

League Statutes

Statutes

| Chapter Article | Page |
|--|------|
| Contents | |
| Definitions | |
| I. General Provisions | |
| II. Membership | |
| III. Honorary President and honorary member | |
| IV. Organization | |
| <i>A. Congress</i> | |
| <i>B. Executive Committee</i> | |
| <i>C. President</i> | |
| <i>D. Emergency Committee</i> | |
| <i>E. General Secretariat</i> | |
| V. Finance | |
| VI. Competitions and Rights in Competitions and Events | |
| VII. International Matches and Competitions | |
| VIII. Final Provisions | |

The terms given below denote the following:

FFB: The Football Federation of Belize

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

PLB: Premier League of Belize

Association: a football Association recognized by and a Member of FIFA.

League: an organization subordinate to an Association.

District Association: an organization subordinate to the FFB.

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

Club: Member of a District Association or of PLB (that is itself a Member of FFB).

Officials: all board members, committee members, coaches, referees and attendants as well as other people responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters at FIFA, a Confederation, Association, League, District Association or Club.

Player: a football player registered with an Association.

Congress: the supreme body of the Premier League of Belize.

Executive Committee: the executive body of the Premier League of Belize.

Member: a legal or natural person that has been registered and admitted into membership of the Premier League of Belize.

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

IFAB: the International Football Association Board.

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

Arbitration Tribunal: private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

CAS (TAS): Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne (Switzerland).

NB: References to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Article **1** **Name, headquarters, legal form**

- 1 Premier League of Belize is a private organization of an associative nature registered under chapter 247 of the laws of Belize. It is formed for an unlimited period.
- 2 The headquarters are in Belmopan.
- 3 PLB is a Member of the FFB.
- 4 The logo of PLB is ... [to be completed by the League].
- 5 The abbreviation is PLB.

Article **2** **Objectives**

The objectives of Premier League of Belize are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote it throughout the country of Belize in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values through different competitions;
- b) to protect the interests of its Members;
- c) to respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FFB, FIFA, CONCACAF and PLB as well as the Laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
- d) to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football;

Article **3** **Neutrality and non-discrimination**

- 1 PLB is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- 2 Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

Article **4** **Promoting friendly relations**

- 1 PLB shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
 - 2 Every person and organization involved in the game of football is obliged to observe the Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship
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Article **5** **Laws of the Game**

PLB and each of its Members play Association Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

Article **6** **Conduct of bodies and Officials**

The bodies and Officials of PLB must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and PLB and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, CONCACAF and of FFB in their activities.

Article **7** **Official Language**

- 1 The official language of PLB shall be English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language.
- 2 The official language at the Congress shall be English.

Article **8** **Registration, Suspension and Expulsion**

- 1 The General Secretariat shall register the applicant club if the requirements of PLB are fulfilled.
- 2 In case the General Secretariat does refuse the registration of an applicant club, the Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress at least one month before the season starts. The Extraordinary Congress shall decide upon the refusal or granting of the registration of the respective applicant club with an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the votes recorded and valid.
- 3 The Congress shall decide whether to suspend or expel a Member as well as whether to register a Member, in case the registration has been denied by the General Secretariat.
- 4 Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards PLB or other Members of PLB, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to PLB.

Article **9** **Registration**

- 1 The Members of PLB are the following Clubs:
 - a) Bandits Football Sporting Club
 - b) Belize Defence Force FC
 - c) FC Belize
 - d) Hankook Verdes
 - e) Juventus
 - f) Paradise/Freedom Fighters
 - g) Placencia Assassins FC
 - h) Police United FC
 - i) San Felipe Barcelona
 - j) San Ignacio United FC
 - k) San Pedro Seadogs
 - l) World FC
- 2 Any club wishing to become a Member of PLB shall register with the PLB. The PLB shall publicly announce the beginning and the end of the registration period which shall take place at least two months before the competition season starts.

- 3 The registration must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
- a) a declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of PLB, FFB, FIFA and CONCACAF and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, Officials and Players;
 - b) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
 - c) a declaration that it recognizes the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, as specified in these Statutes and that it will refer any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB or PLB to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal of FIFA (Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS), CONCACAF or FFB and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
 - d) a declaration that it is located and registered in the country of Belize;
 - e) a declaration that it will play all official matches scheduled by the PLB in the territory of the PLB;
 - f) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
 - g) a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
 - h) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting.

Article **10** Request and procedure for registration

¹ The procedure for registration shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the Executive Committee of PLB.

² The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been registered. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

³ In case the registration has been refused, the PLB has to convene an Extraordinary Congress at least one month before the season starts. The Extraordinary Congress shall decide upon the refusal or granting of the registration of the respective applicant club with an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the votes recorded and valid.

Article **11** **Members' rights**

- 1 The Members of PLB have the following rights:
 - a) to take part in the Congress of PLB, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
 - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
 - c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of PLB to be elected;
 - d) to be informed of the affairs of PLB through the official bodies of PLB;
 - e) to take part in competitions [if applicable] and/or other sports activities organized by PLB and FFB;
 - f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of PLB.
- 2 The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

Article **12** **Members' obligations**

- 1 The Members of PLB have the following obligations:
 - a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB, and PLB at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
 - b) to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies on a regular basis;
 - c) to take part in competitions and other sports activities organized by PLB;
 - d) to pay their membership subscriptions;
 - e) to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
 - f) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB, or the PLB shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal of FIFA (Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS), CONCACAF or FFB and that any recourse to Ordinary Courts is prohibited;
 - g) to communicate to PLB any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;

- h) not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized by FIFA and the FFB or with Members that have been suspended or expelled;
 - i) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behavior as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
 - j) to observe the mandatory items specified under article 9 paragraph 3 for the duration of their affiliation;
 - k) to administer a register of members which shall regularly, at the beginning of a tournament, be updated;
 - l) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and PLB.
- ² Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

Article **13** Suspension

- ¹ The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously 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.
- ² A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Congress by two thirds majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.
- ³ A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member.

Article **14** Expulsion

- ¹ The Congress may expel a Member if:
- a) it fails to fulfill its financial obligations towards PLB;
 - b) it seriously violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA, CONCACAF, FFB and PLB;
- ² The presence of an absolute majority (50% + 1) of Members entitled to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

Article **15** **Status of Clubs and other groups of Clubs**

1 Clubs or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to PLB shall be subordinate to and recognized by PLB. The PLB must ensure that its members, Clubs or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to PLB, comply with the statutes, regulations decisions and directives of the PLB, FFB, CONCACAF and FIFA and the decisions rendered by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS in Lausanne, Switzerland.

2 The affiliated Clubs and groups of PLB shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.

3 In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

Article **16** **Honorary president and honorary member**

1 The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any persons for meritorious service to football.

2 The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.

3 The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article **17** **Bodies (of the Association)**

1 The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.

2 The Executive Committee is the executive body.

3 The general secretariat is the administrative body.

4 The bodies of PLB shall be either elected or appointed by PLB itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

A. CONGRESS

Article 18 Definition and composition of the Congress

- 1 The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of PLB regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of PLB. Only a Congress that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.
 - 2 A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.
 - 3 The President shall conduct the Congress business.
 - 4 The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.
 - 5 The honorary presidents or honorary members may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.
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Article 19 Delegates and votes

- 1 The Congress is composed of the delegates. Each duly registered and affiliated Member shall have one delegate with one vote.
 - 2 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.
 - 3 The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their club.
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Article 20 Areas of authority

The Congress has the following authority

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes;
- b) appointing two Members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) register an applicant club in case of refusal by the General Secretariat;

- d) electing the President and the vice-president and members of the Executive Committee;
- e) appointing the scrutineers;
- f) approving the financial statements;
- g) approving the budget;
- h) approving the President's activity report;
- i) fixing the membership subscriptions;
- j) deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;
- k) suspending or expelling a Member;
- l) dissolving PLB;
- m) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes.

Article **21** Quorum of the Congress

- ¹ Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if the absolute majority (50% +1) of the Members who are entitled to vote are represented.
- ² If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place 24 hours after the first, with the same agenda.
- ³ A quorum is not required for the second meeting unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of PLB, the election of the President and election of the vice-President and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of PLB, the expulsion of a Member of PLB or the dissolution of PLB.

Article **22** Decisions of the Congress

- ¹ Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a simple majority of the Members entitled to vote is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.

² A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands. 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.

Article **23** Elections

- ¹ Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
 - ² For a person to be elected, an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the votes recorded and valid is necessary subject to art. 37 of these Statutes.
 - ³ If there are more than two candidates for one available position, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
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Article **24** Ordinary Congress

- ¹ The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year.
 - ² The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The Members shall be notified in writing at least 30 days in advance.
 - ³ The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least 10 days before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the President's activity report, the financial report and any other relevant documents.
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Article **25** Ordinary Congress agenda

- ¹ The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. 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 20 days before the date of the Congress.
- ² The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
 - a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of PLB;
 - 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 by the General Secretariat (if applicable);
 - f) appointment of scrutineers;
 - g) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
 - h) approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
 - i) President's 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;
 - n) dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);
 - o) election of the President, vice-president and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
 - p) any further items proposed by the Members or the Executive Committee of PLB.
- ³ The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided three-quarters of the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.
- ⁴ The Congress shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

Article **26** Extraordinary Congress

- ¹ The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
- ² The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if 25% of the Members of PLB make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within two months of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the Members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves. As a last resort, the Members may request assistance from FFB.
- ³ The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least 14 days before the date of an Extraordinary Congress

⁴ 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.

⁵ The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

Article **27** Amendments to the Statutes

¹ The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes.

² Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee.

³ For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (50% +1) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.

⁴ A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if two thirds of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it

Article **28** Minutes

The General 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.

Article **29** Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members thirty days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article **30** Composition

1 The Executive Committee consists of five members:

- 1 President
- 1 Vice-President
- 3 Members

2 The President, the vice-president and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Congress. Every candidate standing for election for a position in the Executive Committee must be proposed and seconded by Members of PLB.

3 The mandate of the President, vice-president and members of the Executive Committee is for four years. They may be re-elected.

4 The members of the Executive Committee shall have already been active in football, must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence and have residency within the territory of PLB.

5 Candidatures must be sent to the general secretariat of PLB at least 20 days before the elective Congress takes place. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of PLB along with the agenda for the Congress at which the Executive Committee will be elected at least 10 days prior to the elective Congress.

6 If a position should become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of the mandate.

Article **31** Meetings

1 The Executive Committee shall meet monthly or as the Executive Committee desires.

2 The President shall convene the Extra Ordinary Executive Committee meetings. If 50% of the Executive Committee members request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 21 days

3 The President 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 general secretariat at least 14 days before the

meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the Executive Committee at least seven days before the meeting.

⁴ The General Secretary shall take part in the meetings of the Executive Committee in a consultative role.

⁵ The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.

Article **32** Powers of the Executive Committee

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 and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of PLB;
- c) shall appoint six delegates as representatives at the next congress of the FFB of the same year;
- d) shall nominate or second the candidates to stand for elections for statutory bodies of the FFB;
- e) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall attend the meetings of all the committees ex officio;
- f) shall decide the place and dates of the competitions of PLB which shall be in line with the FFB national competition and the international match calendar compiled by FIFA;
- g) shall approve regulations stipulating how PLB shall be organized internally;
- h) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- i) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of PLB provisionally until the next Congress;
- j) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of PLB or third parties.

Article **33** Decisions

- 1 The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless absolute majority of its members are present.
- 2 The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a simple majority (subject to art. 34 of the PLB Statutes) of the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- 3 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.
- 4 The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 5 The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

Article **34** Appointing of the delegates representing the PLB at the FFB Congress

The Executive Committee shall appoint six delegates representing the PLB at the congress of the FFB by a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

Article **35** Dismissal of a person or body

- 1 The Congress may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the Congress. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a person or body provisionally. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee or Congress.
- 2 The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the Members of PLB along with the agenda.
- 3 The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defence.
- 4 If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the Congress or Executive Committee shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.
- 5 The person or body dismissed (provisionally) must be relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

C. PRESIDENT

Article 36 President

- 1 The President represents PLB legally.
- 2 He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of PLB in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
 - d) relations between PLB and its Members, FFB, political bodies and other organizations.
- 3 Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
- 4 The President shall preside over the Congress and the Executive Committee.
- 5 The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
- 6 If the President is absent or unavailable, the vice-president shall deputize.
- 7 Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the internal organization regulations of PLB.

Article 37 Candidates for the office of the President

- 1 The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.
- 2 For the election of the President two-thirds of the votes recorded and valid are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, an absolute majority of the votes recorded (50% + 1) is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
- 3 Only Members of PLB may propose or second candidates for the office of President. Members shall notify the general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the presidency of PLB at least 20 days before the date of the Congress.

⁴ The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least 10 days before the date of the Congress.

⁵ If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the vice-president shall represent him until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President, if necessary.

Article **38** Representation and signature

The President represents PLB legally and is entitled to sign for PLB. The Executive Committee may set up internal organization regulations regarding the joint signature of officers, in particular, in case of the President's absence and concerning all important business of PLB.

F. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article **39** General Secretariat

The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of PLB under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the internal organizational regulations of PLB and shall fulfill the given tasks in the best manner.

Article **40** General Secretary

- ¹ The General Secretary is the chief executive of the general secretariat.
- ² He shall be appointed on the basis of an employment agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.
- ³ He shall be responsible for:
 - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
 - b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee;
 - c) organizing 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 PLB properly;
- f) the correspondence of PLB;
- g) relations with the Members, FFB, FIFA and CONCACAF;
- h) organizing the general secretariat;
- i) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat;
- j) proposing managerial staff to the President.

⁴ The General Secretary may not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of PLB.

Article **41** **Jurisdiction**

¹ PLB, its Members, Players, Officials and match and player agents will not take any dispute to Ordinary Courts unless these Statutes, FFB and FIFA regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to Ordinary Courts of law. Any disagreement shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of FFB, CONCACAF or FIFA.

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

Article **42** **Court of Arbitration for Sport**

¹ In accordance with the relevant articles of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding FIFA decision shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months, or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.

² PLB shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents with any final decision passed by a FIFA body or CAS.

Article **43** **Financial Period**

- 1 The financial period of PLB shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.
- 2 The revenue and expenses of PLB shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. PLB's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
- 3 The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of PLB with its subsidiaries as at 31 December.

Article **44** **Revenue**

The revenue of PLB arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
- b) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by PLB.

Article **45** **Expenses**

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 PLB.

Article **46** **Membership subscriptions**

- 1 Membership subscriptions are due on January 31 every year. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days after the registration by the General Secretariat or of the close of the Congress at which they are registered.
- 2 The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every year on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Article **47** **Settlement**

PLB may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

Article **48** **Levies**

PLB may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches not played at the official playing fields of the PLB.

Article **49** **Competitions**

- 1 PLB organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
 - a) Top League tournament.
 - 2 The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.
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Article **50** **Rights**

FFB and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

Article **51** **Authorization**

FFB and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorizing the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

Article **52** National and International matches and competitions

¹ The authority for organizing national matches and competitions between District Football Associations and between Clubs and/or Leagues lies solely with FFB. The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams lies solely with FIFA and/or CONCACAF. No national match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of the FFB, no international match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA and/or the relevant Confederation(s) as may be required by the pertinent regulations.

² PLB is bound to comply with the national match calendar compiled by FFB and the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article **53** Contacts

PLB shall not play matches or make sporting contacts with Clubs, Leagues, District Football Associations or other groups that are not members of PLB and FFB or with Associations that are not members of FIFA or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of FIFA.

Article **54** Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

The Executive Committee shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in the Statutes or in cases of force majeure.

Article **55** Dissolution

¹ Any decision relating to the dissolution of PLB requires a majority of two-thirds of all of the Members of PLB, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.

² If PLB is disbanded, the Congress shall decide to whom the assets shall be transferred. The recipient shall hold these assets in trust as “bonus pater familiae” until PLB is re-established.

Article **56** Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in on ... [to be completed by the League] and will come into force on.