

PREMIER LEAGUE OF BELIZE REGULATIONS

2026 Edition



TITLE PAGE

ORGANIZER:	PREMIER LEAGUE OF BELIZE
PRESIDENT:	Marlon Kuylen
GENERAL SECRETARY:	Wilhelm Miguel
ADDRESS:	26 Hummingbird Highway City of Belmopan, Cayo Belize
TELEPHONE:	501-676-2446
WEBSITE:	www.premierleagueofbelize.com

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

PREAMBLE

A. The Premier League of Belize League Championship (PLC) is an event sanctioned by the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) and serves as a qualifier to the CONCACAF CENTRAL AMERICAN CUP Tournament. The administration of this competition has been delegated to the PLB, whose Executive Committee, shall appoint the members of the Premier League of Belize League Championship Organizing Committee (PLC OC) which shall administrate the PLC in strict accordance with these regulations.

B. FFB CLUB LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

1. Club Licensing for Regional Competitions

- a. Every club participating in the Premier League of Belize shall obtain and maintain a valid **FFB Regional Club License** issued by the Football Federation of Belize if it wishes to be eligible for qualification to and participation in any CONCACAF club competition, including the CONCACAF Central American Cup and any successor competition. A club that fails to obtain or maintain an FFB Regional Club License shall be ineligible to represent Belize in CONCACAF competitions, irrespective of its sporting qualification through the Premier League of Belize.

2. Club Licensing for Domestic Competitions

- b. A club holding only an **FFB Domestic Club Licence** shall be eligible to participate solely in domestic competitions sanctioned by the Football Federation of Belize (FFB), including the Premier League of Belize (PLB) and **shall not be eligible to represent at the CONCACAF CENTRAL AMERICAN CUP Tournament or any CONCACAF club competitions.**

- C. The Competition shall consist of an Opening Season and a Closing Season. Each Season shall consist of a Qualifying Phase and a Final Phase.
- D. Any rights in the present regulations not ceded to a participating Club in the Qualifying or Final Phases or the PLB shall belong to the FFB.
- E. On entering the Competition, the participating Clubs, players, and officials shall automatically undertake to:
 1. Observe the regulations, decisions, guidelines, and circulars issued by FIFA, CONCACAF, UNCAF, FFB, and The PLB as well as the applicable national laws.

2. Accept that all PLC tournament administrative and disciplinary matters will be settled by the PLC OC in compliance with these regulations.
3. Accept that all PLC refereeing matters will be the sole purview of the FFB Referee Committee and FFB Referee Department in compliance with these regulations.
4. Observe the Principle of Fair Play.
5. Ensure that the respective executive body shall take the necessary action for prompt resolution in matters not provided for in these regulations but fall under jurisdiction of the FFB or the PLB.
6. Accept that all contracts, amendments to contracts and all football service agreements between clubs and players must also be shared with the PLB Secretariat for filing to be enforceable during dispute resolution under the FIFA Regulations for Status and Transfer of Players. Furthermore, each club shall provide every contracted player with a written notification of good or adverse standing on the expiration or termination of the contract, failing which the player shall be deemed a free agent.
7. Accept that the published PLC match schedule represents the FFB's elite football showcase and should remain unaltered unless extraordinary circumstances prevail. Consequently, the PLC clubs accept that no club by itself or in conjunction with any other clubs can make any change whatsoever to the match schedule without the consent of the PLB Executive, and approval of the PLB Organizing Committee.
8. Any club desiring a change in the match schedule shall submit a written proposal to the PLB General Secretary at least 14 days before the scheduled match date detailing the negative impacts the current schedule would have on its sporting or economic situation. A request for a change in the match schedule shall only be entertained if a club can demonstrate that such an event would adversely affect its ability to field its strongest available set of players. In the case of back matches created by force majeure, the OC shall maintain the order of matches in the official schedule and shall make every effort to reschedule all back matches on a weekday immediately following the postponed match.
9. Accept that the FFB through its Competitions and Referee Department has volunteered to participate in a set of trials created by IFAB involving an eight (8) seconds goalkeeper count, and the establishment of a Captain Zone to address altercations that may be caused by an unpopular referee decision, the order of taking kicks from the penalty mark, as well as any other IFAB trial proposed by the FFB Referee committee that is approved by the PLB Executive Committee, in

consultation with the participating clubs. Accept that the NEW MODIFICATIONS to the IFAB LAWS of the GAME 2026/27 be adapted in this PLB Regulations 2026 Edition. The FFB Referee Committee is responsible for familiarizing the PLB Clubs with these new modifications through presentations.

10. The PLB shall adopt and apply the **IFAB Laws of the Game 2026/2027**, including all amendments, clarifications, interpretations, and approved, as incorporated into these PLB Regulations for the 2026–2027 Season.
11. The FFB Referee Committee shall be responsible for educating and familiarizing all participating clubs, coaches, players, club officials, and other relevant stakeholders with the amendments to the Laws of the Game through official seminars, presentations, workshops, circulars, or other approved instructional methods before or during the season as necessary.
12. Attendance at all referee education sessions, presentations, or training workshops organized by the FFB Referee Committee and designated by the PLB as mandatory shall be compulsory for each participating club. Each club shall ensure that its Head Coach, Team Manager, Captain, and at least one additional club official attend such sessions unless otherwise directed by the PLB.
13. A club that fails to attend a mandatory referee education session without prior written approval from the PLB may be subject to disciplinary measures, including fines or other sanctions determined by the PLB Executive Committee in accordance with these Regulations and the PLB Disciplinary Code.

I. TITLE – THE PLB LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. The PLB League Championship is the premier non-amateur competition of the FFB. The administration of this competition has, by statute, been vested in a FFB affiliate, the Premier League of Belize. It shall consist of two seasons per competition calendar year between the months of July and May. The Opening Season shall commence before the start of the CONCACAF Tournament in which a PLB club is participating for that year. The Closing Season shall be concluded no later than May 31 or as per the stipulated date in May which may be mandated by CONCACAF.
- B. In an effort to combat match fixing in the PLC, every participating club, in every match, is expected to field the most capable club team at its disposal which, at a minimum, shall consist of an FFB (B) licensed coach and 14 strongest players available.

- C. The Champion of both the opening and closing season will be presented with a championship trophy that shall be awarded during an official presentation ceremony on the last match day of the season. If applicable, any prize money allocated for sharing between the two finalists shall be partitioned in inverse proportion to placement in the finals. For example, with two teams, the team placing first shall receive two (2) shares out of 3 shares while the second placed club shall get one (1) share, or as approved by the PLB Executive in consultation with the participating clubs.
- D. The Champion shall also receive 40 gold medals, and the Sub Champion will receive up to 40 silver medals.
- E. If applicable, (and in accordance with the affiliation agreement with the NAIC) the Clubs placing last and second-to-last in the cumulative table of standings of the PLB League Championship shall enter into two relegation/promotion playoff series between the Champion and Sub-Champion of the Elite Football League of Belize Championship during the month between May and August of the same year. The Organizing Committee of the EFLB-PLC promotion – relegation series shall be formed before July 15th of the year and shall be comprised of Chairmen of the respective OC's (PLB & NAIC) along with the General Secretary of the Premier League of Belize and another member appointed by FFB Executive Committee.
- F. **The Awards Committee** shall prepare and share guidelines for voting with the clubs and all other potential voters no later than (60) days after the commencement of the season, since they would ultimately be deciding the winners of the individual awards.
 - a. The individual awards are:
 1. Most Goals scored (Golden Bots)
 2. Most valuable player (Golden Ball)
 3. Most Entertaining Team
 4. Fair Play
 5. Best Goalkeeper (Golden Gloves)
 6. Best Defender
 7. Best Midfielder
 8. Best Forward
 9. Best Young Player
 10. Best Coach
 11. Best Manager

II. ENTRIES

- A. Every PLB member club, as well as invited non-member clubs, shall be eligible to participate in the PLC Tournament provided they are in possession of a valid Regional FFB Club license, and in the case of non-members, approval will also be required from the PLB Executive. For the avoidance of doubt, and the specific purpose of having more than five participating clubs in the 2026/2027 season, on CONCACAF's suggestion, Clubs with only a Domestic License will be allowed to participate but are prohibited from representing Belize in international tournaments.
- B. The player roster of a club presented during club registration for the PLC shall be comprised only of players in possession of a current FFB non-amateur-player license. Such a license is granted when a player license application is supported by a contract whether reimbursable or compensatory. A copy of the player contracts must be lodged with the PLB Secretariat as part of the club registration process. Any agreement between a PLC club and a player that is not submitted to the PLB and FFB Secretariat in the context of a PLC club team registration shall be deemed outside the jurisdiction of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and consequently not a valid contract for FFB Club Licensing and PLC club team registration purposes.
- C. The license of any player whose contract expires or is terminated during the PLC shall be automatically suspended until a valid contract is presented to both the FFB Player Licensing Office and the PLB Secretariat. The player regains eligibility for club team duty after a successful contract review. If a player license expires or is suspended outside of the FFB club team registration windows, the player is prohibited from being inducted into his former or another PLC club's club team until the next FFB registration windows opens.
- D. A foreign non-amateur player whose contract with his former club in his former association expires within the second registration period of the FFB may be allowed to register with the FFB outside of the FFB's two registration periods.
- E. Clubs participating in the PLC Tournament shall comply with the mandatory criteria:
 1. Submittal of a tournament registration fee of **\$7,500.00 BZ** per Season (Opening 26/27 and **\$7,500.00** Closing 26/27 Season Fee) in the form of an electronic payment to the PLB account or a check made payable to PLB account. There is also a yearly Club Affiliation fee of **\$400.00 BZ** that all Clubs are required to pay to be a Member of the Premier League of Belize. **The \$2,500.00 for the Opening Season 26/27 will come from field board sponsorship which each Club is responsible for installing (7 field board, 1 PLB & THE OTHER 6 Sponsors) before their match. Any new Club deposit is set at \$50,000.00 with the PLB EXCO having the final say.**

- a. The PLB Executive Committee has the mandate to decide at their Executive meeting and notify interested Clubs of the fees and other requirements for all potential new Clubs desirous of becoming a Member of the Premier League of Belize prior to the commencement of the PLC Tournament.
 - b. Clubs interested in participating in PLC tournaments must pay all previous outstanding fees and registration fees
 - c. All fines from previous matches must be paid before the next scheduled match or that match will be deemed a forfeit
- 2. Submittal of a list of players of the club with respective player number that will be used by the player during the Tournament, along with the FFB License number assigned to them by the FFB License Technical Staff upon registration of that player.
- 3. Submittal of duplicate copy of the original employment/reimbursement contracts between the players and the club.
- 4. Presentation of a copy of a valid FFB Regional Club License. This process shall be completed before the publication of the competition match schedule by the PLB Secretariat.
- F. The maximum number of Clubs that will be allowed to participate in the PLC Tournament shall be no more than twelve (12) registered clubs and no less than six (6) registered clubs.
- G. For the PLC Tournament and any other domestic competition organized or sanctioned by the Premier League of Belize, each Club may register a maximum of thirty-five (35) players, of whom no more than **eight (8) may be foreign players.**
- H. Each Club's official player roster shall clearly identify and distinguish foreign players from Belizean nationals.
- I. A Club that has registered the maximum of eight (8) foreign players shall be permitted to field a maximum of five (5) foreign players at any one time during a match. The Club may determine, at its sole discretion, which five (5) of its registered foreign players are selected for each match.
- J. Where a Club has contracted more than eight (8) foreign players for participation in official international club competitions, including competitions organized by CONCACAF or FIFA, the Club shall designate and register exactly eight (8) of those foreign players (during the opening windows) for participation in the domestic PLB competition. Such designation shall be submitted to the PLB Secretariat no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the Club's first scheduled PLB match of the season. Only those designated foreign players shall be eligible

to participate in domestic PLB competitions unless a substitution is approved in accordance with these Regulations.

- K. Each club must register a management staff (manager, assistant-manager, and equipment manager) and coaching staff (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Physical Trainer, Goalkeeper Coach, and Physiotherapist) with the FFB. The head and assistant coach shall each be in possession of no less than an FFB (B) coaching license which is granted by virtue of completion of the required coaching course coordinated by the FFB. The FFB (B) License **MUST** be obtained before he can become eligible to coach in the PLC Tournament.
- L. Club teams will not be allowed to participate or continue to participate in the PLB League Championship without an FFB licensed coaching staff.
- M. The winner of the PLC Tournament (in possession of a regional club license) shall be obligated to represent BELIZE in the CONCACAF Central American Cup Tournament (CCAC). Consequently, every participating club shall submit a statement of intent and capability to participate in the CONCACAF Central American Cup Tournament by the third (3rd) week of the closing season of the competition. The champion of a season (opening or closing) is the club that qualifies for the finals and wins the finals series. If the champion of the opening season and closing season is the same club, that club shall be declared the winner of the PLC Tournament. If the opening season champion is different from the closing season champion, the club that places first in the cumulative table of standings over both opening and closing seasons shall be declared the winner of the PLC. In the event that any club that qualifies to be Belize's representative in the CONCACAF Central American Cup Tournament is unable to meet the economic demands of the CONCACAF Central American Cup, the club with the next best record in the Qualifying Phases of the Opening and Closing Seasons and financial capability shall represent Belize.
- N. The PLC Tournament is being played under the PLB Statutes 2021 Edition and the PLB Regulations 2026 Edition.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

- A. The competition shall be played in two (2) phases:
 - 1. The Qualifying Phase
 - 2. The Final Phase
- B. The Qualifying Phase
 - 1. The teams taking part in the tournament will play the other teams twice. (Or as agreed by the PLB Executive in consultation with the participating clubs ensuring that both the opening and closing season are of equal weight). The OC will prepare the schedule of

games by seeding and drawing lots, whilst taking sports, geographic and economic factors into consideration, as far as possible.

2. The system of play will be the League System. This means a home and away system until every team has played each other twice.
3. Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and none for a defeat.
4. The four (4) top teams from the Qualifying Phase shall advance into the Final Phase.
5. The ranking of teams will be determined as follows:
 - a. Greatest number of points obtained in all matches.
 - b. Goal difference in all group matches.
 - c. Greatest number of goals scored in all matches.
 - d. Greatest number of away goals.
 - e. The result of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams.
 - f. The team that most exemplifies Fair Play by having the lowest number of negative points accrued from accumulated yellow and red cards. Three (3) negative points accrue for each Red Card and one (1) negative point for each Yellow Card.

C. The Final Phase

1. The Final Phase of the competition shall be played among no more than four (4) teams. The OC shall publish the seeding order of the competing teams in the Final Phase. In any given post season matchup, the lower seeded club shall be designated as the home team in the first leg of all the series in the Final Phase.
2. The Final Phase shall consist of two (2) rounds:
 - a. Semi-Finals
 - i. The Semi-Finals shall consist of two series, A and B, which shall each consist of two matches.
 - ii. Series A and B shall be contested by two teams with seeding designations that were determined at the conclusion of the Qualifying Phase of the season.
 - iii. In each series, the lower seeded team shall be listed first as the home team in the first leg of the series.

b. Finals

- i. The Finals shall consist of a single series between the two teams that advance from the Semi-Final Round.
 - ii. The lower seeded team shall be designated as the home team in the first leg of the two-game series.
3. The matches of the Final Phase of the competition shall be played using a home and away knockout system.
 4. The OC shall use the criteria of Article III.B.5 above to determine the seeding order among the four teams that have qualified for the Final Phase of any given opening or closing season. The team with the best record shall be Seed #1 while the team with fourth best record shall be Seed # 4.

HOME vs AWAY	
SF1-1	Seed #4 vs Seed #1
SF1-2	Seed #1 vs Seed #4
SF2-1	Seed #3 vs Seed #2
SF2-2	Seed #2 vs Seed #3

5. At the conclusion of 90 minutes of regulation time in the second leg of any series, the team with the greater aggregate score determined in accordance with Article III.B.5 above, shall advance to the finals. If both teams have equal point totals, equal goal difference and equal number of goals scored, the team with the greater number of goals scored away from its designated home venue shall advance to the finals.
6. The winners of the two Series in the Semi-Finals shall advance to the Finals and will contest as follows:

HOME vs AWAY	
F1	Winner SF1 (if lower seed) vs Winner SF2
F2	Winner SF2 vs Winner SF1

7. If at the conclusion of 90 minutes of the second match of the final series, the team with the greatest aggregate score of the two matches emerges as the winner of the season.

Note: if both teams after 90 minutes of the second match have the same number of aggregate goals, an extra time of (30) thirty minutes consisting of two fifteen minutes (15) period shall be played. If the score is level after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner.

The penalty kick will be 5 v 5 using the IFAB kicking order as described in VII D. (2) until a winner is determined. The winner of the final series shall be declared Champion of the Season.

IV. THE PLB LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- A. The Organizing Committee (OC) for the PLB League Championship shall be appointed by the PLB Executive Committee. It shall be responsible for the organization of this competition in accordance with these regulations.
- B. The Organizing Committee shall, amongst other matters, be responsible for:
 - 1. Disseminating the competition regulations as approved and ratified by the PLB.
 - 2. Determining the validity of protests submitted by clubs in particular and football stakeholders in general (fans, referees, match commissioners, players, and officials) with respect to infringement of these regulations by any party responsible for upholding these regulations.
 - 3. Deciding which laboratory will carry out the Doping test analysis.
 - 4. Deciding at which match the doping test will be conducted.
 - 5. Fixing the venues and dates and approving the stadiums.
 - 6. Choosing the official football and the stipulated technical material.
 - 7. Determining kick-off times.
 - 8. Dealing with any matter that should arise and is out of the responsibility of another body under the terms of these regulations.
 - 9. Contracting match officiating services through the FFB Referee Department.
 - 10. Convening seminars to familiarize clubs with specific provisions of competition regulations.
 - 11. Resolving cases of force majeure.

TOURNAMENT

V. WITHDRAWALS

- A. Clubs that have entered the competition are obligated to play all their matches until they are eliminated. After entering the competition, a club that fails to participate shall be penalized as specified below, except in circumstances of force majeure as determined by the PLB Executive Committee in consultation with the PLB Organizing Committee.
- B. If a withdrawal takes place:

1. After registering for any given season of the competition but on or before the day of the draw for the Qualifying Phase, a fine of \$1,000 plus forfeit of the registration fee shall be levied.
 2. After the draw but on or before the date of the first match of the Qualifying Phase of any season of the Competition a fine of \$2,000 in addition to forfeiting the registration fee shall be levied.
 3. Anytime during the Qualifying Phase of a given season of the competition a fine of \$3,000 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
 4. After the Qualifying Phase of a given season but before the start of the Final Phase of the competition a fine of \$5,000 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
 5. Anytime during the Final Phase of any given season of the competition a fine of \$7,000 shall be levied in addition to the forfeit of the registration fee.
 6. Any time after the completion of the PLC for the club(s) which have qualified for the
 7. CONCACAF Central American Cup Tournament, a fine of \$10,000.
- C. Any Club that withdraws prior to or is excluded from playing in the Qualifying Phase of the Opening Season may be replaced by another club, provided it has met all the PLB requirements to participate in, and it is approved by the PLB Executive Committee.
- D. Every PLC Club must complete its match fixtures. Collusion of Clubs on economic basis which results in a scheduled match avoidance between them shall be deemed a double forfeit. Both Clubs shall be disqualified from the following PLC Competition. If a team does not report for a match-except in cases of force majeure recognized by the Organizing Committee for the PLC- or refuses to continue to play or leaves game stadium before the end of the match, the team shall forfeit the match, shall reimburse related expenses of the other team and may be disqualified from the current competition. Based on the findings of the Disciplinary Committee, the guilty team may also be disqualified from participating in the further editions of the PLC.
- E. The OC shall be responsible for ensuring that specified sanctions are carried out and are fully complied with.

VI. MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- A. All matches will be played under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA.
- B. In cases of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English text shall be authoritative.

- C. A maximum of nineteen (19) persons shall be allowed on the team bench; seven (7) team officials and twelve (12) player-substitutes. The names of these persons and their respective functions must be indicated on the form provided by the match officials prior to the commencement of the match. If any of the (12) substitutes on bench are not present at match time but is expected to show up, the name of that player must be included on the match roster. Notwithstanding the eligibility of a player as determined by the PLB Secretariat for a given match day, the player inspection process before kickoff by the Match Commissioner determines a player's eligibility to participate in any given match.
- D. The Referee designated for a given match shall make a presentation at the technical meeting to emphasize to club representatives that his function is to arbitrate in strict conformance with the laws of the game.
- E. The Organizing Committee for the Tournament has agreed that Cooling Breaks will be allowed by the referee, when the temperature exceeds the normal temperature and humidity. It will be done at the 30th minute and 75th minute of the game and the duration is between ninety seconds to three minutes, based on the discretion of the Referee.

VII. DURATION, EXTRA TIME, PENALTY KICKS

- A. Each match shall last for ninety minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes with an interval of no more than fifteen (15) minutes between each period.
- B. If, in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, extra time must be played as a result of the two teams being tied on total goals scored during the second leg of the home and away knockout series, it shall consist of two periods of fifteen minutes, with an interval of no more than five (5) minutes at the end of regular playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.
- C. The team that scores more goals in extra time shall be declared the winner.
- D. If both teams have used out five substitutes during regular time, they are permitted to use a sixth substitute in extra time. If the tie persists at the end of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken until a winner is determined in accordance with the procedure laid out below:
 - a. Before the kicks from the penalty mark start
 - i. The referee will toss a coin again and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
 - ii. The team that takes the first kick is Team A; the team which takes the second kick is Team B.
 - b. During the kicks from the penalty mark.
 - i. Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take five kicks.

The kicks are taken with the team taking the first kick in each 'pair' of kicks alternating:

- 1st Kick: Team A 2nd Kick: Team B
- 3rd Kick: Team A 4th Kick: Team B
- 5th Kick: Team A 6th Kick: Team B
- 7th Kick: Team A 8th Kick: Team B
- 9th Kick: Team A 10th Kick: Team B
- 11th Kick: Team A 12th Kick: Team B and so on until a winner is determined.

- E. Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played, may run during the match, provided that they are stopped at the end of normal playing time in each half, i.e. after forty-five (45) and (90) minutes respectively. This shall also apply in the event of extra time being played (15 minutes in each extra time period.)
- F. At the end of each period (regular or extra time), the referee will indicate to the fourth official, either orally or by gesturing with his hands, the minimum number of minutes he has decided to allow for time lost. Allowance for lost time in each period shall be communicated to the public by the fourth official using the substitution cards or electronic display board and by the public address announcer.
- G. If a match is interrupted before the completion of normal playing time or extra time due to reasons of force majeure; the OC shall review the causes and make its decision on the outcome of the match in accordance with the following:
1. If the match is interrupted before the completion of the first half, during the half-time interval or up to the seventy-fifth (75th) minute of play, the match shall be replayed in its entirety. The repeat match, if possible and mutually agreeable, shall be arranged for the following day, thus avoiding considerable extra expense for the visiting team. If the match still cannot be played on the second day, the OC shall reschedule the match for another date.
 2. If a match is interrupted after seventy-five (75) minutes of play, the OC shall consider the beneficiary of the current score status, the visiting team willingness to wait another day to finish match, and the mutuality of clubs position on completing the match before ruling to record current score as official score, this shall be dictated only by the case where competitive fair play is served in the best manner.
 3. In all cases where the OC is satisfied that a game has been interrupted due to one or both clubs' misconduct, the OC shall declare a forfeit against the offending club if only one club is responsible. If both clubs are responsible, the game shall be replayed in its entirety, and each club fined a sum of \$1000.00 and may forward proceedings to the Disciplinary Committee for additional sanctions.

4. In case a game is interrupted owing to the conduct of fans of both teams or of spectators attending the match, the OC shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

VIII. FIELD OF PLAY, STADIA, KICK-OFF TIME, BALLS

- A. Clubs hosting competition matches shall ensure that the stadium facilities fulfill FIFA's requirements and comply with the standards of safety and security required for international matches. The field of play and the accessory equipment shall comply with the provisions stipulated in the Laws of the Game. The fields and the facilities shall be in optimum condition.
- B. The matches of the PLC may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, it must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for artificial turf or the International Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is provided by FIFA.
- C. Clubs shall guarantee that the field of play chosen meets the requirements of the Laws of the Game. They must pass an inspection done by the FFB.
- D. In cases where games are played at night, stadiums must possess lighting suitable for the playing of night matches. Lighting must pass inspection by the FFB. The average luminosity at an elevation of 5 feet within the playing area shall be between 600 and 800 lux.
- E. In addition to the regulations contained herein, all matches shall be administered and controlled in accordance with the Match Day Procedures (PLB countdown), which shall be published by the League office at least 24 hours before the scheduled match. Every instance of deviation, as noted by match commissioner, from the published match day procedures by clubs or match officials shall incur a fine of \$100.00.
- F. The kick-off times shall be fixed by the OC after clubs' submission of the best possible match times. Any club failing to commence at the scheduled kick-off time, except under conditions of force majeure, shall be fined a sum of \$100.00.
- G. Referees Assessor, during the technical meeting, must emphasize the need for matches to commence at the appointed time, if possible. He shall state the reason/s for all late starts in his match report and advise the Coach of the offending team/s of the consequences of such irregularities.
- H. Clubs MUST use balls bearing any one of the following designations:
 1. "FIFA APPROVED" logo.
 2. "FIFA INSPECTED" logo.
 3. "INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD".

Such a designation on a football indicates that it has been tested officially and found to be in compliance with specific technical requirements.

- I. The host club must provide balls that are fit for play throughout the match and the referee must state in his Match Report the unsuitability of the match balls, if applicable, and must also notify the club team officials of his intention to do so.
- J. Football equipment for the competition may at times be provided by the PLB or FFB.

K. Field Boards

- a. All home clubs shall install and display field boards in accordance with the specifications, layout, and placement approved by the Premier League of Belize (PLB) prior to each home match. The home club shall ensure that all required field boards are properly installed before the official match inspection.
- b. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the following disciplinary sanctions:
 - 1. **First offence:** A fine of **BZ\$500.00**.
 - 2. **Second offence:** A fine of **BZ\$750.00**.
 - 3. **Third offence:** A fine of **BZ\$1,000.00**.
 - 4. **Fourth and subsequent offence:** **\$1,500** per offence
- c. For the avoidance of doubt, the monetary fines shall continue to apply for every home match played in breach of this regulation after the fourth offence, until the club has remedied the non-compliance to the satisfaction of the PLB.

IX. RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ENTITY INVOLVED

Qualifying and Final Phase

- A. Each club that hosts a match shall be responsible for:
 - 1. Guaranteeing law and order as well as safety in the stadium, if necessary, in collaboration with the relevant authorities. Specifically, the law-and-order guarantee shall be in the form of the presence of at least **eight (8)** police officers during preliminary round matches, at least **ten (10)** police officers during semifinal matches of the playoff round, and at least **twelve (12)** police officers in attendance of the matches of the finals.
 - 2. If applicable, undertaking to arrange adequate liability insurance cover in respect of the stadium in which the match is due to be held.

3. Compliance with the guidelines and instructions issued by the PLB/FFB for Match Day.
4. **Match Officials' Payments and Technical Meetings**
 - a. The League shall ensure that all Match Officials, Match Commissioners, and Referee Assessors are paid no later than **Tuesday following each official match**. The official **pre-match technical meeting shall be conducted virtually on the day preceding the match**, unless otherwise directed by the League.
 - b. Any club that fails to remit the required payments to the League Office by the prescribed Tuesday deadline shall be assessed a **late payment fee of Fifty Dollars (BZ\$50.00)** for each affected match. Repeated failure to comply with this payment obligation may result in additional disciplinary measures imposed by the Premier League of Belize Executive Committee, including the withholding of future match appointments or other sanctions deemed appropriate.
5. Assembling players listed on match roster at a designated area for inspection by match officials at least 60 minutes before kickoff time. Failure to comply with this match day countdown requirement will result in the club being fined \$50.00.
6. Designate the club team representative to attend the technical meeting (which shall be held virtually, or in-person as agreed by the relevant parties) and is scheduled to be held within 24 hrs. prior to kickoff time. Failure of a club to present itself at a technical meeting within ten (10) minutes of its commencement shall incur a fine of \$50.00.
7. Displaying to spectators' banners and other forms of communication depicting club's solidarity with FFB's and FIFA's stance against discrimination and racism in all their forms. This can be done before teams take the pitch or during the half-time interval.
8. Secure adequate overnight accommodation for match officials travelling to host venue for night matches, if required to host officials overnight.
- B. Each visiting club will be responsible:
 1. Paying for their own travel accommodation, and meal expenses to and from the host club and any cost for their delegation.
 2. Starting the scheduled game at the scheduled time.

3. Assembling players on match roster at a designated area for the proper conduct of player inspection by the Match Officials at least 75 minutes before scheduled kick off time.
4. Designating the club representative to attend the technical meeting (which may be held virtually, or in-person as agreed by the relevant parties) and is scheduled to be held within 24 hrs. prior to kickoff time. A tardiness of ten (10) minutes to the technical meeting shall result in a fine of \$50.00.
5. Ensuring that its players, officials and club personnel refrain from discriminatory or racist behavior from time of departure to the time the team return from its match engagements.
6. To provide the ETA (estimated time of arrival) at a host venue to Match Commissioner on match day.

C. Each participating club shall be responsible for:

1. The behavior of the members of its delegation (officials and players). Club officials who are ejected from the technical area shall be fined \$50.00 in addition to additional disciplinary measures taken by the Disciplinary Committee.
2. Medical, accident and travel insurance coverage for its full delegation for duration of the PLC at a minimum. The host club is responsible for the reservation and payment for all match officials and match commissioners' air, sea or land transportation, accommodation, meals or their per diems, (as agreed prior to the commencement of the yearly tournament). As it relates to the PLB 2026 - 2027 Tournament, PLB/FFB has agreed to pay the officials fees while the host club will be responsible for the official's transportation and accommodation expenses.
3. Returning any information requested by The League by the dates specified.
4. Attending press conferences and other official media activities organized by the League in a timely manner.
5. Ensuring that every club team player, club official and members are fully apprised and committed to championing FFB's anti-racism and anti-discrimination stance before, during and after all PLC matches. Every player and official shall sign an integrity declaration which articulates the clubs' opposition to racism and discrimination within the FFB football family.

D. Commercial Reference to Event and Advertising Provisions

1. Participating teams shall agree, as a condition of their participation, that the terms "THE PLB LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP", "THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP COMPETITION", "THE NON-AMATEUR LEAGUE", commonly used to identify the

competition and their equivalent, abbreviated or as translated into other languages, may only be used by such clubs in a sporting context with no commercial implications. PLB owns the copyright for all these terms.

2. Participating teams shall also agree to abide by any advertising provisions issued by the League.

X. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, LIST OF PLAYERS

- A. The FFB Player Licensing Office resident within the FFB Competitions Department establishes the eligibility of players globally by granting FFB player licenses. FFB Player Licenses are evidenced by a FIFA Connect issued ID number. At the affiliate level, the PLB establishes the eligibility of players for a given match day by using procedural and economic criteria. At the match venue, the ultimate eligibility of a player for any given match is determined by the match official based on compliance with LOTG and established match management guidelines.
- B. Clubs are ultimately responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of the eligibility of players on their club teams. Clubs will be permitted to register a maximum of thirty-five (35) players appropriately licensed to participate in the PLC. Of these thirty-five players, a maximum of eight (8) players can be non-nationals. The eight (8) non-nationals can be deployed without restriction for any given match day. With the exception of week one of any season, the PLB Secretariat shall determine the eligibility of players for a given club for a given match using the criteria set out in these regulations. For week one of the PLC, the non-amateur club team player eligibility list compiled by the FFB player licensing Office shall be authoritative in the event of incongruence between the FFB and the PLB eligibility lists. Thus, only the players listed on the game day roster published by the League Secretariat shall be eligible to participate in a given match. At least 72 hours before a match, The PLB Secretariat shall prepare and submit to each PLC club its respective list of eligible players for club concurrence. Resolution of the variance between the eligibility lists shall ONLY be done at the League office during office hours. In the event of variance between clubs' eligibility list and the PLB eligibility list, the PLB list shall take precedence in the determination of the final club eligibility list. This list will be part of the match day package to clubs, referees and match commissioner for a given match day. Changes to the player rosters are strictly prohibited. Any alteration to the game day roster shall result in a fine of \$500.00 being levied as well as further disciplinary action against the offending club. Any club which alters the PLB approved game day player roster by adding the name of a player and subsequently fields that player shall be guilty of fielding an ineligible player. Any club that fields ineligible players for a match shall forfeit the match. Club which has contracted the footballing services of more than (8) non-nationals to play in official international competition shall designate in writing which (8) non-nationals shall be registered exclusively for the domestic competition.

- C. Players with expired contracts automatically incur a suspension of their FFB player license and, as such, are ineligible to participate or continue to participate in any match of the competition. An out-of-contract player is effectively de-registered from his club team registration and consequently ineligible to further participate in club team match duty until he concludes a new employment contract. Clubs approaching players under contract during the protected period shall be subject to disciplinary action. Clubs shall notify players whether they will re-sign a given player or not within three (3) months of the end of the final phase of the closing season of the competition. Failure of clubs to declare intent to re-sign a player shall give the player just cause to actively seek out new employment opportunities as well as to entertain clubs seeking to employ his footballing services.
- D. Players must present their FFB Player license number, and a government issued ID card to the Match Commissioner/Fourth Official on demand or during inspection in order for the player identity, be verified before kickoff. Any player whose identity cannot be verified prior to kick off time shall be deemed ineligible to participate in a match.
- E. After arrival at the venue, each club's head of delegation shall, upon request, submit to the Match Commissioner the final roster of twenty-three (23) players and the identification card required, as stated in paragraph above for verification.
- F. A player is required to use the same number on their uniform throughout the competition. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in a fine of \$25.00 being levied on the club.
- G. If a club fields an ineligible player, it shall forfeit the match. The victory and the resulting three points for the match will be awarded to the opposing club with a score of 3-0. If both clubs field one or more ineligible players, zero (0) points out of the three points for the match shall be awarded to both clubs with their games-played tally being increased by one.
- H. All registered players must comply when called upon for National Team duty. Players shall be notified of their call-up by mail delivered to the clubs and/or players registered addresses. Failure of a player to respond to the call to national team duty without a medical report declaring him unfit for national team duty shall result in the suspension of the player's FFB license thus effectively deregistering that player from the club team that player may be registered with for competition purposes. If the period between deregistration and the next FFB registration window is less than six months, the player shall not be allowed to register with the FFB until six (6) months have lapsed. If a player's non-response is due to adverse consequences caused by the club, the club shall be fined \$1000.00 and ordered to release player without prejudice to national team duty. If the club continues to defy the FFB's order to release players, its FFB club license shall be revoked resulting in automatic deregistration from current competition.

XI. DOPING CONTROL

- A. Doping is the use of certain substances or methods capable of artificially enhancing the physical and / or mental condition of a player, with a view to improving his athletic and mental performance. It is prohibited.
- B. Only the OC is empowered to arrange doping tests and to decide at which laboratories and who shall carry out the analysis. Every player in a team, including substitute players, will be liable to undergo doping tests.
- C. The OC reserves the right to arrange random doping tests at all the matches in the competition.
- D. Any player or club that refuses to take a doping test or falsifies the result of a test or attempts to do so or is found guilty of having taken prohibited substances whether intentionally or not will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- E. Any official who encourages or incites a player, either intentionally or through negligence, to commit such an infringement as stated in Article XI (E) above, will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- F. In addition, reference is made to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations, which contains the list of prohibited substances and methods.
- G. If, in accordance with the FIFA Doping Guidelines, a player is tested positive for using banned substances, he shall be immediately declared ineligible from further participation in any sanctioned PLB competition and shall be subject to further sanctions from the FFB Disciplinary Committee.

XII. REGULATIONS ON SPORTING EQUIPMENT

- A. A Club's Equipment must comply with the FIFA Equipment Regulations with the following modifications:
 - 1. Uniform Color – Each Club must register its official colors (**home and away**) with the OC of the PLC. The home uniform shall be of a different design and color than the away uniform. The host team shall have its alternate uniform available in case of a conflict as determined by the referees. Each team shall have at least two different uniforms for each goalkeeper.
 - 2. Where there is a conflict in the colors worn by any two teams for any match, the HOME team shall be required to change. However, should the visiting team not be wearing its registered away colors thus causing the home team to change, the visiting team shall be fined \$250.00.

3. Player's name – Players may be identified by means of their surname or an abbreviation or nickname on the back of their shirts above the number. The player's name shall correspond with the name and number on the players' list.
4. Sponsor Advertising – Teams may only wear colors registered with the PLB. However, the advertising of tobacco or distilled spirits, as well as slogans of a political, religious, or racist nature or for other causes that offend common decency, is prohibited.
5. The match commissioner shall conduct an inventory of match balls assigned to the match officials before and after every match and shall make a record of such in his report. Any variance between starting match ball inventory and ending match ball inventory not due to loss of balls shall be charged to the account of the officiating team.

XIII. REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

- A. The referee chosen to officiate the competition shall be class 1 or class 2 national referees with an average minimum score of 8.0 on the standard referee performance evolution scale. To the greatest extent possible, the FFB Referee Committee shall appoint qualified referees from districts (football districts or jurisdiction) other than those of the competing teams. The officiating team shall arrive at the match venue at least two hours before kick-off time to attend the technical meeting convened by the match commissioner (If it was not held virtually within the 24 hrs. period prior to the match). If the referee team anticipates a late arrival at the technical meeting due to causes beyond its control, the referee shall notify the Match Commissioner of the circumstances.
- B. Subject to the conditions and quality factors specified in the applicable referee service contract drawn up between the League and the Referees Department, the FFB Referees Committee shall appoint the referees, two (2) assistant referees, and fourth official who can best provide the required quality of service for each match. The committee shall also appoint referees' assessors for all matches.
- C. Where one match official cannot perform his duties as appointed, the official designated Referee Department will fill that vacancy.
- D. The Referee Department shall prepare LOTG content aimed at familiarizing club teams of the PLC Tournament with the laws of the game in a format specific to each club. Each PLC club shall schedule a LOTG orientation session with the Director of Referees before the PLC Opening Season kickoff and submit a list of club members in attendance to the PLB Secretariat. The Director of Referees shall notify the FFB Competitions Department when all PLC clubs have had their LOTG sessions. Failure of a club to provide proof of hosting the pre-season LOTG orientations shall incur a \$500 fine and shall adversely

affect PLB Disciplinary Committee disposition towards sanctions for challenges to the referee decisions on the field of play. The completion of all pre-season LOTG sessions is a necessary condition for the commencement of the PLC competition cycle.

- E. After each Match the Match Commissioner, Referee Assessor and the Referee shall complete their designated official report. After completing their reports, the Referee Assessor and Referee shall submit copies of their report to the FFB Match Commissioner who shall send the report package to the FFB Secretariat within 6 hours after the match. Notarized Clubs or players report on incidents before, during and after a match that directly affected them shall be submitted by registered mail to the FFB General Secretariat within 96 hours of the incident. Under no circumstances shall the FFB Match Commissioner collect any monies owed to the PLB Secretariat at or around the Match Venue.
- F. The Director of Referees shall establish an order of precedence for the replacement of the referee should he become incapacitated during the course of a match. This order of precedence shall be communicated to the match commissioner via the referee assessor and shall be strictly followed per directive of Director of Referee.
- G. If, during the course of a match, the environmental conditions of 90° Fahrenheit, 90% Relative Humidity, negligible wind speed persist for the first thirty (30) minutes of any half the referee is authorized to allow a water break at the 30th and 75th minute marks respectively. Each water break shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The referee shall add the time taken for water break to existing stoppage time tally.
- H. If during the course of the match, there occurs a psycho-sociological disturbance among players triggered by an unpopular referee decision, the referee shall extend his hands above his head and cross them at the wrist and cause the arms to downwards while pushing out to signal the establishment of a Captain-only zone with a radius of 12 feet with referee at its center. Only the captain may enter this zone to respectfully request a consultative exchange with the referee to gain clarity relative to the referee decision that triggered the disruption in restart of play. A disrespectful approach by the captain shall result in the captain being cautioned. Any other player who encroaches the captain only zone shall be cautioned. When more than one player encroaches the captain only zone, the first to encroach or the most aggressive encroachment shall be cautioned. In all cases when there are multiple points of encroachment, the matter shall be deemed team misconduct and shall be referred to the PLB Disciplinary Committee for action. To maintain a good image of the game and the safety of the referee during on-field disturbances, Clubs shall engage their membership with the objective of communicating the expectations of proper conduct once a captain-only zone has been established. The match commissioner shall prepare an incident report for every instance where a captain-only zone is established to allow the cognizant

authorities to evaluate the effectiveness of the captain-only zone in de-escalation during on field disruptions.

XIV. MEDIA, ADVERTISING AND MERCHANDISING, TICKETS

- A. Marketing, Radio, Television, international Broadcasting rights for the Competition are fully vested with the PLB/FFB.
- B. A Club may not offer souvenir sales of LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP identified merchandise, without the written permission of the PLB/FFB.
- C. Technical Film / Tapes – Permission to make technical films/tapes, exclusively reserved for the use of a participating Club concerned, must be obtained from the Secretariat of the PLB/FFB.
- D. Tickets for the Visiting Teams – The Host Club shall provide at least thirty-five (35) tickets complimentary (for players and coaching staff) and make available at least fifty (50) tickets for purchase for the visiting team fans for each match.

XV. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Qualifying and Final Phase

- A. Revenues
 - 1. All revenues from gate receipts are accrued to the home team, is responsible to pay 10% of gate receipts but not exceeding \$200.00 to the PLB.
 - 2. All revenues from Broadcasting rights, advertising and sponsorship will accrue to the PLB/FFB in the Qualifying Phase and in the Final Phase, unless otherwise agreed by the PLB/FFB.
- B. Expenses
 - 1. Travel – Each team is responsible for its own travel expenses, including air, sea or land transportation, accommodations, and meals.
 - 2. Allotments- When deemed applicable by the OC, 10% of gross gate receipts shall be paid to the PLB.
- C. The Host team is responsible for:
 - 1. All game-related costs (Stadium, security, promotion, tickets, etc.)
 - 2. All Game officials' and Commissioner's air, sea or land transportation, accommodation, meals, or their per diems (if required).

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

XVI. PROTEST AND DEPOSITS

- A. Protests are objections to infringements of the governing regulations of a competition (state and markings of the pitch, non- enforcement of the Laws of the Game (LOTG) by referees, eligibility of players, stadium installations, footballs etc.)
- B. For protests by match stakeholders (referees, players, clubs, match commissioners, fans) at a match venue to be valid, they must strictly follow the process steps below:
 - 1. The team captain must notify the referee of his intent to lodge a protest. The protest must state the grounds on which the protest is based. This action must be witnessed by two (2) other players.
 - 2. The team manager shall lodge a protest in writing to the Match Commissioner or Coordinator within two (2) hours of the match. The Match Commissioner shall give the team manager a document receipt. After reviewing the protest submission, the match commissioner should offer the protesting club an opinion on the validity of the protest.
 - 3. If the match commissioner opines that the protest is valid or the team manager rejects the match commissioner’s opinion, the club shall submit a formal protest directly to the PLB Secretariat within forty-eight (48) hours of the match. A refundable protest fee of two hundred (\$200) dollars shall be deposited at the time when formal protest is lodged. Only in the event of a successful protest shall a refund of the protest fee be returned to the club.
 - 4. The match Commissioner shall submit a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to the PLB Secretariat within forty-eight (48) hours.
- C. Clubs may not bring disputes with the PLB before a Court of Justice, and they shall undertake to submit any such disputes without reservation to the jurisdiction of the competent authority of the FFB.
- D. No protest may be made against the referee’s decision regarding facts connected with play; such decisions are final. However, complaints against referees’ violations of the provisions in the regulations and misapplication of the Laws of the Game, and poor match management are encouraged by affected parties. In order to make a fair assessment of complaints, a copy of the referee assessor’s report shall be submitted along with the referee’s and match commissioner’s reports to the FFB Competitions Department via the PLB Secretariat. The Match Commissioner’s report shall render a “poor, fair, good, excellent” qualification on each of the three dimensions of referee performance i.e., match management, adherence to competition regulations, and strict adherence to application of the Laws of the Game.

- E. Protests decisions shall be taken within seven (7) days of receipt of formal protest submission by club management. A Disciplinary Committee decision document signed by all Board members shall be the only official conveyance of the Committee's decision. The decision letter shall give the grounds for the decision.
- F. The expenses, which arise from a protest, shall be charged by PLB, either wholly or in part, to the losing party.
- G. Appeals against the Disciplinary Committee's decisions, accompanied by a five hundred dollar (\$500) refundable deposit with the FFB Secretariat, shall be lodged with the FFB Appeals Committee in writing and within 48 hours of notification of the decision. Failure to make the deposit shall cause the appeal submission to be null and void. The Appeals Committee's decision, if in concert with these regulations, FIFA Disciplinary Code, FFB Statutes, and other pertinent FIFA regulations, shall be final. Otherwise, the FFB Executive Committee shall direct that the appeal be revisited in conformity with applicable regulations.
- H. Outstanding protests lodged during qualifying phase of a given season and the appeals arising therefrom shall be dealt with conclusively before the final phase of that season.
- I. Applicable disciplinary measures arising from findings during protest committee proceedings shall not be subject to time limitations.

XVII. THE DISCIPLINARY BODIES

- A. The PLB Disciplinary Committee shall serve as the disciplinary body of the PLC and shall have responsibility to take disciplinary action against any natural or legal person involved in the League Championship. These bodies shall base all their decisions on the provisions in these regulations as well as on provisions within the FIFA Disciplinary Code. Only in cases where the governing documents fail to provide punitive guidance, shall these bodies resort to discretionary measures. Any decision of any disciplinary or appeal body that contravenes the FIFA Disciplinary Code shall be deemed null and void. The FFB Appeals Committee shall hear appeals against decisions passed by the PLC Disciplinary Committee and the FFB Referees Committee that have not been declared as final.
- B. The scope of application of the disciplinary measures of the PLC's Disciplinary Committee shall include the following natural and legal persons:
 - 1. Football clubs
 - 2. Officials
 - 3. Players
 - 4. Licensed match and players' agents

5. Anyone with an authorization from PLB, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by PLB
6. Spectators

In cases of infringement of these regulations, unsportsmanlike behavior, or instances of violations specified in the FIFA Disciplinary Code on the part of the entities listed above. The PLC's Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to admonish, sanction, fine, suspend or disqualify players, teams, team officials, spectators or coaches.

- C. The FFB Disciplinary Committee shall review recommendations from PLC Disciplinary Committee's proceedings relating to referee misconduct as alleged by a complainant (a person directly affected by referee misconduct) and corroborated by referee assessor's and match commissioner's reports. The PLC OC shall immediately submit a request to the Director of Referees to re-assign the affected referee from any PLC matches until the FFB Referees Committee has taken a decision on the protest. The Chairman shall then submit these recommendations for punitive action against referees to the FFB Referees Committee which shall convene and take action, if warranted, against offending referees. The course of action adopted by The FFB Referees Committee shall be conveyed to the FFB Referees Department for information purposes so that the Department may determine the impact on current referee assignments. The Referee Committee's decision shall be sent in writing to the PLB General Secretariat, within 24 hours. The time taken to adjudicate a protest submission against referee misconduct in a match shall not exceed seven (7) days. Failure of the FFB Referees Committee to act within the 7-day time frame shall serve as summons to the FFB Disciplinary Committee to initiate proceedings against the referee(s) and take a decision as a result. This decision shall be sent immediately to the referee, Chairman of the FFB Referees Committee, Director, FFB Referees Department, The FFB General Secretariat and the PLB General Secretariat and Director Competitions Department.
- D. Both natural persons and legal persons are punishable by the following disciplinary measures:
 1. Warning;
 2. Reprimand;
 3. Fine;
 4. Return of awards.
- E. The following disciplinary measures are applicable only to natural persons:
 1. Caution;
 2. Expulsion;
 3. Match Suspension;
 4. Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
 5. Ban from entering a stadium;
 6. Ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

- F. The following disciplinary measures are applicable only to legal persons:
1. Transfer ban;
 2. Playing a match without spectators;
 3. Playing a match on neutral territory;
 4. Ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 5. Annulment of the result of a match;
 6. Expulsion;
 7. Forfeit;
 8. Deduction of points;
 9. Relegation to a lower division.
- G. Take action, in accordance with FFB's Disciplinary Code and/or FIFA Disciplinary Code, against any person or club which may violate the competition regulations, the Laws of the Game or the rules of Fair Play.
- H. A player shall be cautioned if he commits any of the following offences during a match. (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 17 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code):
1. Unsportsmanlike behavior;
 2. Dissent by word or action;
 3. Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
 4. Delaying the restart of play;
 5. Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
 6. Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
 7. Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
- I. A player who receives a caution in a match shall be levied a fine of twenty-five (\$25) dollars. If the same player receives a subsequent yellow, he shall be assessed a fine for an accumulated red card of fifty (50) dollars instead of the previously assessed fine for a yellow card. If the same player receives a direct red card, he shall be assessed a fine of fifty (\$50) dollars in addition to the previously assessed fine for a caution. Players who have accumulated three cautions as a result of misconduct in three separate single caution matches (yellow cards) shall be suspended from the subsequent match. The player shall remain suspended until he has served a one-game suspension. Any player with outstanding fines shall remain suspended until outstanding balance is liquidated.
- J. A player shall receive a direct red card if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 of FIFA Disciplinary Code):
1. Serious foul play;
 2. Violent conduct; spitting at an opponent or any other person;

3. Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
 4. Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
 5. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
- K. A Player who receives a direct red card due to misconduct against opponent's or persons other than match officials shall be suspended in accordance with what is presented below. These suspensions are inclusive of the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, of the FIFA Disciplinary Code:
1. One match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
 2. Two (2) matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);
 3. Two (2) matches for unsportsmanlike conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official;
 4. Three (3) matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official;
 5. Six (6) matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.
- L. Players receiving three expulsions (red cards) in any given season shall be suspended from participation in the rest of that season. Any player who receives a direct red card shall be subjected to a fine of \$50.00. This amount shall be added to any other fines he may have incurred as a result of the Disciplinary Committee decision.
- M. Any player who has received a caution in a match and subsequently receives a direct red card shall, in addition to being expelled from the match, carry the caution through to a subsequent match.
- N. When making a decision, the PLC or FFB Disciplinary Committee shall refer to the reports made by the referee, assistant referees and fourth official. Match commissioner, referee assessor, general coordinator, technical delegate, security officers and other FFB officials present. It may also refer to television and video recordings. They may be used as evidence but only as far as the disciplinary aspects of the case being dealt with are concerned and may affect a referee's decision regarding facts connected with play. Decisions taken by the disciplinary bodies shall be communicated in writing to the PLB Secretariat stating grounds for the decision and bearing the signatures of all members.
- O. Any club team with five (5) players with an accumulated caution and expulsion tally of at least five (5) shall be guilty of team misconduct which shall result in a fine of \$250.00 being levied on the club.

- P. A player engaged in misconduct against match officials resulting in a direct red card shall be, in addition to the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, suspended for:
1. At least four matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official (subject to T. 53, 54 and 57-60(b));
 2. Six (6) months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official;
 3. At least 12 months for spitting at a match official. Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six matches. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others, or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.
- Q. A goalkeeper who is in control of the ball shall be guilty of misconduct if he fails to put ball in play within eight seconds of taking control of the ball. The referee shall issue a warning signal at the five-seconds mark that he has three more seconds in control of the ball. The goalkeeper shall be cautioned if he remains in control of the ball after 8 seconds with a corner kick being awarded to the opposing team to restart play from the corner nearest to the point of the time-wasting infraction.
- R. If a team does not report for a match, except in cases of force majeure recognized by the OC, the team shall forfeit the match with three points awarded to opponent with a score of 3-0. Force majeure notwithstanding, the absent team shall notify the match commissioner of the conditions preventing the team from transiting to match venue.
- S. If a team refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the match, the team shall forfeit the match, and three points shall be awarded to its opponent with a score of 3-0. If the persisting team had already reached a higher net score at the time the guilty team left the field, the higher score shall be regarded as the official score.
- T. If the suspension of a match is the result of negligence on the part of the host team or the stadium authorities, the stadium where the match was interrupted will remain suspended until the factors leading to match interruptions are remedied. The host team shall be fined a sum of \$500.00, shall forfeit the match by a score of 3-0, and shall reimburse all expenses incurred by the visiting team in travelling to the match venue.
- U. All economic sanctions levied against players and clubs must be fully settled no later than seven (7) days after notification. Unless otherwise specified, the total amount of all fines will accrue to PLB. Failure to pay fines accruing from cautions and expulsions before the next scheduled match may cause the affected player to become ineligible for match duty. The League Secretariat shall reserve the right to publish a list of all players and clubs with outstanding fines on the PLB website.

- V. Any player or official who engages in racist or discriminatory speech or actions within the confines of PLC match venues shall be suspended for five matches. Fans who engage in racist or discriminatory behavior shall be subject to a five-match stadium ban.
- W. Any player who, by threat, bribes or physiological agents, attempts to induce or induce another player to produce sub-par match performance during club team duties shall be guilty of match fixing. The player who is the target of such action and fails to report the activity to his club administration or FFB Competition Department shall be deemed guilty of match fixing as well. Any player who is threatened by agents unaffiliated to the FFB to produce sub-par match performance or to induce other players to produce sub-par match performance shall be guilty of match fixing. Persons guilty of match fixing shall be subject to disciplinary measures by the FFB Disciplinary Committee.

XVIII. FFB APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The FFB Appeals Committee shall hear appeals against decisions passed by the PLC Disciplinary Committee and the FFB Referees Committee. The Appeals committee shall not contravene any provisions in the PLC regulations, FIFA Disciplinary Code nor FFB Statutes in its deliberations. All appeals committee decisions made in conformity with the governing rules, regulations and codes shall be final.
2. The procedure to be applied by the FFB Appeal Committee is defined in the (art) FIFA Disciplinary Code and the (art) FFB Statutes. An appeal shall be accompanied with a deposit of (\$500.00) five hundred dollars. This fee shall be refundable if the appeal is successful.
3. The FFB Appeal Committee shall reach its decisions on the basis of the documents and other means of evidence contained in the PLC Disciplinary Committee's file. However, the Appeal Committee may, if necessary, resort to further evidence which it considers relevant.
4. Subject to conformity with applicable statutory provisions and applicable regulations, decisions pronounced by the Appeals Committee are final. The decision shall be conveyed in writing by the Chairman of the Appeals Board stating the grounds for the decision and bearing the signatures of all members present.

FINAL PROVISION

XIX. PROTOCOL

- A. During the competition the following flags may be flown or displayed inside the stadium:
 1. Belize
 2. FFB PLB
 3. Fair Play

- B. The FFB Anthem, when available, will be played during the parade of the teams unto the field of play.
- C. Each player of the starting eleven (11) of each team accompanied by a child shall travel no more than thirty (30) feet into the field and fan out. The Belize National Anthem should be played immediately after the presentation of teams. Failure to play the Belize National Anthem by the host club could incur a fine of \$100.00.
- D. The teams shall shake hands with the match officials and each other and proceed immediately to take a team photograph.
- E. The players from each of the club's teams shall shake hands with the match officials and as well as with each other at the conclusion of the match. A club team shall be awarded one (1) fair play point at the conclusion of a match if any player shakes the hands of at least one opposing player and one official. The Match Commissioner shall take note of which players, if any, make the effort to shake hands after the match. The coaches of the two club teams are mandated to approach and shake hands.
- F. The Clubs shall ensure that at least one (1) player from each participating club team is made available for pre-and/or post-game interviews. Any club which fails to comply with this requirement shall be fined the sum of (\$50) fifty dollars.

XX. COPYRIGHT

- A. The copyright of the schedule of games and matches adopted by the Executive Committee and drawn up in accordance with the provisions of these regulations are the property of the PLB and by affiliation, of FFB.

XXI. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE REGULATIONS

- A. The Organizing Committee shall resolve any matter not provided for in these regulations and such decisions shall be final.
- B. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English or Spanish texts of these regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

XXII. TEAM - MEDICAL DOCTOR / CARDIAC AND CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

- A. Each participating club shall include a medical doctor in its delegation. It is a mandatory requirement that the medical doctor or any other medical staff member of each participating club complete and successfully pass the "Concussion" and "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" modules of the FIFA Diploma in Football Medicine (www.fifamedicalnetwork.com).

- B. Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion – To discover heart issues or risk factors which might lead to a sudden cardiac arrest during matches, and to protect players' health, each participating club shall ensure and confirm to FIFA that its players undergo a pre-competition medical assessment prior to the start of any PLC Tournament. FFB will provide all participating clubs with the medical assessment form, which will be required by all clubs during the club licensing period.
- C. Any player who experiences suspected concussion during a match must undergo an examination by the team doctor in accordance with the protocols documented in the FIFA Football Emergency Medicine Manual. The referee may temporarily suspend play for up to three minutes whenever an incident of suspected concussion occurs. The referee may only allow the player to continue playing with the authorization of the team doctor, who shall have evaluated the player and concluded that the player is not exhibiting signs or symptoms of concussion.
- D. The team doctor will have the final decision based on a clinical examination and subject to an express prohibition against returning a player to play if concussion is suspected. FIFA recommends that teams follow the return-to-play protocol set forth in SCAT5 for any player who has suffered concussion. SCAT recognizes that the time frame for return to play may vary, based on the player's age and history, and that doctors must use their clinical judgment in making decisions with respect to return to play. FIFA requires that before any player who suffers concussion can return to play, the team doctor certifies that (a) such player has passed each of the steps set out in SCAT, and (b) such player is fit for further participation in the competition.
- E. In Reference to the above, each team must have a duly licensed medical professional (i.e., a doctor) as part of their official delegation. Such doctor should be fully integrated and familiar with all medical aspects of the delegation and must remain with the delegation throughout the entire official period of The Competition. The Match Officials (the Referees) will refer to such team doctor in all cases as required and necessary.

XXIII. LIABILITY – MEDICAL PROTOCOL

- A. The PLB will not be held liable for any injury sustained by any participating player. Equally, PLB will not be held liable for any incident (e.g., death) linked to any injury or health problems of any player participating in any tournament organized by the PLB.
- B. Each club will be responsible, throughout the competition, for providing health, travel and accident insurance coverage for all members of its delegation.
- C. Regarding non-traumatic loss of consciousness during a game, the Referee will assume a sudden cardiac failure until proven otherwise. The hand signal is the right-hand fist against the chest. Such signal will indicate to the team doctor and the medical emergency team (stretcher team) to immediately institute comprehensive resuscitation

that includes the use of a defibrillator (AED) and CPR. It is the responsibility of the club in consultation with the organizing association to ensure that there is a properly functioning AED immediately at hand and that there is an ambulance with an access and egress plan.

- D. During the match if there are a traumatic head injury and concussion to a player, and the player remains on the field of play, the Referee will stop play. In these instances, the Referee will signal (hand to the top of the head) to the team doctor to enter the field to assess and manage the player. Up to three minutes should be sufficient time to make this assessment. Once the player has left the field of play, he must be given a Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT) or similar test. It is the responsibility of the team doctor to determine the player's ability to return to play.
- E. Further to the above, regarding traumatic head injury and concussion, full return to play after a previous concussion must include no signs or symptoms of the previous head injury as well as an acceptable Sideline Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT).

XXIV. CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTE

- A. Each team is permitted to use a maximum of (2) two concussion substitutes during a match.
- B. A concussion substitution can be made regardless of the number of substitutes already used.
- C. Making a concussion substitution is separate from any limit on the number of "normal" substitution opportunities.
- D. When a concussion substitute is used, no change will be made to the maximum number of substitutions permitted by the opposing team.
- E. The concussion substitute can be a player from the list of substitutes on the bench, who has not previously been substituted out of the match.
- F. The injured player is not permitted to take any further part in the match including a penalty shoot-out.

XXV. SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. After the pandemic, and during the restart of football globally, IFAB Approved a temporary amendment to Law 3 of the IFAB – LOTG, pertaining to the maximum number of permitted substitution (players) for all legally sanctioned competition.
- B. Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of (5) five substitutes during the regular schedule regulation match.

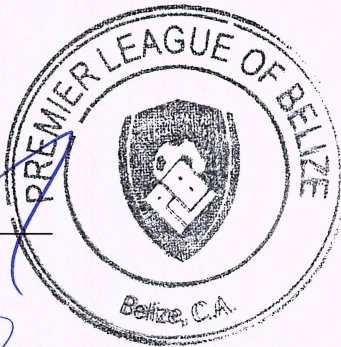
- C. To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of (3) three opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time, those substitution made at the half will not be deemed as a substitution that requires a change card.
- D. If both teams make a substitution during the match, at the same time, this will count as (1) one of the (3) three opportunities for each team.
- E. Unused substitutions, during regulation time of the match, are carried forward into extra time if specified in the tournament regulation.
- F. Note that during the duration of this PLC Tournament, if teams are required to go to overtime, each club will be afforded the opportunity to have one additional substitution opportunity during that period. Substitution may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in the extra time.

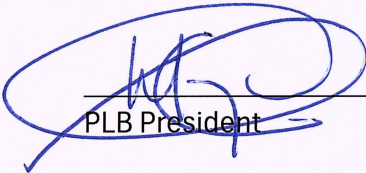
XXVI. PANDEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROTOCOLS

- A. In the event of any declared pandemic (by the relevant ministry) all clubs participating in any sanctioned PLB Tournament must be in compliance with the Ministry of Health & Wellness guidelines that are being mandated during the time for the protection of Health and safety of all stakeholders of the game.

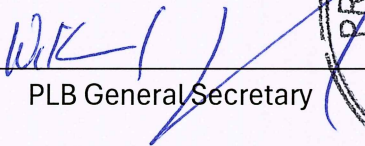
These regulations have been adopted by the PLB and approved by the FFB Executive Committee and will become effective on August 1st, 2026.

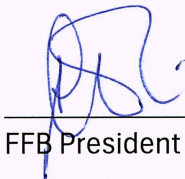
Signed for by the FFB and PLB President and General Secretary respectively.




PLB President

September 25, 2026
Date


PLB General Secretary


FFB President

September 25, 2026
Date


FFB General Secretary



