

FUTSAL MALTA ASSOCIATION

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STATUTE

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Futsal Malta Association

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1. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Name of the Association

This Association shall be called the "Futsal Malta Association", and in this Statute and in the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Futsal Malta Association, the words or wording "FMA", "the Association", and "this Association", shall mean the Futsal Malta Association.

2. Constitution of the Futsal Malta Association

The Futsal Malta Association is a private organisation of an associative nature and is constituted of clubs playing futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board, and which conduct their affairs in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Statute and with those other relevant rules, bye-laws and regulations which the Council of the FMA may approve from time to time, as well as in accordance with the relevant rules, bye-laws and regulations of those international futsal associations or federations of which the Malta Football Association, as the mother association of FMA, may be a member as well as in accordance with the directives and decisions of the competent authorities of the Malta F.A. and of those international football associations and federations of which the Malta Football Association may be a member. Furthermore, whilst the FMA is constituted under the relative provisions of Maltese law, it is neutral in matters of politics. 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.

3. Affiliation of the Association to International Organisations

- (i) The Association shall be affiliated to, and shall observe, the rules, bye-laws, regulations, directives and decisions of the Malta Football Association, the Federation Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA) and the Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA).
- (ii) Subject to the provisions of clause (iii) hereunder, in so far as the affiliation to FIFA is concerned, the Association recognises the Court of Arbitration in Lausanne, Switzerland (CAS), as the supreme jurisdictional authority to which the Association, its Members and members thereof, its registered players may have recourse to in futsal matters as provided in the FIFA Statutes and regulations. Member Clubs and members thereof, players registered with the Association, when required by the Association and/or FIFA, shall give express confirmation to FIFA in a written declaration that they have taken note of the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes and regulations.
- (iii) In so far as the affiliation of the Association to UEFA is concerned:

- (a) The Organs of the Administration of Justice of UEFA shall have exclusive jurisdiction to deal with all disputes of a sporting nature relating to UEFA matters which arise between UEFA and the Association and/or their players and their officials as provided for in the UEFA Statutes.
- (b) The Court of Arbitration in Lausanne, Switzerland (CAS) shall have exclusive jurisdiction to deal with all civil law disputes (of a pecuniary nature) relating to UEFA matters which arise between UEFA on the one hand and the Association and/or Member Clubs of the Association, their players and their officials, on the other hand and/or between themselves as provided in the relevant articles of the UEFA Statutes.
- (c) Member Clubs, their players and their officials taking part in UEFA Competitions shall when required by the Association and/or by UEFA give express confirmation to UEFA in a written declaration that each has taken note of the relevant provisions of the UEFA Statutes which are incorporated in sub-clause (a) above.

4. Objects of the Association

The Objects of the Association are the following:

- (a) to develop, promote, control and regulate the sport of futsal in all its forms throughout the territory of the Republic of Malta in the spirit of fair play and in conformity with its own Statute, and with its other rules, bye-laws and regulations as may be in force from time to time, and with the statutes, bye-laws, rules and regulations of FIFA and UEFA, and with the Futsal Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board;
- (b) to organise competitions in futsal in all its forms and in all levels within the territory of the Republic of Malta as it may deem fit and proper, and to administer, control and exercise discipline over such competitions;
- (c) to authorise all friendly futsal matches, tournaments and competitions of all forms played within the territory of the Republic of Malta;
- (d) to manage international sporting relations connected with futsal in all its forms and to take part in international competitions as it may determine;
- (e) to foster friendly relations amongst officials and other administrators of the Association and those of its Members as well as between registered players, licensed coaches and licensed referees;
- (f) to prevent all sorts of discrimination as to politics, gender, religion or race within the Association and in its competitions as well as within its Members;
- (g) to protect the joint interests of its Members and to settle disputes between its Members and registered players;

- (h) to prevent the introduction of improper methods or practices in the game of futsal;
- (i) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship in accordance with the principles of fair play;
- (j) to own and/or administer and/or manage sports facilities and/or any other property needed to achieve its objectives;
- (k) to enter into any agreement and/or any kind of partnership with other parties for the promotion and the development of futsal both locally and abroad;
- (l) to exploit in the best possible manner the audio-visual, sound broadcasting, advertising and merchandising rights, as well as any other rights of which it is the legitimate owner, in relation to futsal matches which fall under its jurisdiction and in relation to its own property or the property which it administers;
- (m) to manage and invest the monies and the other assets of the Association in an appropriate manner as it may determine;
- (n) to borrow and raise monies as it may determine and if necessary for this purpose or for any other purpose in the interest of the Association, to hypothecate its present and future movable and immovable property;
- (o) to disseminate information about its activities; and
- (p) to consider and decide on all matters relating to the sport of futsal within its jurisdiction.

5. The Association is a non-profit making organization

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Statute and in the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, the Association is a non-profit making organisation. Thus, the Association shall not distribute any of its assets and/or dividends to its Members and any economic activity which it may carry out will be an ancillary activity for the purpose or in connection with assisting the Association to carry out its objectives and its mission in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.

6. Recognition of the Futsal Malta Association

The Futsal Malta Association shall be recognised by all its Members, by the members of the Management Committees and/or Council and/or Executive Committee of these bodies and by its registered players, coaches, licensed referees, as the only body which has the sole right to organise the sport of futsal in all its forms and to exercise control and discipline over futsal within the territory of the Republic of Malta and which has the right of sole representation of the sport of futsal both at national level and at international level, with the exception of the National Team which shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Malta Football Association. These shall also be subject to the provisions of the Statute and the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of Association as well as to the decisions and directives of the competent authorities of the Association. Furthermore, these shall be subject to the provisions of the Statutes and the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of FIFA and UEFA as well as to the directives and decisions of the competent authorities of FIFA and UEFA. Furthermore, all these shall observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship in accordance with the principles of fair play.

7. Flag and emblem

The Association shall have its own flag and emblem. These shall be in that form as the Council of the Association may from time to time determine.

8. Official languages

- (i) The official languages of the Association are Maltese and English.
- (ii) However, during General Meetings, Council Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings, as well as during the other official meetings of the Association, the Maltese language shall be used unless the Chairman of the Meeting decides that, for practical reasons, it is more convenient to use the English language when dealing with a particular matter. It will be up to the person using any other language to provide translation into the Maltese or the English languages during official Meetings.
- (iii) The official Minutes of Meetings of the Association shall be drawn up in Maltese. However, a part of the Minutes may, for practical reasons, be drawn up in English.
- (iv) Rules, bye-laws, regulations, forms, notices, circulars and letters may be drawn up either in Maltese or English.

2. MEMBERSHIP

9. Membership

Membership of the Association is open to Member clubs registered with the Malta Football Association.

10. Membership of Clubs

Membership of Clubs consists only of MFA Member Clubs which upon confirming their participation in the FMA Futsal National League, become known as FMA Member Clubs.

(a) FMA Member Clubs

- (i) FMA Member Clubs are those Clubs which participate in the National League of the Futsal Malta Association in accordance with those rules which the Council may make from time to time.
- (ii) Member Clubs in each division of the Futsal National League shall have the right to constitute in each such Division a Standing Committee to deal with those matters concerning the general interests of the Member Clubs in that Division. Such Standing Committees shall be governed by those rules which the concerned Clubs shall make. However, such rules and any amendments to such rules, are subject to the approval of the FMA Council before they are put into effect.

11. Clubs' Annual Registration & Participation Fees

- (i) The annual affiliation fee for FMA Member Clubs is one hundred and twenty euro (€120).
- (ii) The annual participation fee, which is payable in advance by not later than the first day of August in each year, shall be stipulated by the Council on an annual basis.
- (iii) A Member Club which after due notice by the General Secretary of the Association fails to pay the annual participation fee may be removed by the Council from the roll of membership. The decision of the Council shall be final and binding.

12. Attendance and voting powers at the General Meetings

At the General Meetings of the Association, attendance and voting powers of Member Clubs shall be in accordance with Part 3 of this Statute.

13. Withdrawal of Membership by Clubs

- (i) A Member Club shall not withdraw its membership without the prior consent of the Council of the Association.
- (ii) A Member Club shall be obliged to settle all outstanding obligations towards the Association due up to its withdrawal of membership.

14. Suspension and Termination of Membership of Clubs

- (i) (a) The Council may, for a good reason to the satisfaction of the Council, suspend for a period of time or terminate the membership of a Futsal Member Club.
- (b) The failure of a Member Club to pay its fines to the FMA in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Statute or the failure of a Member Club to pay to the FMA any other dues by the first day in July, shall be a good reason for the suspension or termination of membership by the Council.
- (c) In the case of a Member Club, a suspension may not be for more than two (2) years, since a longer suspension shall be deemed for all intents and purposes to be a termination of membership.
- (d) In the case of a period suspension, all the rights of a Member Club, including those of taking or continuing to take part in competitions, shall be suspended, and these shall remain suspended until the expiry or removal of the suspension.
- (e) In the case of a period suspension of a Member Club which expires either during the same season in which it was inflicted, or prior to the commencement of relative competitions in the coming season, the status of such Club shall be in accordance with its position obtained at the end of the season during which it was suspended.
- (f) In the case of a period suspension of a Member Club, if a such suspension is for a period which supersedes both the end of the season during which it is imposed and the commencement of a competition or competitions in the following season, or is for a period which supersedes the commencement of a competition or competitions in that same season, after the expiration of the suspension, the Member Club concerned, shall be able to participate only in those competitions of the Association which will start after the expiry of the suspension. However, in the case of a

suspension which expires after the commencement of a new competition, both in the case of the National League, and in the case of other competitions in which participants are divided into divisions or sections, such participation shall be in the lowest division or section, and in the case of those competitions in which participation is based on the criterion in which division or section a Club is participating in another competition, such participation shall be in accordance with the division or section in which such Club is currently participating.

- (g) The rules regarding suspension of membership of a Member Club shall be without prejudice to any suspension which may be imposed by the Council or another body of the FMA on a team of a Member Club in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the FMA. However, in the case of a suspension of a team taking part in the National League or in any other competition in which participants are divided into divisions or sections, the provisions of sub-clause (e) above regarding participation after the expiry of suspension, shall apply with regards to such team.

- (ii) If a Member Club is dissolved, its membership to the Association shall terminate at the same time.

- (iii) A Member Club shall be obliged to settle all outstanding obligations towards the Association due up to its termination of membership.

3. ORGANS & OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

15. Organs and Officers of the Association

Powers and functions within the Futsal Malta Association are distributed amongst, and are exercised by, the following Organs, Officers and other Officials of the Association as follows:

- (i) The General Meeting
- (ii) The Council
- (iii) The President
- (iv) The other Officers of the Association mentioned in rule 33 (i) of this Statute
- (v) The Executive Committee
- (vi) The Administration Board (Bureau)
- (vii) The Protests, Control and Disciplinary Board
- (viii) The Disciplinary Commissioner and his Deputies
- (ix) The Protest Board
- (x) Those Committees nominated by the Council to which the power to make decisions has been delegated.

16. General Meetings of the Association

The Association shall hold a general meeting once every year. This meeting shall be known as, “The Annual General Meeting”. The Association may hold other general meetings during the year. Any such meeting shall be known as, “An Extraordinary General Meeting”.

17. The Annual General Meeting

- (i) The Annual General Meeting shall be held between the twenty fifth (25th) day of May and the twenty fifth (25th) day of June to transact the under-mentioned business in the following order:
 - (a) verification of the composition of the Meeting and of the Council Members and First Delegates entitled to vote;
 - (b) the approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and the Minutes of any intervening Extraordinary General Meetings;
 - (c) the approval of the Report of Activities of the Association (Administrative Report) for the past year;
 - (d) the approval of the audited Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Association (Financial Report) for the past year;
 - (e) the election, every three (3) years, of the Officers of the Association mentioned in rule 33 (iii) (a) of this Statute, in the following order: The President; the Vice-President; and the Treasurer; the General Secretary;

- (f) the election of the External Auditor of the Association for the coming year;
 - (g) the consideration of any additions or alterations to the Statute of the Association that may have been submitted; and
 - (h) the discussion of any motions that may have been submitted.
- (ii) The General Secretary shall give notice of the Annual General Meeting at least six (3) weeks in advance. This notice shall include the following:
- (a) the date, time and place of the Meeting;
 - (b) the Agenda of the Meeting;
 - (c) an invitation, every three years, for the submission of nominations for the filling of the posts of Officers of the Association mentioned in rule 23 (i) of this Statute, and in the case of a vacancy in any of the posts of officers of the Association whenever required;
 - (d) an invitation for the submission of proposed additions or alterations to the Statute of the Association; and
 - (e) an invitation for the submission of motions.

18. The Composition of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be composed of the following:

- (a) the President of the Association;
- (b) the other Officers of the Association;
- (c) those Council Members that would have been duly nominated and approved in accordance with rule 32 of this Statute; and
- (d) a First Delegate from each Member Club .

19. An Extraordinary General Meeting

- (i) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened:
- (a) when such a meeting is required to be convened by the rules of the Association;
 - (b) when the President or the Council or the Executive Committee deems so fit;
 - (c) at the request of at least fifty per cent (50%) of the Member Clubs, provided that such a request contains the reason or reasons for the need to convene such a Meeting. For the purpose of this sub-clause, a Member Club which has been suspended shall not be taken into consideration. Such an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened by the President or by the Executive Committee or by the Council within three (3) weeks of the receipt of such a valid request.
- (ii) The General Secretary shall give notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting at least three (3) days in advance, except when items on the Agenda deal with the filling of a post of an Officer of the Association because a vacancy had occurred. In the latter case, the notice shall be given at least three (3) weeks in advance and the provisions laid down in rules 41 and 42 of this Statute shall, in so far as applicable, be followed.

- (iii) The notice convening an Extraordinary General Meeting shall specify the date, place and time of the meeting and the subject or subjects to be dealt with during the meeting.

- (iv) The Agenda of an Extraordinary General Meeting must always include as its first item the verification of the composition of the Meeting and of the Council Members/First Delegates entitled to vote.

20. The Composition of an Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association shall be composed of the following:

- (a) the President of the Association;
- (b) the other Officers of the Association;
- (c) the current Council Members;
- (d) the First Delegate of each Member Club.

21. Voting Powers at General Meetings

(i) *The following are entitled to vote at General Meetings:*

- (a) The President or the Chairman of the meeting shall only have a casting vote in the case of approval or otherwise of normal business of the General Meeting. However, the President, the Chairman, the Officers of the Association and the General Secretary, shall not be entitled to vote neither during the normal business of the General Meeting nor in the elections of the President, the Officers of the Association and the General Secretary.
 - (b) The Council Members.
 - (c) The First Delegate from each Member Club.
- (ii) All those entitled to vote according to sub-article (i)(a), (b) above shall be entitled to one (1) vote each whenever a vote is required.
 - (iii) Voting by proxy is not allowed.
 - (iv) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of votes unless the provisions of this Statute specify that a qualified majority is required.

22. Rules Applicable to all General Meetings

- (i) All notices required to be given in connection with a General Meeting shall be circulated to all Member Clubs and Council Members. In the case of Council Members, the notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the current Council Members.

- (ii) The quorum at General Meetings of the Association shall be fifty per cent (50%) of the Member Clubs. Suspended Members shall not be taken into account. Whenever a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the commencement of the meeting, the meeting shall take place as soon as a quorum is mastered, provided that if this does not materialise within fifteen minutes of the scheduled time of the commencement of the meeting, the meeting shall still take place whatever the number of Members present.
- (iii) No other business, except that on the Agenda of the meeting and business of a merely formal nature, may be transacted at General Meetings of the Association.
- (iv) General Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Association applicable to the General Meetings of the Association.
- (v) Elections at General Meetings shall be conducted by an Electoral Commission established in accordance with the Regulations of the Electoral Commission established by the Council and in accordance with the provisions of the same regulations.

23. The Officers of the Association, their election and term of office

- (i) The Officers of the Association are the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the General Secretary.
- (ii) (a) The Officers of the Association shall not be officials or members of the Management Committee of a Member Club, an Associated Club or a Registered Club, or officials or members of the Council or Executive Committee of another Member Association or another Affiliated Association, and shall not represent any particular club or a group of clubs or a particular Member Association or Affiliated Association.

(b) In the event that an Officer of the Association, when so elected, is an official or a member of the Management Committee of a Member Club or an official or a member of the Council or Executive Committee of another Member Association, he shall, within six days from his election as an Officer of the Association, resign such post, and shall inform in writing the General Secretaries of both the FMA and the MFA of such resignation. Furthermore, any Officer of the Association shall, within six days from the date on which he is elected to such a post, declare any interest he may have in a Member Club, Associated Club or Registered Club, a Member Association or Affiliated Association.

(c) In the case of an Officer to whom the provisions of sub-clause (b) above apply, the General Secretary of the Association shall, during the first opportunity, bring the matter to the attention of the Council.

- (d) When the Council is informed of such a matter, both in the case that the Officer concerned is an official or member of the Management Committee of a Member Club, an Associated Club or a Registered Club, or an official or member of the Council or the Executive Committee of a Member Association or an Affiliated Association, and in the case that the Officer concerned has any other interest in a Member Club, Associated Club or a Registered Club, in a Member Association or Affiliated Association, and the Council decides that such an Officer must renounce any such an interest, the Council shall establish a time-limit within which such an Officer must resign as an official or member of the Management Committee of the Member Club, Associated Club or Registered Club concerned or as an official or member of the Council or the Executive Committee of the Member Association or Affiliated Association concerned, and/or renounce any other interest in the Member Club, Associated Club, Registered Club, Member Association or Affiliated Association concerned. If the Officer fails to abide by the decision of the Council within such a time-limit, such an Officer shall be deemed to have resigned his post as an Officer of the Association. Furthermore, in case that the Council would have imposed conditions on the retaining by the Officer of any interest in a Member Club, an Associated Club, Registered Club, Member Association or Affiliated Association, the Council shall ensure that such an Officer shall continue to abide by such a decision.
- (iii) (a) The Officers of the Association are elected by the Annual General Meeting for a term of office of three (3) years, with the exception of the first Association Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer) who shall retain their respective posts for a period of three years starting from the approval date of the Association as full member association within the MFA. Otherwise, these shall hold office from the end of the Annual General Meeting during which they are elected until the end of the Annual General Meeting during which elections for the posts of Officers of the Association are due to be held again. The Officers of the Association shall be eligible for re-election.
- (b) The Officers of the Association may be remunerated for the work they perform for the Association, as the Executive Committee may determine.
- (iv) Nominations for the filling of the posts of Officers of the Association, except in the case of the General Secretary, may be made by any Member Club at least nineteen (19) days before the date scheduled for the Annual General Meeting during which elections for any such posts are due to be held.
- (v) The names of the candidates for the filling of the above-mentioned posts shall be circulated to the Member Clubs and Council Members for the coming season at least seven (7) days before the date of the General Meeting during which elections are due to be held.
- (vi) In the case that by the date of the closing of the nominations to fill an official post, no candidates are proposed to fill any such post, nominations for any such post, shall be made during the Annual General Meeting immediately prior to the election for the filling of any such post.
- (vii) In the case when the post of an Officer of the Association is filled by a Council Member, the seat of such Council Member shall become vacant at the end of that General Meeting during which such an Officer is elected and the Member Club which he represented on the Council shall be entitled to fill such vacated seat on the Council.

- (viii) FMA will be represented on the MFA Council by the President and the Vice-President. The First Delegate shall be the General Secretary.

24. Vacancies in the post of an Officer of the Association

- (i) When, during the term of office, a vacancy occurs in any of the posts of an Officer of the Association, such vacancy shall be filled by an Extraordinary General Meeting provided that less than nine (9) months would have elapsed from the date of the last Annual General Meeting, and this notwithstanding that in the election for that office there may have been other candidates. Otherwise, such post shall be filled during the next Annual General Meeting, even if at the election for that office there may have been other candidates.
- (ii) In the case that the election for the post of an Officer of the Association is to be held during an Annual General Meeting when elections are not normally due, or during an Extraordinary General Meeting, the provisions of clauses (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of rule 23 of this Statute shall apply.
- (iii) Both in the case that such an office is filled during an Annual General Meeting when elections for the Officers of the Association are not normally due, and in the case that such an office is filled during an Extraordinary General Meeting, such an Officer will hold office until the Annual General Meeting during which elections for the posts of the Officers of the Association are normally due to be held.

25. Breach of trust

- (i) An Officer of the Association shall not, without the express authorisation of the President, divulge in any manner whatsoever any information relating to the Association and/or the contents of any document of the Association which has come to his knowledge or in his possession because of his office. An Officer who breaches the provisions of clause (i) above shall be guilty of breach of trust against the Association.
- (ii) If the President deems that a breach of trust has occurred, he shall be entitled to bring before the Executive Committee a motion of no confidence in such an Officer for breach of trust.
- (iii) In case that the Executive Committee agrees with such a motion, the Executive Committee shall bring before the Council a motion of no confidence in such an Officer for breach of trust
- (iv) In case that the Council agrees with such a motion, the Officer concerned shall relinquish his office forthwith and shall not be eligible to hold any position within the Association for five years.
- (v) The Association shall have the right to claim damages against the Officer concerned as a result of such breach of trust.

26. The President

- (i) The President of the Association may not be a Member of the House of Representatives or of the European Parliament or of a Local Council. The President shall automatically vacate his seat on being elected Member to the House of Representatives or to the European Parliament or to a Local Council.
- (ii) The President has the duty to summon all those meetings which he is required to summon in accordance with the rules of the Association. The President shall preside over all such meetings and must ensure that decisions taken at such meetings are carried into effect.
- (iii) The President shall also perform those other tasks which he is required to perform in accordance with the rules of this Statute and in accordance with the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, and shall exercise authority in those areas which are not expressly assigned by this Statute to the different Organs, the other Officers or other Officials of the Association.
- (iv) In cases of urgency, where it is neither practical nor convenient to call a meeting either of the Council or the Executive Committee or the Administrative Board (Bureau), the President may, after having consulted with the Vice-President, assume the functions of the Council or the Executive Committee. However, the President shall, at the earliest opportunity, inform the Council or the Executive Committee, as the case may be, of any such decisions taken by him.
- (v) In the case of an impediment to carry out all or any of his duties, the President may delegate his powers to the Vice-President.

27. The Vice-President

- (i) The Vice-President shall carry out those duties which they are required to perform in accordance with the rules of this Statute and in accordance with the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, as well as such other duties which may be assigned to them by the President the Council the Executive Committee or the Administration Board (Bureau).

28. The Treasurer

- (i) The Treasurer shall carry out those duties which he or she is required to perform in accordance with the rules of this statute and in accordance with those other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, as well as such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the President the Council, The Executive Committee or the Administration Board (Bureau).
- (ii) It is the duty of the Treasurer to assist and collaborate in the most ample manner with the External Auditor of the Association.

- (iii) If the post of Treasurer is temporarily vacant, or if the Treasurer is unable or unwilling to perform all or any of his or her duties, the duties of Treasurer shall be carried out by one of the Assistant Treasurers or by another employee of the Association as the President the Council the Executive Committee or the Administration Board (Bureau) may determine.

29. The General Secretary

- (i) The General Secretary of the Association shall be the general administrative officer of the Association
- (ii) The General Secretary of the Association shall be responsible for the employees of the Association, and shall from time to time keep the Executive Committee informed of the performance of the employees of the Association.
- (iii) The General Secretary shall also be responsible to perform the following tasks:
 - (a) keeping the Minutes of the General Meetings of the Association and the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council the Executive Committee, the Administration Board (Bureau) and those of the other Boards and Committees of the Association, unless the Council or the Executive Committee decides otherwise;
 - (b) ensuring that the decisions of the Organs of the Association and those of the other Committees of the Association which have executive powers are put into effect;
 - (c) keeping the Council and the Executive Committee informed of the decisions and recommendations of the other Organs and other Committees of the Association which have executive powers;
 - (d) keeping a record of the Member Clubs taking part in the National Futsal League;
 - (e) registering players wishing to take part in competitions which are held under the jurisdiction of the Association and in the competitions organized by the Association and issuing the necessary documents to such players,. In performing these tasks, the General Secretary shall abide by the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association and by the rules, bye-laws and regulations of FIFA;
 - (f) overseeing the competitions of the Association and keeping the official records, including the results, and, in the case of competitions run on a league basis, the relative classification-tables;
 - (g) keeping a record of the disciplinary decisions taken by the Futsal Malta Association Disciplinary Board in respect of Futsal National League matters;

- (h) conducting the correspondence and the other business of the Association under the direction of the President, the Council, the Executive Committee and the Administration Board (Bureau);
 - (i) preparing the Administrative Report for the approval of the Annual General Meeting;
 - (j) performing all those other tasks which are required of him to perform by the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, and those other tasks which the President the Council, the Executive Committee or the Administration Board (Bureau) may assign to him.
- (iv) The General Secretary is entitled to attend all the meetings of the Association. During such meetings, the General Secretary may take part in the discussions but shall not vote.
- (v) If the post of General Secretary is temporarily vacant, or if the General Secretary is unable or unwilling to perform all or any of his duties, the duties of General Secretary shall be carried out by one of the Deputy General Secretaries or by another employee of the Association as the President, the Council, the Executive Committee or the Administration Board (Bureau) may determine.

30. The Council of the Association

The Association shall have its Council.

31. The Composition of the Council

The Council shall consist of the following:

- (a) The President and the other Officers of the Association.
- (b) One (1) representative of each FMA Member Club.
- (c) One (1) representative from the Futsal Referees Board.

32. Nomination of Council Members and commencement of term of office

- (i) After the end of each season, Member Clubs participating in the National League of the Association shall forward the names and addresses and other relevant information about the person they wish to nominate to represent them on the Council of the Association for the coming season. Such nominations must be made on the appropriate official form and must reach the General Secretary of the Association at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the scheduled date of the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) (a) All nominated persons shall be subject to the approval of the current Council at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled date of the Annual General Meeting. However, if no Council

Meeting is held for this purpose between the twenty-third (23rd) and the twenty-first (21st) day prior to the date scheduled for the Annual General Meeting, all persons nominated within the time limit mentioned in clause (ii) above, shall be deemed to have been approved unless such persons had been officially excluded to serve as Council Members or had been previously prohibited by the Association, FIFA or UEFA from taking part in active football or futsal.

- (b) The approval by the Council of a person as a member of the Council implies that such a person gives his unconditional consent to the Association to store and process the information appearing on the form required to be sent to the General Secretary of the Association for nomination of a person as Council Member in any manner in which it may deem fit and proper, that the Association may share this information with its employees, Member Clubs, and other individuals and organisations as may be deemed necessary and that the Association may continue to keep such information until such person would have informed the Association in writing of his resignation as a member of the Council, provided that on his resignation such a member would have fulfilled all his obligations towards the Association and towards the body which had nominated as a Council Member and provided that such resignation is accepted by the Council.

- (iii) Council Members, duly nominated and approved in accordance with clause (iii) above, shall commence their duties at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

- (iv) A person who has not been duly nominated and/or approved as provided in clause (iii) above, may neither fill a post within the Association, if such a post requires the qualification of a Member of the Council, nor participate in the Annual General Meeting.

- (v) In the case of a body which has a right to nominate a Council Member/s but fails to submit the required nomination as provided in clause (ii) above, and in the case of a body which requires to submit the nomination of a Council Member because a vacancy has occurred, may do so at any other time, provided that such nomination is made on the appropriate official form. Such nominated person shall be subject to the approval of the Council and shall commence his duties only after six (6) days from the approval of the Council.

33. Vacancies on the Council

- (i) A Member of the Council who fails to attend three (3) consecutive Council Meetings or three (3) Council Meetings in a period of four (4) months without a justifiable cause, may be considered by the Council to have vacated his seat as Council Member. This provision applies also to the Officers of the Association.

- (ii) Any vacancy on the Council occurring due to absence (except in the case of sickness) or resignation (except in the case of resignation due to long absence from Malta), may not be filled by the same Member before the next Annual General Meeting.

- (iii) If a vacancy occurs on the Council, except in the case of the Officers of the Association, such vacancy shall be filled by the body to which the vacated seat belongs. If the Member who gave rise to the vacancy is also a member of the Executive Committee, the body which was represented by such member shall only be entitled to fill the vacant seat on the Council.
- (iv) Vacancies on the Council which entail also a vacancy either in the post of an Officer of the Association and/or on the Executive Committee, shall be filled in accordance with rules 24 and 43 of this Statute.
- (v) A Council Member who is away from Malta for a long period of time, and such Council Member does not resign his post as Council Member, may be substituted on the Council by the body which he represents on the Council, and this for such period that such a Member is abroad, provided that the rules relative to the nomination and approval of a Council Member are observed. The Council shall decide what is considered as a long absence after a written request is made by the body concerned.

34. Observers at Council Meetings

- (j) The Director of Refereeing, the Administrator (Referees Department), the Chairman of the Referees Board, the Honorary Presidents and the Honorary Members of the Association, if these are not Council Members, have the right to attend Council Meetings as Observers.
- (ii) Observers may be allowed to speak during Council Meetings but do not have the right to vote.

35. Rights and Duties of Council Members

- (i) Approved Council Members shall hold office up to the day previous to the next Annual General Meeting of the Association unless, in the meantime, they cease to be Members of the Council.
- (ii) Council Members may not be removed by the body which had nominated them except for serious and grave reasons to the satisfaction of the Council.
- (iii) Council Members have the duty to attend all sittings of the Council and all sittings of the Boards, Committees and Commissions of the Association to which they are nominated or elected.
- (iv) Council Members shall keep the interests of the game of futsal in general first and foremost and before any other interest, and shall always carry out their duties in a correct manner and in a sporting spirit.
- (v) Council Members have the duty to report to the President or the Council all cases of misconduct which are likely to bring the Game and/or the Association into disrepute.

36. Prohibitions for Council Members

A Council Member shall not:

- (i) be an active football or futsal referee. This prohibition does not apply to the Council Member representing the recognised Football Referees Association;
- (ii) without the consent of the President or the Council communicate to the media, or otherwise discuss, comment upon, or divulge outside the Council any business transacted by the Council when a Council Meeting is held behind closed doors;

or without the permission of the President or the Council communicate to the media or otherwise discuss, comment upon, or divulge any business transacted by any Board, Committee or Commission of the Association;

or without the permission of the President or the Council or the Executive Committee contribute any articles on local futsal for publication;

37. Council Meetings

- (i) The President shall call a Council Meeting:
 - (a) at least once every four months;
 - (b) whenever he deems fit; and
 - (c) within two weeks of receiving a written request by at least two thirds of the Council Members asking him to hold such a meeting, provided that such a request includes the reason or reasons for the necessity to call such meeting.
- (ii) The General Secretary shall give notice of a Council Meeting at least five (5) days in advance. The notice shall contain the date, time and place of the meeting and the Agenda of the Meeting. This time-limit need not be followed if the President deems that the Council Meeting is an urgent one.
- (iii) For the purpose of transacting business at a Council Meeting, ten (10) Members, excluding the President and the General Secretary, shall form a quorum. The meeting may however be held fifteen (15) minutes after the time fixed for the meeting if by that time at least eight (8) members, excluding the President and the General Secretary, are present.
- (iv) Council Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Agenda and in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Association applicable to Council Meetings.

38. Voting Powers at Council Meetings

- (i) The Members of the Council, including the Officers of the Association, except the Chairman of the Meeting and the General Secretary, shall have one vote each. The Chairman has only a casting vote. However, the Officers of the Association shall not vote in the case of an election of a member of the Executive Committee when such an election is held in accordance with rule 53 of this Statute.
- (ii) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of votes unless the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association require a qualified majority.
- (iii) Voting by proxy is prohibited.

39. Functions and Powers of the Council

- (i) The Council shall, as soon as possible after the Annual General Meeting of the Association, appoint all the officials in accordance with the provisions of this Statute and in accordance with the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association and shall constitute those Boards and Committees which are required to be constituted in accordance with the provisions of this Statute and in accordance with the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association. The Council may, at the same time, appoint Deputy General Secretaries, Assistant Treasurers, a Public Relations Officer and/or a Media Officer and a Security Officer as required. The persons so nominated need not be Council Members. If the persons nominated to fill such posts are not Council Members, they shall have the right to attend Council Meetings as Observers.
- (ii)
 - (a) The Council may also appoint such other Committees and Commissions as it may deem necessary. Such Committees and Commissions shall be given their terms of reference.
 - (b) Such Committees and Commissions may be composed of persons who are not members of the Council.
 - (c) A Committee or a Commission nominated by the Council may be either of a consultative nature or otherwise depending on the terms of reference. Unless stated otherwise in the terms of reference, such Committees and Commissions shall be of a consultative nature.
 - (d) A Committee or Commission nominated by the Council, unless otherwise stated in the terms of reference, shall report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Council.
- (iii)
 - (a) Members of Boards, Committees and Commissions, except a member of the Independent Arbitration Tribunal established by this Statute, whether appointed as required by this Statute or in accordance with the other rules and regulations of the Association or at the will of the Council

shall, when they have an interest in a matter, even an indirect one, declare their interest, and the Chairman of the Tribunal, Committee or Commission shall exempt such member from taking part in the discussion on the matter.

- (b) The acceptance by any person to hold a position within the Association, except such a person who may act as the Chairman or a member of the Independent Arbitration Tribunal established in this Statute, implies that such person is subject to the jurisdiction and to all the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association and of those other international organisations of which the Association may be a member. Furthermore, such acceptance implies that any such person, including a person who may act as the Chairman or a member of the Arbitration Tribunal established in this Statute gives his unconditional consent to the Association to store and process the information required by the Association about him in any manner in which it may deem fit and proper, that the Association may share this information with its employees, Member Clubs and other individuals and organisations as may be deemed necessary and that the Association may continue to keep such information until any such person informs the Association in writing of his resignation as a member of a Board, Committee or Commission, provided that on his resignation such a member would have fulfilled all his obligations towards the Association and provided that such resignation is accepted by the Council.
- (iv) The Council may appoint a Patron of the Association and may bestow the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member on deserving persons.
- (v)
 - (a) The Council may, from time to time, approve new rules, bye-laws and regulations or alter existing rules, bye-laws and regulations for the management of Futsal Member Clubs, and may approve new rules, bye-laws and regulations or alter existing rules, bye-laws and regulations to control the game of futsal within the Republic of Malta. These rules, bye-laws and regulations and amendments thereto, shall be within the limits of the provisions of this Statute.
 - (b) Additions and/or alterations to the Competition Rules or to the particular rules of competitions made after the first Monday in June shall not come into force at least until the end of the coming or current futsal season, as the case may be, during which they are approved. This rule need not be followed if the General Meeting of the Association, with at least two-thirds (2/3) majority, decides otherwise.
 - (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clauses (a) & (b) above, in the case of existing competitions, rules which may in any way effect promotion and/or relegation issues shall not come into force at least until the commencement of the second futsal season following the coming or current futsal season, as the case may be, during which they are approved. This rule need not be followed if the General Meeting of the Association, with at least two-thirds (2/3) majority, decides otherwise.
- (v) A copy of such additions or alterations shall be forwarded within two weeks to all Futsal Member Clubs, for their information.

- (vi) The Council is empowered to call upon any Futsal Member Club, and any player, coach, referee to produce any books, letters or other documents and other evidence that the Council may require. Furthermore, the Council is empowered to ask any person giving evidence, even if such evidence is tendered on behalf of a Futsal Member Club to confirm his statement on oath or by means of a Solemn Declaration.
- (vii) The Council is empowered to suspend the game of futsal either partially or entirely and to extend the periods of play even if these had already been decided upon. Any agreements between Futsal Member Clubs and players shall be subject to such decisions.
- (viii) Resolutions and decisions of the Council shall be binding upon all Member Clubs until they are rescinded or varied by the Council.
- (ix) All determinations and decisions arrived at and resolutions passed, by the Council shall be final and binding, provided that such are not in conflict with any of the rules of the Association.
- (x) In the case of decisions of the Council, it shall be in the discretion of the Council to reopen for consideration a case which had not been appealed to a higher authority provided that:
 - (a) the request is made by the interested party; and
 - (b) the request is received within five (5) days from the date that the decision of the Council had been notified to the interested party; and
 - (c) the request is based upon new fresh evidence which the Council was not aware of at the time of the decision, provided that this lack of awareness was not due to the fault of the interested party.
- (xi) Nobody may appeal to a higher level against a decision of the Council unless permission to do so has been obtained beforehand from the Council.
- (xii) The Council may delegate all or any of its powers as it may be deemed fit and necessary.
- (xiii) The Council shall have the power to annul any decision taken by an official, Board or Committee of the Association, except a decision of the Independent Arbitration Tribunal established in this Statute, if it results that such decision was taken in blatant breach of the rules, regulations and bye-laws of the Association or in blatant breach of the decisions or directives of a competent body of the Association. In such instance the Council shall refer back the case regarding which a decision is annulled to the official or body which had taken such decision to reconsider properly the case in accordance with the rules, regulations, bye-laws, decisions and directives of the Association.

- (xiv) The Council shall have the power to deal with any question relating to futsal and to take the necessary decisions even if the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association and FIFA are silent on the matter. In this case, the Council shall base its decisions on justice and righteousness.

40. The Executive Committee

The Association shall have its Executive Committee.

41. The composition of the Executive Committee, elections and term of office of ordinary members

- (i) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President of the Association, the other Officers of the Association, and of a number of ordinary members to be elected at each Annual General Meeting of the Association, from amongst the current Council Members who are not Officers of the Association, as follows:
 - (a) Each Division of the National League of the Association, shall be represented in the Executive Committee by one (1) member of its Standing Committee Members as recognised by the Bureau of the FMA.
- (ii) The ordinary members of the Executive Committee are elected for a period of one year and shall hold office from the end of the Annual General Meeting during which they are elected until the day previous to the day of the Annual General Meeting. These shall be eligible for re-election.

42. Nomination of candidates for the filling of the ordinary seats on the Executive Committee

- (i) Nominations for the ordinary seats on the Executive Committee shall be made by the Division Standing Committees at least seven (7) days before the scheduled date of the Annual General Meeting, from amongst persons who have been duly approved as Council Members for the coming season.

43. Vacancies on the Executive Committee during the Term of Office

- (i) Any Member of the Executive Committee failing to attend three (3) consecutive Executive Committee meetings or three (3) Executive Committee meetings in a period of two (2) months without a justifiable cause may be considered by the Council to have vacated his seat as an Executive Committee Member.
- (ii) In the case of a vacancy in the post of an Officer of the Association during the term of office, except in the case of the General Secretary, such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with rule 24 of this Statute.

- (iii) In the case of a vacancy in one of the ordinary seats on the Executive Committee during the term of office, such vacancy shall be filled by the Division Standing Committee/s at the earliest opportunity from amongst Council Members eligible to fill such vacancy.

44. Executive Committee Meetings

- (i) The President shall call a Meeting of the Executive Committee:
 - (a) at least once every two (2) months;
 - (b) whenever he deems fit; and
 - (c) within a week, in case that at least six (6) members, submit a written request to him for holding of such a meeting, provided that such request includes the reason or reasons for convening such a meeting.
- (ii) The General Secretary shall give notice of a meeting of the Executive Committee at least three (3) days in advance. The notice shall contain the date, time and place of the meeting and the Agenda of the meeting. This time-limit need not be followed if the President deems the meeting to be an urgent one.
- (iii) The quorum of a meeting of the Executive Committee is three (3) Members, excluding the Chairman and the General Secretary.
- (iv) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the Agenda of the meeting and in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Association applicable to Meetings of the Executive Committee.

45. Voting Powers at Executive Committee Meetings

- (i) Each member of the Executive Committee, except the Chairman of the Meeting and the General Secretary, have one vote each. The Chairman of the Meeting has only a casting vote.
- (ii) Voting by proxy is prohibited.
- (iii) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of votes.

46. Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee

- (i) The Executive Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

- (a) to deal with all such matters as are within its powers to deal with in accordance with the provisions of this Statute and in accordance with the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association;
 - (b) to appoint and discharge the employees of the Association;
 - (c) to control and manage all the competitions of the Association;
 - (d) to take all necessary disciplinary action against any Futsal Member Club or against any other person subject to the jurisdiction of the Association for any violation of any of the rules, bye-laws or regulations of the Association or of the Futsal Laws of the Game provided that such powers are not vested in any other body of the Association or in case that such other body of the Association vested with disciplinary powers is for any reason whatsoever unable to take cognizance of a case within reasonable time;
 - (e) to approve the annual budget of the Association;
 - (f) to approve the forms required by this Statute and the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association;
 - (g) to discuss and propose new rules, bye-laws and regulations and alterations to existing rules, bye-laws and regulations for the approval of the Council and/or General Meeting of the Association;
 - (h) to discuss the policies of the Association and make proposals for the approval of the Council and/or the General Meeting of the Association; and
 - (i) to deal with all such matters as may be submitted to it by the President. These shall include all those matters which fall under the competence of the Council but which have to be dealt with expediently and the President deems that it is neither practical nor convenient to call a Council Meeting. In any such case, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Council at the earliest opportunity.
- (ii)
- (a) Committees and Commissions nominated by the Council, if the Council had so decided, shall report their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Committee.
 - (b) If the Executive Committee agrees with the conclusions or recommendations submitted to it, these shall be carried into effect. In case that the Executive Committee does not agree with any of the findings, conclusions or recommendations, it shall refer back the matter to the Committee or Commission for its reconsideration. If the matter is referred for the second time to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee again does not agree with the findings, conclusions or recommendations, it shall refer the matter to the Council.

47. Breach of trust by ordinary members of the Executive Committee

- (i) An ordinary member of the Executive Committee shall not, without the express authorisation of the President or the Executive Committee, divulge in any manner whatsoever any information relating to the Association and/or the contents of any document of the Association which has come to his knowledge or in his possession because of his office.
- (ii) A member who breaches the provision of sub-clause (a) above shall be guilty of breach of trust against the Association.
- (iii) If the President deems that a breach of trust has occurred, he shall be entitled to bring before the Executive Committee a motion of no confidence in such a member for breach of trust.
- (iv) In case that the Executive Committee agrees with such a motion, the Executive Committee shall bring before the Council a motion of no confidence in such a member for breach of trust.
- (v) In case that the Council agrees with such a motion, the member concerned shall relinquish his office forthwith and shall not be eligible to hold any position within the Association for three years.
- (vi) The Association shall have the right to claim damages against the member concerned as a result of such breach of trust.

48. The Administration Board (Bureau)

- (i) The Administration Board (Bureau) shall consist of the Officers of the Association.
- (ii) The Bureau shall be competent to deal with all such matters as may be submitted to it by the President or the Executive Committee.
- (iii) The Bureau shall also be competent to deal with those matters which fall under the competence of the Council or the Executive Committee but which need to be dealt with urgently and the President deems that it is neither practical nor convenient to call either a meeting of the Council or of the Executive Committee. In any such case, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Council or the Executive Committee, as the case may be, at the earliest opportunity.
- (iv) The members of the Bureau, including the Chairman of the meeting, have one vote each. The Chairman also has a casting vote.

(v) Decisions are taken by a simple majority of votes.

(vi) The Bureau shall establish its own procedure.

49. Division Standing Committees recognized by the Association

Standing Committees of each Division of the National League of the Association shall only be recognized by the Association only if the committees are constituted in the following manner:

The Standing Committee shall be constituted by a President, Secretary and a minimum of four (4) other ordinary members selected from the pool of council members representing the Futsal Member Clubs participating in their respective Division elect from amongst its members.

49A. The Protests Board

(1) (i) (a) The Association shall have a Protests Board, hereinafter referred to as "the Board", which shall be competent to determine a protest lodged by an FMA Member Club which had taken part in a competitive match organised by the Association and, subject to the provisions of sub-clause (i) (c) hereunder, the Club requests either that the match in question be replayed or that the match in question is declared to have been won by the Club submitting the protest. However, a match which for any reason whatsoever was not played or which had been abandoned before the expiry of the time established in the Competition Rules of the Association shall not fall under the jurisdiction of the Board.

(b) Furthermore, the Board shall be the only competent authority entitled to hear and determine protests that are based on a claim that a technical error had occurred during a competitive match organized by the FMA.

(c) For the purpose of this Rule, a technical error is deemed to be one that constitutes a serious breach of the Laws of the Game and which may have had a determining influence on the outcome of the match played. Furthermore, in the case of a protest relating to the occurrence of a technical error, the request shall be that the match in question be replayed.

(ii) (a) The Board shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and three (3) other members. However, in the case that the protest is based on a claim that a technical error had occurred, at least two (2) of the members of the Board must be current members of the Referees Board of the Malta Football Association.

(b) There shall be also a Panel of Substitutes consisting of five (5) members who shall substitute any members of the Board that for any reason whatsoever are unable to take cognisance of a case. At least three (3) of these members shall be from amongst the current members of the Referees Board of the Malta Football Association.

(c) The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the three other Members of the Board, as well as the Panel of Substitutes shall be nominated by the Council as soon as practicable after the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

- (d) The President of the Association shall fill any vacancies on the Board to hear and determine a case in the event that for any reason whatsoever the Board is unable to muster a quorum for a particular case.
- (e) The members of the Board hearing a protest shall have no connection whatsoever with the FMA Member Club/team involved in the protest and/or any interest in the outcome of the protest.
- (f) In case that both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman are unable to attend a sitting of the Board, the members present shall elect a Chairman from amongst themselves.
- (g) (i) Each party to the protest shall have the right to object once against a member of the Board. Such objection must be for a valid cause and the decision to uphold or reject the objection is decided upon by the Board provided that:

The fact that a member of the Board had been the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman or a member of the Board when a decision on a protest based on the same or similar facts and/or on the same rules on which the present protest is based was taken, shall not qualify as a valid cause for upholding an objection against a member of the Board.

- (ii) Any objection against any member of the Board shall be considered and decided upon at the beginning of the sitting and before anything else is decided with regards to the protest. Such decision shall not be subject to appeal and shall be final and binding.
- (iii) In the case that an objection against a member of the Board is accepted, even where the member objected to is the Chairman, the Chairman of the Board shall substitute the member objected to by another member from the Panel of Substitutes.

- (h) In order that the Board may consider an objection against a member of the Board or against a member in the Panel of Substitutes, as envisaged in sub-clause (g) above, the objection must have been made, in the case of the protesting party by means of a letter to be filed together with the protest, and in the case of the party against whom the protest is made, by means of a letter to be filed with the Secretariat of the Association by not later than the day previous to the day fixed for the hearing of the protest.
- (i) The quorum of the Board shall be three (3) members, including the Chairman. The Chairman has both an original vote and a casting vote. However, in the case that the protest is based on a claim that a technical error had occurred, at least one (1) of the members present must be current members of the Referees Board of the Association.
- (j) The Board shall be assisted by the General Secretary of the Association or by another person nominated by the Council to act as a Secretary to the Board. No party to the protest may object to the General Secretary or the Secretary of the Board. The General Secretary or the Secretary to the Board, as the case may be, may take part in discussions, but may not vote.

- 2. (i) A protest made by a Club shall be null and void unless the protest:
 - (a) is made in writing and contains the facts and the relevant rules and/or regulations upon which it is founded; and

- (b) is filed with the Secretariat of the Association in duplicate copies, both of which shall be signed by the President or Secretary or Treasurer of the Club/Team or any of their respective assistants; and
 - (c) is filed within two (2) working days from the date on which the relative match was played if the next match in the same competition of the teams involved in the relative match is scheduled to be played five days or more after the relative match or within twenty four (24) hours after the end of the relative match if the next match in the same competition of any of the teams taking part in the relative match, had been prior to the taking place of the relative match, scheduled to be played on a date which is more than one (1) day but less than five (5) days after the date of the relative match; and
 - (d) is accompanied by a deposit in the amount of one hundred and fifty euro (€150) in the case of a protest made by a Member Club in connection with a match played in any competitive match organized by the Association.
 - (ii) The nullity of a protest for failure on the part of the protestant to comply with any of the conditions mentioned in sub-clause (i) above shall be decided by the Chairman of the Board, or if he is unable to take cognisance of the protest, by the Deputy Chairman of the Board, sitting alone and without inviting any of the parties to a hearing. In this case, the decision shall be given "in camera". In this case also, the Chairman shall decide with regards as to whether the deposit, if made, shall be forfeited or refunded.
3. (i) Upon the receipt of a protest, the General Secretary shall immediately send a copy of such protest to the Chairman of the Board, or if he is unable to take cognisance of the case, to the Deputy Chairman of the Board, and another copy to the FMA Member Club/Team involved in the match about which the protest has been made.
- (ii)
 - (a) The Chairman, or if he is unable, the Deputy Chairman, or if he is unable, the General Secretary, shall as soon as possible after the filing of the protest, fix a sitting of the Board for the hearing and determination of the protest unless the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman, as the case may be, decides that the protest is invalid for failure by the protestant to comply with any of the conditions mentioned in sub-clause (i) of clause 2 above.
 - (b) The date shall not be earlier than two (2) days after the filing of the protest, but as early as possible after such a date. However, in the case of a protest which has to be filed within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the match, then the date of the hearing of the protest shall be as early as possible. In all cases, consideration shall be given to the exigencies of the competitions of the Association.
 - (c) The date, time and place of the hearing shall be notified to the other Members of the Board and to the parties involved in the match about which the protest has been made at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time fixed for the hearing.
 - (d) Furthermore, the Secretariat of the Association shall, by means of a notice to be appended to the Notice Board at the official residence of the Association, give information about the subject matter of the protest and about the date, time and venue fixed for the hearing of the protest.

- (e) The time limits mentioned in this clause may be waived if the parties involved in the protest give their assent.
- 4. (i) (a) The Board is empowered to regulate its own procedure and is empowered to hear not only that evidence which is produced by the parties involved in the protest, but also other evidence which it may deem relevant. For this purpose, the Board shall have the same powers as the Council.
 - (b) The parties involved in the protest shall take care to produce all the evidence at the sitting fixed for the hearing of the protest. The Board may allow postponements for the hearing of evidence or the production of documents only in exceptional circumstances and provided that such a postponement would not interfere with the regular running of the competitions of the Association.
- (ii) (a) Any other FMA Member Club/Team which deems that it may be prejudiced by the outcome of a protest, shall be entitled to ask the Board to allow it to be present at the hearing, to produce evidence and/or documents and to make submissions as to why the protest should not be upheld and to explain the extent of the prejudice it will suffer if the protest is upheld.
 - (b) Such request shall be made by means of a written application to be signed by the President or Secretary or Treasurer of such FMA Member Club/Team or by any of their respective assistants. The application shall contain an explanation about the alleged prejudice and shall be filed with the Secretariat of the Association accompanied by a deposit of one hundred and fifty euros (€150) by not later than the time fixed for the hearing of the protest.
 - (c) In case that the Board disallows the request, the Board shall decide whether to order the refund or forfeiture in full or in part of the deposit. In case that the Board allows the application, the deposit shall be refunded partially, up to one hundred and twenty five euros (€125).
 - (d) The Board shall decide whether to allow such request before starting to hear evidence and submissions on the merits of the protest. Also in this regard the Board is empowered to regulate its own procedure. Any decision of the Board in this regard and as regards the refund or forfeiture of the deposit in full or in part shall be not be subject to appeal and shall be final and binding.
 - (e) In case that the Board allows such request, the FMA Member Club/Team shall be allowed to produce evidence and/or produce documents as well as to make submissions both with regards to the merits of the protest and with regards to the extent of the prejudice it will be suffering if the protest is upheld.
- (iii) The Chairman shall ensure that all the parties involved in a protest are given a fair hearing.
- (iv) (a) Council Members have the right to attend as observers all the sittings of the Board up to the closing of the case by the parties.
 - (b) The Chairman may, in his discretion, allow anybody else, including the media to attend as observers or exclude them from a sitting.

- (c) Observers shall not be allowed to speak.
- (v)
 - (a) The Board shall deliberate on the case and give its decision "in camera" as soon as possible after the closing of the case by the parties to the protest, but not later than seventy-two (72) hours. The decision shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Chairman.
 - (b) In the case of a protest which is based on a claim that a technical error had occurred, the Board shall only accept the protest if it is satisfied that such a technical error had occurred and that such technical error is deemed to have constituted a serious breach of the Laws of the Game which may have had a determining influence on the outcome of the match played. If the Board accepts such protest, the Board shall order that the match be replayed.
 - (c) The deposit made with the protest shall be refunded partially, up to the amount of one hundred and twenty five (€125) if the protest is upheld. The deposit shall be refunded or forfeited in whole or in part at the discretion of the Board if the protest is not upheld.
 - (d) The deposit made by an interested third party Club shall be refunded if the Board deems that such party was correct in intervening. Such deposit shall be refunded , up to the amount of one hundred and twenty five (€125) , or forfeited in whole or in part at the discretion of the Board if the Board deems that such party was not correct in intervening.
- (vi)
 - (a) In the case of protest made by a FMA Member Club, irrespective whether the Board upholds the protest or not, if it emerges that any Club involved in the protest had committed an irregularity in connection with the relative match, the Board shall further deal with the offending Club/s in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Competition Rules and the other rules and regulations of the Association, even if the Club/s concerned had not been formally charged with having committed such irregularity.
 - (b) In the case that disciplinary measures are meted out, these shall form an integral part of the decision of the Board.
 - (c) If, in the opinion of the Board, the favourable outcome of a protest to the protesting Club may damage the interest of a third party Club, for the purpose of punishment in accordance with sub-clause (a) above, such an outcome would be deemed to be an aggravating circumstance against the Member Club which loses the protest unless the Board deems that the irregularity committed was due to a genuine mistake or through an oversight.
 - (d) Furthermore, if in the opinion of the Board, any Committee Member or any other person performing an official duty on behalf of a Member Club, any player or any other person subject to the jurisdiction of the Association may be found guilty of having committed an irregularity, the Board shall refer the matter to the Council for any further action it may deem fit to take. However, failure on the part of the Board to make any such reference, shall not prevent the Council from taking further action.
 - (e) If in the opinion of the Board a frivolous or irresponsible protest has been lodged, besides the automatic forfeiture of the deposit in favour of the Association, the Board shall also impose a fine not exceeding five hundred euro (€500) on the Club which had filed such a frivolous or irresponsible protest.
 - (f) The General Secretary shall, by not later than one (1) working day after the Board gives its decision, send by post a copy of such decision to the parties involved in the protest. The

General Secretary shall also inform the Council of any recommendations that the Board feels that it should make to the Council. The General Secretary may also send a copy of such decision or an extract of such decision to the media.

5. No appeal shall lie from any decision of the Board. All the decisions of the Board are final and binding on all parties concerned.
6. In those cases where the General Secretary deems that the decision of the Board is of exceptional importance, he shall send a copy of the decision of the Board to all the Member Clubs and to the Secretariat of the MFA.

4. THE ACCOUNTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

50. The revenue of the Association

The revenue of the Association shall consist of the annual affiliation and participation fees of Member Clubs, as well as any other revenue arising by way of levies on competitions which it organises, ticket sales, the exploitation of audio-visual, broadcasting, advertising and merchandising rights, as well as any other income and contributions to which it may be entitled.

51. Budget, Accounts, Financial Year and Closing of Accounts

- (i) A budget of income and expenditure shall be prepared for each financial year by the Treasurer of the Association. This shall be approved by the Executive Committee before the end of the current financial year. Supplementary and/or extraordinary expenditure not included in the budget shall be authorised by the Executive Committee by way of supplementary credits.
- (ii) Books of Accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Association shall ensure that true accounts are kept of all the receipts and payments of the Association.
- (iii) The Association's financial year shall begin on the 1st June and shall end on the 31st May in the following year.
- (iv) The accounts of the Association shall be closed annually.

52. Financial Regulations

The Council may from time to time approve those financial regulations which it may deem fit.

53. External Auditing of the Finances of the Association

- (i) The auditing of the finances of the Association shall be made by a Certified Public Accountant and Auditor or by a company of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors. Such person or company shall be known as the "External Auditor of the Association".
- (ii) The External Auditor of the Association is independent of the Association and shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting for a period of one year on the proposal of the Executive Committee. The External Auditor of the Association shall be eligible for re-election.
- (iii) The External Auditor of the Association shall audit the accounts of the Association and shall submit his written report to the Annual General Meeting.

54. Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet to be sent to the Members

- (i) The Treasurer shall ensure that a printed abstract of the audited accounts is sent to all Member Clubs and Council Members for the coming season at least seven (7) days before the date scheduled for the Annual General Meeting. Council Members shall be given the right to request any pertinent information if this is in the general interest of the Association.

- (ii) The Treasurer shall present the audited accounts and balance sheet of the Association at the Annual General Meeting for the approval of the Members of the Association.

5. PLAYERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

55. Players to observe the rules

Players are only allowed to take part in futsal matches under the jurisdiction of the Association and/or FIFA and/or UEFA on condition that they observe the rules, bye-laws, regulations and decisions of the Association, FIFA and UEFA and on condition that they observe the Futsal Laws of the Game.

56. Registration of players with the Malta Football Association

- (i) (a) Previous to the time or at the same time when a person desires to register for the first time as a player either with a Futsal Member Club or with a Club/Team of a Member Association, such person must apply to the MFA to register as a player with the MFA.
- (b) Any person may make such an application provided such person is at least sixteen years old.
- (c) However, a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years (a minor) shall not be allowed to register unless he is a Maltese citizen. If he is not a Maltese citizen, he may be allowed to register if his family is permanently resident in Malta or if he is following a full-time course at an educational institution in Malta or if rules and regulations of FIFA permit such registration.

Any question or problem regarding this rule shall be decided by the Executive Committee after a request is made by the person desiring to register as a player with the MFA.

In any case, the Executive Committee shall abide by the rules and regulations and directives of FIFA.

- (ii) Such an application shall be made on the appropriate form established by the Executive Committee and must be accompanied by such other documents and other requirements as the Council may determine.
- (iii) (a) When the MFA receives such an application, duly filled in and accompanied by the necessary documents and other requirements, the General Secretary shall furnish such person with a document attesting the registration of such person as a player with the MFA provided no valid impediment exists with regards to such registration.
 - (a) The format and contents of this document shall be those determined by the Executive Committee.
- (iv) The registration of player with the MFA shall imply that such person shall be subject to the jurisdiction and to all the rules and regulations of the MFA and of those national and international organisations of

which the MFA may be a member. Furthermore, such registration implies that such a person gives his unconditional consent to the MFA to store and process the information appearing on the registration form in any manner in which it may deem fit and proper, that the Association may share this information with its employees, Member Clubs, Registered Clubs, Affiliated Clubs, Member Associations and Affiliated Associations as well as with other individuals and organisations as may be deemed necessary and that the MFA may continue to keep such information until such player informs it in writing of his resignation as a player, provided that on his resignation such player would have fulfilled all his obligations towards the MFA as its registered player.

57. Registration of players with Futsal Member Clubs

- (i) Any person who has complied with the provisions of rule 56 of this Statute may then register as a player with a Futsal Member Club provided that the other rules of the FMA allow such a registration and such other rules are observed.

- (ii) (a) Registration forms of players wishing to join a Futsal Member Club shall apply to all players. (FMA Form R)

- (b) The format and contents of registration form are established by the Executive Committee.

- (iii) The registration of a player with a Futsal Member Club implies that such a player gives his unconditional consent to the FMA and to such Member Club to store and process the information appearing on the registration form in any manner in which these may deem fit and proper, that the Association and such Member Club may share this information with their employees, other Member Clubs and Member Associations as well as with other individuals and organisations as may be deemed necessary, including but not limited to commercial partners, and that both the FMA and such Member Club may continue to keep such information until such player informs the FMA in writing of his resignation as a player, provided that on his resignation such player would have fulfilled all his obligations towards the FMA and towards his Club as a registered player.

58. Players not born in Malta

In order that a player who was not born within the Republic of Malta may be eligible to play for a Member Club in any of the competitions of the Association or of UEFA, he must have been duly registered with the Association in accordance with rule 56 of this Statute and with a Club in accordance with rule 57 of this Statute and must satisfy all the criteria established in the rules and regulations of the Association and the rules and regulations of FIFA, in so far as the competitions of the Association are concerned, and the regulations of UEFA in so far as the UEFA competitions are concerned.

59. Players selected to play in matches and/or training organised by the Association

- (i) Any player under the jurisdiction of the Association who is selected to play in a match and/or to take part in training organised by the Association and who without a good and sufficient cause to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee fails to attend and take part in such a match or in such training shall be adjudged by the Association to be guilty of misconduct. Similarly, any Club or official who is deemed to have encouraged or instigated such a player to commit such misconduct shall be guilty of an offence.
- (ii) The Council may in its discretion make those regulations governing the selection of players for matches and/or training organised by the Association and for the discipline of such players and of other persons falling under the jurisdiction of the Association.

60. Players of suspended or disbanded Member Clubs

- (i) In the case of a suspended Member Club, if the suspension does not extend beyond the end of the season during which the suspension is inflicted, the players of such Club shall remain registered with such Club. Otherwise, the provisions of clause (ii) hereunder shall apply.
- (ii) In the event that a Member Club is disbanded either voluntarily or by a decision of the Association which is final and binding, the players registered with such Club may not register and play for any other Club.

61. Players removed by the Association

A player who has been removed from the Association shall not be eligible for membership with a Futsal Member Club. Moreover such a player may not take part in any manner whatsoever in any activity connected with futsal held under the jurisdiction of the Association.

6. FUTSAL MEMBER CLUBS

62. Council Members/Delegates of Futsal Member Clubs

- (i) (a) A Futsal Member Club shall appoint a Council Member and a First Delegate to represent it at Meetings organized by the Association as per Part III of this Statute.
- (b) Such appointments imply that the appointed persons shall be subject to jurisdiction and to all the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association and of those other international organisations of which the Association may be a member. Furthermore, such appointments imply that each such person gives his unconditional consent to the Association and to his Member Club to store and process the information appearing on the form in any manner in which these may deem fit and proper, that the Association may share this information with its employees, Member Clubs as well as with other individuals as may be deemed necessary and that the Association and the Member Club concerned may continue to keep such information until such person informs the Association in writing of his resignation as his Member Club's delegate, provided that on his resignation such person would have fulfilled all his obligations towards the Association and his Club as its delegate.
- (ii) Such appointments are to be made on the appropriate official form to be established by the Council. The appropriate official form must reach the General Secretary of the Association at least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (iii) On no account shall a person be admitted to act as a Delegate at a General Meeting of the Association unless he has received the approval of the Council at least twelve (12) days prior to the General Meeting. However, if no Council Meeting is held for this purpose between the fourteenth (14th) and the twelfth (12th) day prior to the Annual General Meeting, all persons nominated within the time limit in clause (ii) above would be deemed to have been approved unless such persons had been officially excluded to serve as delegates or were prohibited by the Association, FIFA or UEFA from taking part in active football or futsal.
- (v) The delegate shall be considered vested with full powers.
- (vii) After having been approved by the Council, these appointments may not be changed except on serious and grave grounds to the satisfaction of the Council.

63. Copy of the FMA rules and the Futsal Laws of the Game to be kept by Futsal Member Clubs

An updated copy of the FMA Statute and an updated copy of the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the FMA, as well as an updated copy of the Futsal Laws of the Game must be kept by Member Clubs for use by their members, players and coaches.

64. Futsal Member Club's participation at international level

Futsal Member Clubs shall not invite any foreign team to play a match or matches within the territory of the Republic of Malta or play against a foreign team within the Republic of Malta without the prior authorization of the Executive Committee of the Association. Member Clubs shall not play abroad without the prior authorization of the Executive Committee of the Association.

65. Futsal Member Clubs not to play against suspended or unrecognised clubs or teams

A Futsal Member Club shall not play against a club or a team which had been suspended by the Association or against a club or a team which is not recognised by this Association.

66. Observation of the rules by Futsal Member Clubs and their Members

A Futsal Member Club is responsible towards the Association for the action of its players, officials and supporters and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent these from disrupting matches and from threatening or assaulting Council Members, officials and players during or at the conclusion of matches, as well as all functions of the Council wherever and whenever held.

67. Irregularities regarding the registration of players

- (i) Futsal Member Clubs shall bring to the attention of the Council or the General Secretary of the Association any irregularities in the registration of the players registered with this Association immediately they become aware of them. If a Member Club was in a position to be aware of such irregularities, such Member Club shall be deemed to have been aware of such irregularities.
- (ii) Failure on the part of a Member Club to abide by the provisions of this rule may be punished with removal from the Association.

7. LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS

68. Leagues and other Competitions of the Association

- (j) The Council shall decide which leagues and competitions shall be organised by the Association. These shall be organised during the playing season as decided by the Council.

- (ii) The Executive Committee shall decide on the calendar of domestic competitions and on the draws of these competitions.

- (iii) In the drawing of the calendar of domestic competitions during the playing season the Executive Committee shall abide by the International Match Calendar as approved by the FIFA Executive Committee.

69. The Playing Season

The futsal season commences on the ninth (9th) day of June in one year and ends on the eight (8th) day of June of the following year. However, in the case of appointments required to be made in accordance with the provisions of this Statute, or by the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association, the futsal season shall be deemed to start on the day of the first Council Meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall be deemed to come to an end on the day prior to the day of the first Council Meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Association in the following season.

70. Futsal matches or competitions

- (i) Member Clubs and their players shall not take part in any official futsal match or competition which is not approved by the Futsal Malta Association. Member Clubs seeking to organise Official friendlies and tournaments will need prior permission from the FMA Executive.

- (ii) The playing of matches arranged by private individuals for their own speculative purposes only shall not be permitted.

71. Charity or benefit futsal matches and competitions to be sanctioned

- (i) Charity or Benefit futsal matches and competitions shall not be organized without the consent of the FMA.

- (ii) Clubs or players belonging to FMA Member Clubs shall not play or take part in any Charity or Benefit futsal matches or competitions for which consent as mentioned in sub-clause (i) above has not been given.

- (iii) Promoters of Charity or Benefit futsal matches and competitions authorized by the FMA shall, within seven (7) days of such match or the end of such competition, forward a statement of accounts to the General Secretary of the FMA.

72. Prohibition of participation in activities of a non-member association

- (i) It is prohibited for a player, referee, coach or a Council Member of this Association or a Technical Staff Member of this Association to take part in any futsal activity with a Club/Team of a non-member association or with such non-member association.

- (ii) For the purpose of this rule, the term "non-member association" means an association which organises futsal matches on a national scale and is not a member of FMA. In case of doubt, the Council shall have the right to specify to which association/s this rule applies.

- (iii) A player, who is found guilty of having infringed this Rule, shall be suspended for a minimum of six (6) months and for a maximum of two (2) years. Furthermore, upon being found guilty, such player will automatically lose all his rights of transfer and complaint to this Association. The loss of transfer rights and complaint shall remain operative until the Council of this Association decides otherwise.

- (iv) Any other individual upon whom the Association has jurisdiction and who is found guilty of having infringed this rule, shall be suspended for a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of two (2) years.

- (v) An individual upon whom the Association does not have jurisdiction, but who is serving this Association in any capacity whatsoever and who appears to have infringed this Rule shall be removed from the position in which he is serving.

8. LEGAL REPRESENTATION

73. Ownership of the property of the Association

- (i) The Officers of the Association shall, for all intents and purposes, be deemed to be the legal owners of all the property of the Association.

- (ii) The President and any other Officer of the Association shall appear in the name and on behalf of the Association in any act, contract or instrument purporting to bind the Association with third parties.

74. Representation in judicial proceedings

The President of the Association shall represent the Association before any Court of Law or in any Arbitration Proceedings.

9. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

75. Notices served by the Association

- (i) Notices of the MFA/FMA to be served upon a Member Club shall be served either by post or by e-mail at the official address or e-mail address of the body concerned as notified to the MFA/FMA in writing by the body concerned.

- (ii) Notices of the MFA/FMA to be served upon an individual shall be served either personally or by post or e-mail either at his address or e-mail address in accordance with the MFA/FMA's records of such individual or at the official address or e-mail address of his Member Club.

- (iii) If sent by post, such notices shall be deemed to have been served at the time when the letter containing the same would, in the ordinary course of post, be delivered, and in proving such service, it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and posted. If sent e-mail, such notices shall be deemed to have been served on the date and at the time that in accordance with the MFA/FMA records such notice was sent by e-mail.

76. Members failing to appear before a competent body of the Association when officially called to attend meetings

Members failing to appear before a competent body of the Association when officially called to attend meetings concerning matters in which they are involved and which are to be dealt with by a competent body of the Association shall be liable to a fine. In the case of unjustified absence, the relative competent body of the Association shall have the power to deal with the case even in the absence of the Member's representative.

77. Publication of official correspondence

Any Member Club and members thereof, any player, any referee and any coach shall not publish in the media, or in any other manner, any part of any correspondence exchanged with the FMA, or any other correspondence which may be calculated to criticise or harm or otherwise praise any other Member Club, a Member of the MFA Council or an Officer of the Association. The whole official correspondence may however, be published at Council's discretion after it had been definitely dealt with by the Council.

78. Publication of proceedings

The Association shall be entitled to make public through the media, or in any other manner it shall deem fit and proper, reports of its proceedings, acts and resolutions, whether the same shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any Member Club or members thereof or members thereof, a player, a referee, a coach, a Member of the Council, an Officer of the Association, any other body or person on whom the Association has jurisdiction or any spectator at futsal matches. All these shall be deemed to have assented to such information being made public.

79. Comments to the Media

- (i) Member Clubs, and members thereof, referees, players, coaches shall not comment in the media in a way which may be calculated to criticise in a harmful way or harm any Member of the Association or members thereof, a player, a referee, a coach, an FMA Council Member, including an FMA Officer, or any other person having a function with the FMA.
- (ii) Any body or individual that infringes the provisions of this rule shall be fined a minimum of two hundred and fifty (€250) or shall be suspended for a period, or for life, depending on the gravity of the offence.
- (iii) The awarding of a fine or a suspension for a period shall not operate as a bar to any other punishment which may be imposed in accordance with the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association.

80. Official publications of Members

- (i) Member Clubs shall send to the General Secretary of the Association, within fifteen (15) days of the publication, a copy of any official publication produced by them or produced on their behalf.
- (ii) A Member which fails to abide by the provisions of this rule shall be dealt with as the Disciplinary Bodies of the Association may deem fit.

81. Complaints, reports and protests on corruption

- (i) It is the duty of Member Clubs, Member Associations, Registered Clubs, Associated Clubs and Affiliated Associations and members thereof to report to the General Secretary of the

Malta Football Association any founded suspicion of corruption or attempted corruption with regards to futsal matches.

82. Legal action

- (i) Futsal Member Clubs and members thereof, players, coaches, referees, players' agents and other bodies and persons that are subject to the jurisdiction of the FMA, are precluded from taking civil or criminal legal action against a decision of the FMA Council or against a decision of any Board, Committee or Commission of the FMA, or against any referee, assistant referee, time keeper or a Match Inspector in connection with his duties with regards to futsal matches without the written permission of the FMA Council. Offenders against this rule shall cease to belong to the FMA.

- (ii) Futsal Member Clubs and members thereof, players, coaches and other bodies and persons that are subject to the jurisdiction of the FMA, are also precluded from taking civil legal action against each other or against the management and/or the proprietor of the stadium or ground where competitive matches are played without the written permission of the FMA Council.

- (iii) No body or person, who in any manner whatsoever falls under the jurisdiction of the FMA, may initiate any civil legal proceedings on matters relating to futsal or arising therefrom or connected therewith without the written permission of the Council or the Executive Committee.

- (iv) When an offence envisaged in sub-clauses (ii) and (iii) is committed against the FMA itself or any FMA Council Member, the offender shall cease to belong to the Association as from the moment that the offence takes place.

10. INTERPRETATION AND ALTERATION OF THE RULES

83. The FMA Council is the only competent authority to interpret rules

- (i) The FMA Council shall be the only competent body to interpret the provisions of this Statute and the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the FMA, upon the request of an interested party.
- (ii) Any interpretation of the provisions of this Statute and of the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the FMA as well as all other rulings given by the FMA Council shall be circulated to all Futsal Member Clubs within two (2) weeks.

84. Coming into force of alterations to the Futsal Laws of the Game

Alterations to the Futsal Laws of the Game made by the Annual Meeting of the International Futsal Association Board shall come to force as from the date established by the Board.

85. Additions and Alterations to the Statute of the Association

- (i) Only the General Meeting of the Association may make additions or alterations to this Statute.
- (ii) Any proposed addition or alteration to this Statute to be voted upon at the Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be put to the vote only in case that it had been submitted in writing to the General Secretary of the Association by the Council or by the Executive Committee or by a Member Club at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled date of the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (iii) To be adopted, an addition or an alteration to this Statute, must receive the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of those present and entitled to vote at a duly convened General Meeting of the Association.
- (iv) Additions or alterations to this Statute shall come into force as from the end of the General Meeting during which such additions or alterations are approved unless the General Meeting decides that such additions or alterations will come into force at a later date.

11. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

86. Governing Law

This Statute shall be governed in all respects by the Laws of the Republic of Malta.

87. Dissolution of the Association

- (i) Four-fifths ($\frac{4}{5}$) majority of all the Member Clubs of the Association shall be required to dissolve the Futsal Malta Association.
- (ii) Four-fifths ($\frac{4}{5}$) majority of all the Member Clubs of the Association shall be required for any decision as to the distribution of the assets of the Association on dissolution. Without a decision as to such distribution, any resolution to dissolve the Association shall have no effect.
- (iii) The assets of the Association shall under no circumstance be divided amongst the Members and any resolution to this effect shall have no effect.

88. Matters not Provided for in the Rules of the Association

- (i) Any matter not provided for in this Statute and in the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association shall be regulated, in so far as applicable, in accordance with the rules, regulations and bye-laws of the Malta Football Association, FIFA and/or UEFA. In any other case, the decision shall be based on Maltese civil law and if this is silent on right and justice.
- (ii) The applicability or otherwise of any rule, regulation or by-laws of the MFA, FIFA and/or UEFA shall be decided exclusively by the FMA Protest Board or any other organ, body, or board of the Association, which may from time to time, be required to determine any matter regarding the applicability or otherwise of any such rule, regulation or bye-law.
- (iii) Notwithstanding anything in this Statute or in any other rules, by-laws and regulations of the Association, any such decision shall be final, binding and non-appealable.

12. COMING INTO FORCE OF THE STATUTE

89. Coming into force of this Statute

This Statute as amended shall come into force on the **15th September 2014**

Mr. Mark Borg
President

Mr. Emanuel Fenech
General Secretary

Mr. Alfred Camilleri
Vice President

Ms. Mireille Aquilina
Treasurer