elections take place during an Extraordinary Congress.
- <sup>11</sup> Candidatures for the positions of the delegates representing the Premier League of Belize before the Congress must be passed to the Members of the Premier League of Belize at least 10 days before the Congress at which the delegates in question shall be elected.

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Article **28** Ordinary Congress

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- <sup>1</sup> The Ordinary Congress shall be held once a year and shall be convened by the Executive Committee.
- <sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 45 days in advance.

<sup>3</sup> Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least 30 days before the date of the Congress.

<sup>3</sup> The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least 10 days before the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda and any other relevant documents.

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Article **29** Ordinary Congress agenda

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members.

<sup>2</sup> The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):

- a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened in compliance with the Statutes of the Premier League of Belize;
- b) approval of the agenda;
- c) an address by the President;
- d) appointment of members to check the minutes
- e) register an applicant club in case of refusal of the General Secretary if applicable
- f) appointment of scrutineers; approval of the minutes of the last meeting;
- g) admission, suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
- h) approval of the minutes of the preceding congress
- i) President activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);
- j) approval of the financial statements;
- k) approval of the budget;
- l) votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if applicable);
- m) discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee in accordance with the procedure stipulated under art. 28 par. 3 of these Statutes;
- n) dismissal of a member of a body of the Premier League of Belize (if applicable);
- o) election of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- p) any further item proposed by the members or the Executive of the PLB

<sup>3</sup> The Congress shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

<sup>4</sup> The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may not be altered unless three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.



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Article **30** Extraordinary Congress

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- <sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
- <sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if 25% of the delegates representing the Members of the Premier League of Belize make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within 60 days of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the delegates representing the Members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves. In doing so, they shall inform all the Members of the Premier League of Belize and the Executive Committee of the Premier League of Belize of the date and location of the Extraordinary Congress, along with the items to be included on the agenda in accordance with par. 3 below.
- <sup>3</sup> The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least 14 days before the date of an Extraordinary Congress.
- <sup>4</sup> When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
- <sup>5</sup> The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

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Article **31** Amendments to the Statutes

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- <sup>1</sup> The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes.
- <sup>2</sup> Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by delegates representing a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least 25% of the other delegates representing the Members.
- <sup>3</sup> For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes and to the Standing Orders of the Congress to be valid, a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote must be present.
- <sup>4</sup> A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if three-quarters of the delegates representing the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

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Article **32** Minutes

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The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The minutes shall be checked by those Members designated, and finally approved at the next Congress.

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Article **33** Effective dates of decisions

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

## B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### Article 34 Composition

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- <sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee consists of 5 members (at least one of which shall be of the opposite gender):
  - 1 President
  - 1 vice-president
  - 3 ordinary members (shall be the President or Owner of PLB Clubs that are active in the League)
- <sup>2</sup> The President, the vice-president and the ordinary members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Congress in accordance with art. 27 of these Statutes.
- <sup>3</sup> The mandate of the President, vice-president and the ordinary members of the Executive Committee is for four years. Their mandates shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected them and expire at the end of the Congress at which their successors are elected. No person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Any partial term of office shall count as one full term.
- <sup>4</sup> The members of the Executive Committee shall have already been active in football and shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.
- <sup>5</sup> A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of the FFB or a delegate to the Congress of the Premier League of Belize.
- <sup>7</sup> If a position or up to 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the position(s) in question until the next Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining period of office.
- <sup>8</sup> If more than 50% of the positions of the Executive Committee become vacant, the secretary shall convene an elective e Extraordinary Congress within the prescribed period of time.
- <sup>9</sup> Any position within the Executive Committee will be considered vacant in case of death, resignation or if the member concerned is permanently prevented from performing his official function.

### Article 35 Meetings

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- <sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee shall meet at least 4 times a year.
- <sup>2</sup> The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If more than 50% of the Executive Committee members request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 21 days of the receipt of the request. If the President does not convene the requested meeting by the aforementioned deadline, the other members of the Executive Committee shall convene it themselves but must send the agenda to all members of the Executive Committee at least 7 days before the meeting in line with par. 3 below.

<sup>3</sup> The President, assisted by the secretary, shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the points they wish to be included in the agenda for the meeting to the secretariat at least 14 days before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least 7 days before the meeting.

<sup>4</sup> The Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role and without voting rights. If the Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, he/she may nominate a representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

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Article **36** Powers of the Executive Committee

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The Executive Committee:

- a) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) shall prepare, with the assistance of the General Secretary, and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of the Premier League of Belize;
- c) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President. The General Secretary may be dismissed by the Executive Committee acting alone;
- d) shall draw up regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the Premier League of Belize;
- e) shall approve and issue regulations stipulating how the Premier League of Belize shall be organised internally;
- f) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- g) may dismiss a person of a body or suspend a Member of the Premier League of Belize provisionally until the next Congress.
- h) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of the Premier League of Belize;
- i) may appoint observers who may take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote;
- j) shall approve and issue regulations governing the conditions of participation in and the staging of competitions organised by the Premier League of Belize.

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Article **37** Decisions

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<sup>1</sup> The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless absolute majority of its members are present.

<sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. The Executive Committee may however take decisions on matters requiring urgent and immediate settlement using modern means of written communication (e.g. by email).

<sup>3</sup> Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.

<sup>4</sup> The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.

<sup>5</sup> The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless it is agreed otherwise.

## C. PRESIDENT

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### Article 38 President

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<sup>1</sup> The President represents the Premier League of Belize legally.

<sup>2</sup> He is primarily responsible for:

- a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the secretariat;
- b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of the Premier League of Belize in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
- c) supervising the work of the secretariat;
- d) relations between the Premier League of Belize and its Members, FFB, CONCACAF, UNCAF, political bodies and other organisations.

<sup>3</sup> Only the President may propose to the Congress the appointment of the General Secretary. The President may however also propose to the Congress the dismissal of the General Secretary.

<sup>4</sup> The President shall preside over the Congress and the Executive Committee.

<sup>5</sup> The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee.

<sup>6</sup> If the President is absent or unavailable, the vice-president shall deputise.

<sup>7</sup> If the position of the President becomes vacant, the vice-president shall deputise until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President for the remaining period of office.

### Article 39 Representation and signature

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The President represents the Premier League of Belize generally. The Executive Committee shall adopt special provisions regarding the joint signature of office-holders.

## E. SECRETARIAT

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### Article 40 General Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> The General Secretary is responsible for the secretariat of the Premier League of Belize and shall have the necessary professional qualifications and/or experience.

<sup>2</sup> The secretariat is the executive, operational, and administrative body and shall carry out all the work of the Premier League of Belize under the direction of the Secretary. The members of the secretariat are bound by the Internal Organisational Regulations of the Premier League of Belize and shall fulfil the given tasks in good faith.

<sup>2</sup> The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
- b) attending the Congress and the meetings of the Executive Committee;
- c) organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee;
- d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress and the Executive Committee;
- e) managing and keeping the accounts of the Premier League of Belize properly;
- f) the correspondence of the Premier League of Belize;
- g) the relations with the Members and FFB;
- h) organising the secretariat and [if applicable] appointing and dismissing staff working in the general secretariat.

<sup>4</sup> The Secretary may not be a Congress delegate, a member of the Executive Committee, or a member of any body of the Premier League of Belize.

## F. DISPUTES AND ARBITRATION

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### Article 41 Disciplinary

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Any disputes of a disciplinary nature that may arise at the level of the Premier League of Belize shall be heard by the Disciplinary Committee of FFB.

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### Article 42 Arbitration

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<sup>1</sup> Disputes within the Premier League of Belize or disputes affecting its Members, Clubs, officials and any other entity bound by the statutes of the Premier League of Belize shall not be submitted to Ordinary Courts, unless the regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB or the Premier League of Belize or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts.

<sup>2</sup> Such disputes as specified in par. 1 shall be taken to the Arbitration Tribunal of FFB, or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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### Article 43 Jurisdiction

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<sup>1</sup> Recourse may only be made to an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with art. 42 once all internal channels of the Premier League of Belize have been exhausted.

<sup>2</sup> The FFB shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to the FFB. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

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Article **44** **Court of Arbitration for Sport**

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding decision passed by FIFA 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, and suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions), or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.

<sup>2</sup> The Premier League of Belize shall ensure its full compliance and that of all those subject to its jurisdiction with any final decision passed by a FIFA or CONCACAF body, by the Arbitration Tribunal recognised by FFB or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article **45** Financial period

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- <sup>1</sup> The financial period of the Premier League of Belize shall be one year and coincides with the standard calendar year.
  - <sup>2</sup> The revenue and expenses of the Premier League of Belize shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. The Premier League of Belize's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
  - <sup>3</sup> The Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the Premier League of Belize as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.
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Article **46** Revenue

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The revenue of the Premier League of Belize arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
  - b) donations;
  - c) any other revenue related to football activities;
  - e) Subscriptions from Media Contracts
  - d) Subscriptions from Cooperate Sponsorship Article 54 Enforcement
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Article **47** Expenses

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The Premier League of Belize 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 other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by the Premier League of Belize.
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Article **48** Membership subscriptions, settlement and levies

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- <sup>1</sup> Membership subscriptions are due on January 31st. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.
- <sup>2</sup> The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every year on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every Member.
- <sup>3</sup> The Premier League of Belize may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

<sup>4</sup> The Premier League of Belize may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches.

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#### V. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

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#### Article **49** International matches and competitions

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<sup>1</sup> The authority for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between Leagues, Club teams and/or scratch teams lies solely with FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the Confederation(s) and/or the Association(s) concerned in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

<sup>2</sup> The Premier League of Belize is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

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#### Article **50** Sporting Contacts

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The Premier League of Belize, its Members, Players and Officials shall not play matches or make sporting contact with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

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#### Article **51** Approval

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<sup>1</sup> Clubs or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to the Premier League of Belize may only join another Association with the authorisation of FFB, the other Association, the respective Confederation(s) and FIFA.

<sup>2</sup> Clubs or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to the Premier League of Belize cannot participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorisation of FFB, the other Association(s), FIFA and the respective Confederation(s) according to the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.



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Article **52** Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

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The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on all cases of force majeure and on all matters not provided for in these Statutes, such decisions to be made according to right and justice, taking into account the relevant regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF and FFB.

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Article **53** Dissolution

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<sup>1</sup> Any decision relating to the dissolution of the Premier League of Belize requires a majority of two-thirds of all of the delegates of the Congress of the Premier League of Belize, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.

<sup>2</sup> If the Premier League of Belize is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to FFB. It shall hold these assets as a trustee in accordance with the relevant professional duties until the Premier League of Belize is re-established. The final Congress may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

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Article **54** Enforcement

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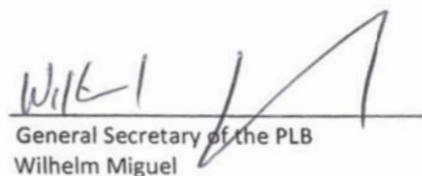
These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in January 30, 2021 and will come into force immediately after its adoption.

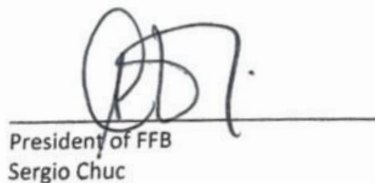
Belmopan City, dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021

For the PLB

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the PLB  
Ian Haylock



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Secretary of the PLB  
Wilhelm Miguel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of FFB  
Sergio Chuc



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Secretary of FFB  
Earl Jones