



CAMEROON FOOTBALL FEDERATION

- FECAFOOT -

**STANDARD STATUTES OF DIVISIONAL
LEAGUES**

August 7, 2021

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DEFINITIONS

FECAFOOT: Cameroon Football Federation.

UNIFFAC: Union of Central African Football Federations.

CAF: Confederation of African Football.

FIFA: International Federation of Association Football.

CNOSC: Cameroon National Olympic and Sports Committee.

Confederation: group of associations recognized by FIFA that belong to the same continent or assimilable geographic region.

Regional league: sports association formed by and subordinate to FECAFOOT responsible for organizing regional competitions in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation.

Divisional league: sports association formed by and subordinate to FECAFOOT responsible for organizing divisional competitions in accordance with its Statutes.

Subdivisional league: sports association formed by and subordinate to FECAFOOT responsible for organizing subdivisional competitions in accordance with its Statutes.

Specialized league: sports association formed by and subordinate to FECAFOOT to which the Federation delegates authority to organize championships or any other competition on its behalf.

Club: sports association affiliated to FECAFOOT and/or a league recognized by FECAFOOT, that enters at least one team (amateur or professional) in a competition.

Guild: organization of people who exercise the same profession in the domain of football and represented in the General Assembly of FECAFOOT only by approved associations.

Official: any officer, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person (excluding players) responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters within FECAFOOT, a member association, a league or a club as well as all other persons obliged to comply the Statutes of FECAFOOT.

Player: any football player registered with FECAFOOT and whose licence is valid.

Member: corporate entity admitted to membership of FECAFOOT by the General Assembly.

General Assembly: supreme body of FECAFOOT.

Board of Directors: executive body of FECAFOOT.

Board of Directors **Bureau:** restricted Board of Directors.

IFAB: International Football Association Board.

Ordinary court: State court which decides on public and private legal disputes.

Arbitration tribunal: independent and duly constituted private court of justice acting in place of an ordinary court.

CAS: Court of Arbitration for Sport headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

CCA: Conciliation and Arbitration Board set up within the Cameroon National Olympic and Sports Committee.

AIPO: African Intellectual Property Organization.

NB: The masculine generic refers to both the masculine and feminine genders and is used for conciseness purposes only. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Name, Headquarters and Legal Form

- (1) The divisional league of.....(to be completed) hereinafter referred to as the “League”, is a sports association created by FECAFOOT to organize football competitions throughout the territory of the division of(to be completed). It is governed by the provisions of the law n° 2018/014 of July 2018 on the organization and promotion of physical and sporting activities in Cameroon, its statutes and the regulations resulting therefrom. It is registered in accordance with the legislation and regulations in force in Cameroon.
- (2) The divisional league was affiliated to the FECAFOOT. As such, it shall be bound by and shall ensure that its members comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, UNIFFAC and FECAFOOT.
- (3) The territory of action of the divisional league of....(to be completed) is.....(to be completed). (division to be indicated).
- (4) Its duration is unlimited.
- (5) Its headquarters shall be in (...to be completed).
- (6) The divisional league’s logo shall be (... To be completed)
- (7) The acronym of the divisional league shall be (...to be completed).
- (8) The logo and acronym of the divisional league shall be legally registered with the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO).

Article 2: Relations with the FECAFOOT

The league shall be subordinated to FECAFOOT from with it is issued in accordance with the provisions of the Article 18 (1) of the FIFA statutes and the Article 19 (2) of the FECAFOOT Statutes as such, the League undertakes to exercise its tasks under the supervision and control of the FECAFOOT, to comply fully with the obligations set out in Article 14 of the Statutes of FECAFOOT and the other obligations arising from the Statutes, codes, Regulations, Decisions, Directives of FIFA, CAF and FECAFOOT.

Article 3: Relations with Public Authorities

- (1) The divisional league’s accounting documents relating to subsidies granted by the State shall be presented at its headquarters upon request by the Minister in charge of sports and the Minister in charge of finance.
- (2) The divisional league’s accounting documents relating to subsidies granted by the decentralized territorial authorities shall be presented at its

headquarters upon request by the Minister in charge of territorial administration and the Minister in charge of finance.

Article 4: object

The divisional league ensures the organization and management of football in its territorial jurisdiction, in application and in conformity with the statutes, codes, regulations, decisions and directives of the Cameroon Football Federation as well as the stipulations of any agreements concluded between the divisional league and FECAFOOT.

Article 5: Objectives

The objectives of the divisional league shall be to:

- (a) continuously improve, promote, regulate and control the game of football all over the divisional territory, taking into account fair play and its universal, educational, cultural and humanitarian impact, by implementing development programmes;
- (b) organize football association competitions in all its forms at the level of its territory of action in accordance with the regulations of FECAFOOT and possible agreement concluded between the divisional league and FECAFOOT
- (c) protect the common interests of its members;
- (d) ensure compliance with the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF and FECAFOOT as well as the Laws of the Game in order to avoid any infringement and ensure compliance thereof by its members;
- (e) promote integrity, ethics and fair play so as to prevent all methods and practices such as corruption, doping and match fixing, which might jeopardize the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and members or give rise to abuse in association football, futsal and beach soccer;
- (f) control and supervise all friendly matches of association football in all its forms played all over the divisional territory;
- (g) establish cooperation ties with the FECAFOOT and public authorities.

Article 6: Neutrality and Non-discrimination

- (1) The divisional league shall be neutral in political and religious matters.
- (2) Any discrimination against a country, an individual or a group of people by a member of the divisional league on account of race, ethnicity, disability, gender, language, religion or politics shall be strictly prohibited and

punishable by suspension or expulsion and/or any other disciplinary sanctions.

Article 7: Promoting Friendly Relations

- (1) The divisional league shall promote friendly relations among its members, clubs, officials and players as well as within civil society, for humanitarian purposes.
- (2) Any person and organization involved in football shall be bound to abide by the statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play, loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and non-discrimination.

Article 8 : Players

- (1) The Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players shall govern the status of players and the terms and conditions of their transfer between clubs affiliated to FECAFOOT, in accordance with FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- (2) Players must be registered in accordance with the General Regulations of FECAFOOT.

Article 9: Laws of the Game

- (1) The Laws of the Game of association football shall apply to the divisional league and all its members. The International Football Association Board (IFAB) alone shall be empowered to enact and amend them.
- (2) The Laws of the Game of Futsal and Beach Soccer shall apply to the divisional league and all its members. FIFA alone shall be empowered to enact and amend them.

Article 10 : Conduct of Bodies, Officials and Players

The bodies, officials and players of the divisional league must abide by the statutes, regulations, directives, decisions, Disciplinary Code, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct of FIFA, CAF and FECAFOOT.

Article 11: Official Languages

- (1) The official languages of the divisional league shall be English and French. Official documents and instruments must be written in both languages.
- (2) In the event of discrepancy in instruments drafted in both languages, recourse shall be had to a committee of experts.

CHAPTER II: MEMBERS

Article 12: Composition and Admission

- (1) Divisional league's members shall be:
 - (a) Clubs participating to the divisional competition;
 - (b) Affiliated sub-divisional leagues;
 - (c) Guild accredited by FECAFOOT as member observers ;
- (2) Any corporate entity wishing to become a member of the divisional league shall submit a written application to the Secretary-General of the divisional league.
- (3) The application must include:
 - (a) a copy of its statutes and regulations;
 - (b) a declaration by which it undertakes to comply, under all circumstances, with the Statutes, Codes, Regulations, Decisions, of FECAFOOT, FIFA and CAF and to ensure the same compliance by its members, clubs, officials and players;
 - (c) a declaration by which it undertakes to comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
 - (d) a declaration by which it certifies that it will not bring issues of interpretation and application of the Statutes, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, CAF and FECAFOOT before ordinary courts, unless FIFA, CAF or FECAFOOT provide for or prescribe such action before ordinary courts;
 - (e) a declaration by which it recognizes the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) based in Lausanne, Switzerland, as specified in these Statutes;
 - (f) a declaration by which it acknowledges that it is located within Cameroon's territory;
 - (g) a statement by which it recognizes that it operates within FECAFOOT's territory;
 - (h) a statement in which it undertakes to organize all official home matches within the jurisdiction of the league;
 - (i) a statement that its legal set-up ensures that the applicant shall be able to make decisions without being influenced by an external entity;
 - (j) a list of officials indicating those who, by their signature, can enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;

- (k) a statement in which it undertakes to organize or participate in friendly encounters only after prior approval by the league;
- (l) a copy of the minutes of its last General Assembly or constituent session;

Article 13: Application and Application Procedure

- (1) The Board of Directors shall propose to the General Assembly to either admit or reject an applicant. An applicant may make the case for their application before the General Assembly.
- (2) New members shall acquire membership rights and shall be subject to the obligations once admission is complete.

Article 14: Rights of Members

- (1) Divisional league members shall enjoy the right:
 - (a) to participate in the General Assembly of the league, to know the agenda of the General Assembly in advance, and to be convened thereto in time;
 - (b) to propose items to be included in the agenda and to cast votes during General Assembly meetings;
 - (c) to be informed of the affairs of FECAFOOT by the General Secretariat;
 - (d) to nominate candidates for elections in all bodies of the league;
 - (e) to take part in competitions (where necessary) and/or sports activities under the auspices of the league;
 - (f) to exercise all other rights pertaining to the Statutes, Regulations, decisions, directives of the league.
- (2) The exercise of such rights shall be subject to the exceptions and restrictions under the Statutes, Codes, Regulations, decisions, directives of FECAFOOT and present statutes.

Article 15: Obligations of Members

- (1) Divisional league members shall have the obligation to:
 - (a) abide by the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, FECAFOOT and the divisional league and enforce compliance therewith by their own members;
 - (b) elect their decision-making bodies at least every four years;

- (c) convene their supreme body at regular intervals, generally once a year;
 - (d) take part in competitions (where necessary) and other sports activities under the auspices of FECAFOOT;
 - (e) pay their membership contributions;
 - (f) comply with the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and the Laws of the Game of Beach Soccer and Futsal as defined by FIFA and have their own members comply with them through a statutory provision;
 - (g) adopt a statutory clause that stipulates that all arbitrable disputes involving themselves or one of their members and relating to the Statutes, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA, CAF, UNIFFAC, FECAFOOT or of the leagues that comprise it, shall exclusively be brought before the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT, CNOSC, CAF, FIFA and CAS, and that referring matters to ordinary courts is prohibited;
 - (h) run their affairs independently and ensure that no third party interferes, in accordance with Article 18 of these Statutes;
 - (i) ensure that members of their bodies are elected or nominated through a democratic process which guarantees the full independence of such elections or nominations;
 - (j) inform FECAFOOT of the list of their officials or persons who are authorized to legally commit them vis-à-vis third parties by means of their signature;
 - (k) do no business with unrecognized sports entities or with members who have been suspended or expelled by FECAFOOT, CAF or FIFA;
 - (l) respect the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and non-discrimination as an expression of fair play, through a statutory clause;
 - (m) comply with the mandatory conditions stipulated in these statutes throughout their affiliation period;
 - (n) manage and keep an updated register of members;
 - (o) endorse statutes that comply with the requirements stipulated in the Statutes of FECAFOOT;
 - (p) fully comply with the other obligations under the statutes, codes and other regulations of FIFA, CAF, UNIFFAC and FECAFOOT.
- (2) Every member of the executive body of a Member of the league shall be bound to secrecy and loyalty. They must refrain from participating in discussions beyond the scope of the Member and taking decisions that may cause a conflict of interest with another Member of FECAFOOT or disrupt the functioning of the league.

(3) Any violation of these obligations shall lead to sanctions as provided under these Statutes, the statutes and the various codes of FECAFOOT.

Article 16: Suspension

- (1) The General Assembly of the league shall be the authority empowered to suspend a member. Any member found guilty of serious and/or repeated violations of their obligations may be suspended with immediate effect by the Board of Directors. Where the suspension is not lifted, it shall remain valid until the next General Assembly.
- (2) All suspensions shall be confirmed during the next General Assembly by at least 2/3 (two-thirds) of the valid votes cast, failing which such suspensions shall be immediately lifted.
- (3) The suspension of a member by Board of Directors or the Board of Directors shall automatically entail the loss of the rights conferred by their status. It shall be forbidden for other members to maintain sporting relations with a suspended member. The divisional Homologation and Disciplinary Committee may impose other sanctions.
- (4) Members that do not participate in the divisional league sports activities during a sports season shall be suspended from voting in the General Assembly and their representatives can neither be elected nor convened if they have not fulfilled their obligations in this regard.

Article 17: The lost of membership

(1) Membership is lost:

- a- by the withdrawal decided in accordance with its statutes or, in the absence of special provisions to that effect, by the General Assembly,
- b- by exclusion pronounced by the General Assembly of the divisional league for violation of the statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of the FIFA, CAF and FECAFOOT;
- c- by written resignation by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt to the General Secretariat of the divisional league

(2) loss of membership does not relieve the latter of its financial obligations to the divisional league or other members of the divisional league.

Article 18: Independence of the Members of the league and their Bodies

- (1) Each divisional league member shall manage its affairs without the interference of a third party, in compliance with its Statutes.

- (2) The bodies of Members of the divisional league shall be designated only by election or internal appointment. Members' Statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees complete independence of the election or appointment process.
- (3) The divisional league shall not recognize the bodies of a Member not elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) above. This shall also apply to organs elected or appointed only on an interim basis.
- (4) The divisional league shall not recognize the decisions of bodies not elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (2) above.

CHAPTER III: HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

Article 19 : Unique

- (1) The General Assembly of the league may confer the title of honorary president or honorary member on some personalities in consideration of services rendered to the cause of football.
- (2) Their nomination shall be proposed by the Board of Directors.
- (3) The Honorary President or Honorary Member may take part in the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.

CHAPTER IV ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 20 : Bodies of the divisional league

- (1) The bodies of the league shall be:
 - (a) the General Assembly;
 - (b) the Board of Directors;
 - (c) standing and ad hoc committees;
 - (d) the judicial body: the Divisional Homologation and Discipline Commission;
 - (e) the General Secretariat.

- (2) The divisional league bodies shall either be elected or appointed by the league itself without external influence and in accordance with the procedures laid down in these Statutes.

SECTION 2: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 21: Definition and Composition

- (1) The General Assembly is the body to which all the divisional league Members are regularly convened. It is the supreme body and legislative authority of the league. Only a duly convened General Assembly has the power to make decisions.
- (2) A General Assembly may be ordinary or extraordinary.
- (3) The President of the divisional league shall preside over General Assembly meetings.
- (4) The President of the league may invite observers to attend the General Assembly, without the right to vote or participate in discussions.
- (5) The General Assembly may be held in person or virtually.

Article 22: Delegates and Votes

- (1) Member shall exercise their voting right through their delegates.
- (2) The General Assembly shall comprise a maximum of (...to be completed) delegates as follows:
- (a) Clubs:
- for divisional leagues having between three (03) and five (05) clubs: four (04) delegates with 1 (one) vote each;
 - for divisional leagues having between six (06) and nine (09) clubs: three (03) delegates with 1 (one) vote each;
 - for divisional leagues having between ten (10) and fifteen (15) clubs: two (02) delegates with 1 (one) vote each;
 - for divisional leagues having more than fifteen (15) clubs: one (01) delegate with one (01) vote each;
- (b) If any, two (02) delegates per affiliated subdivisional league with one (01) vote each;
- (c) One (01) delegate per guild as observer who shall neither be voter nor eligible for election and shall not participate in deliberations.

- (3) The divisional league shall request the competent administrative authority to appoint 2 (two) government commissioners to the General Assembly as observers. They shall neither be voters nor eligible for election and shall not participate in deliberations.
- (4) Only affiliated Members of the league may appoint delegates to the General Assembly.
- (5) Delegates must be part of the subdivisional league they represent and shall be elected by the competent body of the subdivisional league. They must be able to produce evidence thereof upon request.
- (6) Clubs are represented at the General Assembly by members of the executive organe designated by the President.
- (7) Only delegates in attendance may vote. They cannot vote by correspondence or by proxy.
- (8) Members of the Board of Directors, the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General (if any) may attend the General Assembly as observers. Members of the Board of Directors shall not be appointed as delegates of their subdivisional league or of their club to the divisional league Général Assembly.

Article 23: Designation of Delegates

- (1) Members shall designate their duly authorized official delegates to represent them by election. Delegate elected in the Board of Directors are replaced.
- (2) Members shall, within 72 (seventy-two) hours following their elective General Assembly, communicate to the General Secretariat of the league the lists of their delegates.
- (3) Members shall provide their delegates a warrant attesting to their powers.
- (4) The following may not be delegates to the General Assembly:
 - (a) persons sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment without suspension, exceeding 3 (three) months;
 - (b) persons sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment subject to a suspended sentence or probation of more than 6 (six) months.

Article 24: Powers

The General Assembly shall be competent to:

- (a) adopt or amend the Statutes of FECAFOOT and the Financial Regulations

- (b) designate 3 (three) Members to check the minutes of the last session, which must be approved by the General Assembly;
- (c) elect or dismiss the President and members of Board of Directors;
- (d) elect, on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, or dismiss president, vice-president, rapporteur and members of judicial body;
- (e) appoint two scrutineers;
- (f) approve the annual financial statements;
- (g) approve the regular budget and special budgets;
- (h) approve the progress report of the President of the league;
- (i) select an independent audit firm on the recommendation of the Board of Directors or one third of the delegates;
- (j) fix the amount of contributions on the recommendation of the Board of Directors;
- (k) on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, confer the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member to persons who have been particularly committed or distinguished themselves in the area of football within the league, or withdraw such title;
- (l) admit, suspend or expel a member;
- (m) revoke the mandate of one or more members of a body of the league;
- (n) take decisions at the request of a Member, in accordance with these Statutes;
- (o) accept the resignation of a Member;
- (p) formulate and make recommendations and wishes;
- (q) dissolve the divisional league.

Article 25: Quorum of the General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly shall validly deliberate only when the majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing the Members are present.
- (2) If the quorum is not met, a second session of the General Assembly shall automatically take place 24 hours after the previous one, with the same agenda.
- (3) A quorum is not required for this second session, unless an item on the agenda provides for the amendment of the Statutes of the league, the election of the President of the league and members of the Board of Directors, the revocation of the mandate of one or more members of a body of the league, or the dissolution of the league.

- (4) An attendance sheet signed prior to the consideration of the agenda shall be appended to the minutes to show compliance with quorum requirements. The subsequent departure of one or more delegates shall not affect the quorum.

Article 26: Decisions of the General Assembly

- (1) Unless provided otherwise by these Statutes, decisions shall be taken by a majority (more than 50%) of the votes validly cast. Void ballots, blank ballots, or any other form of abstention shall not be taken into account in calculating the majority.
- (2) Any decision requiring a vote shall be taken by a show of hands. Where the show of hands does not permit to determine the majority required in favour of a proposal, the vote shall be taken by roll call, the members being called out in alphabetical order.
- (3) However, the General Assembly may decide to vote by secret ballot.

Article 27: Ordinary General Assembly

- (1) The Ordinary General Assembly shall be convened once a year by the Board of Directors of the league, preferably during the month preceding the start of the season.
- (2) Formal convening notices shall be forwarded in writing at least 7 (seven) days before the date of the General Assembly, enclosed with the agenda, the President's progress report, the annual financial statements, the report of independent auditors and any other relevant documents.

Article 28: Agenda of the Ordinary General Assembly

- (1) The Secretary-General shall prepare the draft agenda based on proposals from the Board of Directors and from Members. Any proposals that a Member intends to submit to the General Assembly must be made in writing to the Secretary-General of the league at least 15 (fifteen) days before the date of the General Assembly. Such proposals should be backed by a brief explanation.
- (2) The agenda shall include (in chronological order):
- (a) the compliance of the convening notice and of the composition of the General Assembly with the Statutes of the league;
 - (b) the approval of the agenda;
 - (c) the President's address;
 - (d) the appointment of 3 (three) delegates to proofread the minutes;
 - (e) the appointment of 2 (two) scrutineers;

- (f) the suspension or expulsion of a member (if applicable);
 - (g) the approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly;
 - (h) the divisional league's progress report;
 - (i) the presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss account statement;
 - (j) approval of the annual accounts, after presentation by the independent audit firm (if applicable);
 - (k) approval of the regular budget and special budgets (if applicable);
 - (l) the admission of new members (if any);
 - (m) the approval of the resignation of a Member (if any);
 - (n) the adoption or amendment of the Statutes of the league (if applicable);
 - (o) the appointment of an independent audit firm (if applicable);
 - (p) the dismissal of a member of a body (if applicable);
 - (q) the election or the dismissal of the President of the league (if applicable);
 - (r) the election or the dismissal of members of the Board of Directors (if applicable);
 - (s) the election or the dismissal of the chairperson, the deputy chairperson, the rapporteur and members of the judicial body of the league (if applicable);
 - (t) any other item proposed by the Members or the Board of Directors of the league in compliance with paragraph (1) above.
- (3) The agenda of an ordinary General Assembly may be amended at the request 2/3 (two thirds) of the delegates present at the General Assembly and eligible to vote.
- (4) The General Assembly shall not take any decision on an item that is not on the agenda.

Article 29: Elections

- (1) Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- (2) Elections organized within the league, and the election of its Members must be conducted in accordance with the Electoral Code of FECAFOOT.
- (3) The President of the league and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by single ballot (per position). For the election of a candidate, a majority (more than 50%) of validly cast votes shall be required. Where more than two candidates vie for one or more of the positions concerned, only the

two candidates with the highest number of votes shall remain in competition for the second round. Invalid or blank ballots shall not be considered in the counting the votes cast.

- (4) For the election of presidents, vice-presidents, rapporteurs and members of all league bodies (judicial body), the candidate(s) who obtain(s) the highest number of votes with regard to the number of seats to be filled shall be declared elected.
- (5) In the event of a tie in the second round, further rounds of voting shall be organized until the required majority (more than 50%) is obtained.
- (6) The electoral process shall be conducted in accordance with the FECAFOOT Electoral Code.

Article 30: Extraordinary General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly may be convened to an extraordinary session if need be:
 - (a) on the initiative of the President of the league;
 - (b) at the request of 2/3 (two thirds) of members of the Board of Directors;
 - (c) at the request of the majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing Members of the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 21 of these Statutes.
- (2) Items of the agenda shall appear on such a request. The Extraordinary General Assembly shall hold within 2 (two) months following receipt of the request. Failing that, the Members that requested the convening of the General Assembly may do so themselves. They may refer the matter to FECAFOOT as a last resort.
- (3) Convening notices written in English and French, shall be sent to all members at least 8 (eight) days prior to an extraordinary session of the General Assembly, indicating the venue and date of the said session.
- (4) The agenda and all relevant documents shall be communicated to Members at least 8 (eight) days before the date of the Extraordinary General Assembly.
- (5) Where the extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the Board of Directors, the latter shall draw up the agenda. Where it is convened at the request of the Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by the Members who requested its holding.
- (6) No amendments can be made to the agenda of an extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 31: Amendment to the Statutes

- (1) The General Assembly shall have the power to amend the Statutes of the league.
- (2) Members of the General Assembly or the Board of Directors shall forward to the Secretary-General written and briefly explained proposals for the amendment of the Statutes. Any proposal submitted by a delegate representing a Member shall be valid provided it is written and supported by at least 10 (ten) other delegates representing Members.
- (3) For an amendment to the Statutes to be voted, the majority (more than 50%) of delegates representing Members must be in attendance.
- (4) For a request to amend the Statutes to be adopted, it must receive the votes of at least 2/3 (two thirds) of the delegates present and representing Members.

Article 32: Conduct of the General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the President of the league.
- (2) Where the President is absent or unable to attend, it shall be chaired by the First Vice-President. If the latter is also absent or unable to attend, it shall be chaired by the eldest vice-president. If none of the vice-presidents is present, it shall be chaired by the eldest member of the Board of Directors.
- (3) The election of the President of the league and that of other members of the Board of Directors during the General Assembly shall be conducted by the Electoral Committee of FECAFOOT. The President and members of the Board of Directors shall participate as observers.
- (4) The General Assembly shall appoint 2 (two) scrutineers.
- (5) Delegates shall express themselves in either English or French.
- (6) The session Chairperson shall be responsible for the smooth running of the General Assembly. To this end, he may limit the speaking time allowed delegates.
- (7) The General Assembly may set up committees to reflect on specific issues. Such committees shall come up with minutes of their work sessions that shall be adopted or amended by means of a resolution during a plenary session.
- (8) Minutes of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Secretary-General who shall forward them to Members within 30 (thirty) days following the General Assembly meeting.

- (9) The General Assembly convened to elect the President of the league, and the other members of the Board of Directors shall be governed by an Electoral Code adopted by the General Assembly of FECAFOOT.

Article 33: Entry into force of Decisions

- (1) The decisions of the General Assembly shall enter into force as soon as they are adopted and published, unless the General Assembly fixes another date or delegates this prerogative to the Board of Directors. They are not retroactive, unless the General Assembly provides otherwise
- (2) They shall be recorded in a report signed by the President, the Secretary-General and the delegates appointed to inspect the report.

SECTION 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 34: Composition

- (1) The Board of Directors shall be made up of 13 (thirteen) members as follows:
- the President of the league
 - the first vice president
 - the second vice president;
 - ten (10) elected members, one of them representing each subdivisional league;
- (2) The President, the Vice-Presidents and the other members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by single-member ballot.
- (3) Candidacies must be sent to the General Secretariat at least 20 (twenty) days before the date of the elective General Assembly. The Electoral Committee of FECAFOOT shall publish the lists approved by the 10 (ten) days before the date of the elective General Assembly. The official lists of candidates must reach members of the league with the agenda of the General Assembly at which the election of the Board of Directors is scheduled 7 (seven) days before the date of the General Assembly.
- (4) Members of the Board of Directors shall receive a representation allowance, the amount of which is determined by the Board of Directors of the league.

Article 35: General Conditions of Eligibility

- (1) Every candidate for the position of member of the Board of Directors of the league must comply with following the eligibility requirements:
- (a) be a Cameroonian citizen enjoying his/her civil rights;

- (b) be at least 21 years and at most 70 years old;
 - (c) must not have been sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment exceeding 3 (three) months without suspension;
 - (d) must not have been sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment subject to a suspended sentence or probation of more than 6 (six) months;
 - (e) must not have been suspended by a judicial body for a minimum of 2 (two) years on discipline-related issues and/or infringement of sports ethics within the five years preceding the elective General Assembly.
 - (f) must have played an active role in football as a patron, a promoter or a director of a football team or school, player or former player, coach, referee, sports doctor, official of a football club, and sports journalist;
 - (g) must undergo an integrity check conducted by the FECAFOOT Ethics Committee. The terms of such check are defined by the FECAFOOT Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee shall immediately forward its findings to the Electoral Commission. The said findings shall determine the eligibility of the candidate.
- (2) Candidates must be sponsored by 5 (five) delegates to the divisional league General Assembly.
 - (3) A member of the Board of Directors may not simultaneously be a member of a judicial body of the league nor a delegate to the General Assembly.
 - (4) Any league employee who is a candidate for an elective position must first resign from his duties at least three months before the date of the election.

Article 36: Term of Office

- (1) The number of terms of office of President of the league and other members of the Board of Directors shall be limited to 2 four-year terms.
- (2) The term of office shall begin the day after the General Assembly during which the President and the other members of the Board of Directors were elected.
- (3) The term of office shall end at the close of the elective General Assembly. However, the President whose term has ended shall have up to 4 (four) days within which to hand over office to the President-elect.

Article 37: Vacancies within the Board of Directors

- (1) A position shall be considered vacant upon death, resignation, expulsion, or where a member of the Board of Directors other than the President of the

league fails to attend 4 (four) consecutive meetings to which he has been duly convened without justification.

- (2) Where a position at the Board of Directors becomes vacant, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy until the following ordinary General Assembly elects the replacement for the remaining period of the term.
- (3) Where more than 50% of the positions at the Board of Directors become vacant, the divisional league President shall convene the General Assembly to elect the replacements for the remaining period of the term office. If for some reason the President cannot convene the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall be authorized to do so.
- (4) The newly elected member(s) must be from the same electoral college as the member(s) replaced.

Article 38: Sessions of the Board of Directors

- (1) The Board of Directors shall meet in ordinary session at least 3 (three) times per year when convened by the President of the league; in any case:
 - (a) before the start of the sports season;
 - (b) at mid-season;
 - (c) at the end of the sports season.
- (2) Where at least half (50%) of the members of the Board so request, the President shall convene an extraordinary session within fifteen days after such request. If the President does not comply with the request, the members who made the request may convene the meeting themselves.
- (3) In this case, the members must submit at least 15 (fifteen) days in advance to the Secretary-General, the items they wish to be included on the agenda of the session. The agenda must get to them at least 8 (eight) days before the meeting.
- (4) Convening notices to an ordinary session of the Board of Directors, drafted in English and French and to which the agenda is appended, shall be sent to all members 8 (eight) days prior to the session.
- (5) The Secretary-General shall take part in the sessions of the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity.
- (6) Sessions of the Board of Directors shall not be public. The President may, however, invite personalities to attend, on the grounds of their competence. Such personalities shall not have the right to vote and may have the floor if requested to do so by the Board.

- (7) Minutes of the Board of Directors session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General who shall send them to the members within 30 (thirty) days after the meeting.

Article 39: Powers of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to:

- (1) decide any case that is not within the scope of the General Assembly's jurisdiction or that is not reserved for other bodies by virtue of the law or these Statutes;
- (2) prepare and convene the ordinary and extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the league, in accordance with these Statutes;
- (3) appoint or dismiss chairpersons, Deputy chairpersons, rapporteurs and members of standing and ad hoc committees, on the recommendation of the President of the league;
- (4) propose chairperson, deputy chairperson, rapporteur and members of the judicial body to the General Assembly of the league;
- (5) decide, if need be, to create ad hoc committees on the recommendation of the President of the league;
- (6) issue specific regulations for ad hoc committees and standing committees on the recommendation of the President of the league;
- (7) Submit for an opinion to the Executive Committee of FECAFOOT on proposals for the appointment of the secretary-general and/or deputy secretary-general of the league;
- (8) submit for an opinion to the Executive Committee of FECAFOOT the venues and dates for FECAFOOT competitions, the number of participating teams before the start of competitions, as well as rules and regulations of these competitions.
- (9) propose to the General Assembly the independent audit firm to audit accounts;
- (10) create, organize and cancel official competitions within the divisional league;
- (11) propose to the General Assembly any personality likely to be conferred the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member of the league;
- (12) approve the Statutes and Internal Rules and Regulations governing league's staff on the proposition of the secretary-general of the league;
- (13) ensure that the Statutes are implemented and adopt executive measures for their implementation;

- (14) temporarily dismiss or suspend a member of a league's body, excluding members of judicial body, until the next General Assembly;
- (15) recruit, appoint and dismiss senior officers, on the recommendation of the President of the league;

Article 40: Decisions of the Board of Directors

- (1) Deliberations of the Board of Directors may be valid only if at least 1/2 (a half) of its members are present.
- (2) For the Board of Directors to pass decisions, they shall be voted by the majority (more than 50%) of the members present. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by correspondence shall not be allowed.
- (3) Minutes of decisions shall be drawn up in English and French.
- (4) Decisions of the Board of Directors shall take immediate effect following publication.

Article 41: Obligation of Discretion and Loyalty

- (1) All members of the Board of Directors shall be bound by a duty of reserve, solidarity and confidentiality. Only the President of the league or a person delegated by him may speak officially on behalf of the league.
- (2) Any breach of the obligations mentioned above shall constitute a disciplinary offence liable to the sanctions provided for by the Statutes, Codes and Regulations of FECAFOOT.

Article 42: Dismissal of a Member of a Body

- (1) The General Assembly may dismiss a member of a body of the league. The Board of Directors may include the dismissal of a Member of the league on the agenda of a General Assembly session. It may also temporarily suspend a member of a body, except for members of judicial body until the next General Assembly. Any member of the Board of Directors may move that such dismissal be put on the agenda of the Board of Directors or the General Assembly.
- (2) Proposals for dismissal must be substantiated. They shall be forwarded to Members of the General Assembly of the league alongside the agenda.
- (3) The Members under scrutiny shall have the right to defend themselves before the General Assembly.

- (4) The General Assembly or the Board of Directors shall decide by secret ballot. The decision shall require a 2/3 (two-third) majority of the votes validly cast to be adopted.
- (5) The Member dismissed from an organ, even temporarily, shall cease to exercise his/her duties and leave the position immediately.

***SECTION 4: PRESIDENT OF THE DIVISIONAL LEAGUE AND
CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

Article 43: Duties

- (1) The President shall represent the league statutorily in all acts of civil life and sports, as well as in the courts.
- (2) He shall, among other things, be responsible for:
 - (a) overseeing the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors by the General Secretariat;
 - (b) monitoring the functioning of the bodies of the league to enable it to achieve the goals set by these Statutes;
 - (c) controlling the activities of the General Secretariat;
 - (d) relations between the league and its Members, between the league FECAFOOT and FIFA, CAF, UNIFFAC, CNOSC, political authorities and other organizations;
 - (e) the hiring and firing of the league's junior staff;
 - (f) the opening of the league's accounts;
 - (g) revenue and expenditure scheduling;
 - (h) follow-up of the league's development projects.
- (3) Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the Secretary-General to the Board of Directors.
- (4) The President shall preside over all meetings of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors Bureau and meetings of ad hoc committees where he is appointed as Chairperson.
- (5) The President shall vote at Board of Directors meetings and, in case of a tie, he shall have a casting vote.
- (6) When the President is absent or incapacitated, his duties shall be performed by the First Vice-President who, for this purpose, shall receive delegation of authority in the areas determined by the President. In the absence of the First Vice-President, the duties of the President shall be performed by the Second

Vice-President. In the absence of the Second-Vice-President, the duties of President shall be performed by the eldest member of the Board of Directors.

- (7) The President of the league must reside in the division concerned for the duration of his term of office. He shall be responsible for ensuring the continuity of the services of the league.

Article 44: Specific Requirements for Eligibility for the Office of President of the Divisional league

- (1) Any Cameroonian of either sex who is at least 21 (twenty-one) years old and at most 70 (seventy) years old, who complies with the general eligibility requirements set forth in these Statutes, may be a candidate for the presidency of the league.
- (2) Candidates must get letters of support from 05 (five) delegates to the divisional league General Assembly.
- (3) The candidates for the position of president of the divisional league who are members of government, members of parliament or general manager of public or parapublic company must sign a commitment to resign from the above mentioned position if they are elected.

In case of election to the position of president of the divisional league, any person who is in the above mentioned conditions of incompatibility must immediately resign from his previous functions, otherwise a new election will be held in which he will be excluded.

- (4) Any candidate for the position of President of the league must have played an active role in football as patron, promoter or manager of a football team or school, player and former player, league official, coach, referee, sports doctor, official of a football club and sports journalist during the four years preceding the submission of his/her candidacy.
- (5) Any candidate for the position of President of the league must undergo an integrity check conducted by the FECAFOOT Ethics Committee under the conditions defined by the Code of Ethics of FECAFOOT. The Ethics Committee shall immediately transmit its findings to the Electoral Committee. The said findings shall constitute part of the requirements for the admissibility of the candidacy.
- (6) Candidates shall submit their applications to the General Secretariat no later than 20 (twenty) days before the date of the elective General Assembly.
- (7) The Electoral Committee shall inform Members of the names of the candidates selected and publish them at the latest 10 (ten) days before the date of the elective General Assembly. The official list of candidates shall be forwarded to

the members of the league General Assembly together with the agenda of the General Assembly in which the election of the Board of Directors is scheduled, 7 (seven) days prior to the General Assembly.

Article 45: Vacancy of the Presidency

- (1) The office of President shall be considered vacant in the event of death, resignation, expulsion, or where the President is in a situation of incompatibility or ineligibility during his term of office, or where he fails to attend 6 (six) consecutive Board of Directors meetings without justification.
- (2) In the event of vacancy of the Presidency duly established by the Extraordinary General Assembly convened by the Board of Directors, the First Vice-President shall sit in as interim president until the next General Assembly.
- (3) The Board of Directors shall be expected to convene the said extraordinary General Assembly within 30 (thirty) days following the declaration of the vacancy.
- (4) In case of the unavailability or absence of the First Vice-President, the position shall be filled by one of the Second vice-president.
- (5) In any case, the acting President must convene an extraordinary General Assembly for the election of the President of the league and other members of the Board of Directors. Such General Assembly shall be held within a maximum of 100 (one hundred) days following the declaration of the vacancy.
- (6) In the event of this type of vacancy, candidates vying for the office of President must be members of the Board of Directors.
- (7) The new President of the league shall be elected by a majority single-round uninominal, direct and secret ballot for the remaining period of the current term.

Article 46: Representation and Signature

- (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall represent the divisional league in all acts of civil life and sports, as well as in the courts.
- (2) He shall commit the league by his sole signature.
- (3) He may appoint a Vice-President or any other member of the Board of Directors to perform a specific task or manage certain activities.

SECTION 5: Board of Directors Bureau

Article 47: Organization and Functioning

- (1) The Board of Directors shall be a restricted body of the Board of Directors made up of the President of the league the two Vice-Presidents and and eldest member of the Board of Directors.
- (2) The Board of Directors Bureau, which may meet by videoconference, shall address all urgent matters arising between two sessions of the Executive Board of Directors, with the exception of:
 - (a) the vacancy of the Presidency;
 - (b) the recruitment or firing of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.
- (3) The Board of Directors Bureau meeting shall be convened by the President of the league. Where a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be taken by any means in writing. The decisions shall enter into force immediately. The President shall inform the Board of Directors of the decisions taken by the Board of Directors Bureau within.
- (4) Any decision taken by the Board of Directors Bureau must be confirmed by the Board of Directors during its next session.
- (5) The Board of Directors Bureau may validly deliberate only when at least 3 (three) of its members are present. In any case, its decisions may only be taken by a majority of at least 3 (three) votes. In case of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.
- (6) If the President is unavailable, he shall be represented by the First Vice-President.

SECTION 6: STANDING AND AH HOC COMMITTEES

I- Types of Standing Committees

Article 48: Unique

- (1) The standing committees of the league shall be:
 - (a) the Finance Committee;
 - (b) the Competitions Committee;
 - (c) the Legal Affairs Committee (if any);
 - (d) the Infrastructure and Equipment Committee;

- (e) the Sports Medicine Committee (if any);
 - (f) the Marketing, Promotion and Media Committee;
 - (g) the Security Committee;
- (2) The chairpersons of standing committees may be members of the Board of Directors.
 - (3) Members of standing committees shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, on the proposal of the members of ligue or the President of the league. Chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, rapporteurs and members of standing committees shall be appointed for a four-year term.
 - (4) Each President represents his committee and manages its affairs in accordance with the corresponding organirational regulations established by the Board of Directors.
 - (5) Each President sets the date of the meetings in collaboration with the Secretary-General, ensures the proper execution of tasks and reports to the Bord of Directors.
 - (6) Each committee may propose to the Board of Directors amendments concening regulation of the concern committee.

II- DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 49: Common Provisions to Standing Committees

The role of committees shall be to advise and assist the Board of Directors in the exercise of its duties. Their main responsibilities, composition and functioning are defined by these Statutes and/or laid down in specific regulations.

Article 50: Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall advise the Board of Directors on finance-related issues and the management of assets. It shall analyze and submit the regular budget, special budgets and annual accounts of the league prepared by the Secretary-General to the Board of Directors for approval. The Finance Committee shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members.

Article 51: Competitions Committee

1- The Competitions Committee of the league shall be responsible for the design and organization of the league competitions including the elaboration of the

chedules of these competitions in accordance with these statutes, General Regulations of FECAFOOT, and regulations of these competitions.

It shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members.

2- the Competitions committee meets in particular:

- On the occasion of the preparation for the start of the sports season;
- On the occasion of the evaluation of the season;
- In any other circumstances according to the needs

Article 52: Legal Affairs Committee

The Legal Affairs Committee shall be responsible for the analysis of all legal issues relating to football and to the amendments of the Statutes and the Regulations of the league and its Members. It shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members.

Article 53: Infrastructure and Equipment Committee

The Infrastructure and Equipment Committee shall examine all matters relating to stadiums and playgrounds and other sports infrastructure and equipment, in conjunction with the Government and regional and local authorities. It shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members.

Article 54: Sports Medicine Committee

The Sports Medicine Committee of the league shall handle all medical issues relating to football. It shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members.

Article 55: Marketing, Promotion and Media Committee

The Marketing, Promotion and Media Committee shall advise the Board of Directors in the preparation and implementation of contracts binding the league to various marketing /promotion partners and develop marketing and promotion strategies. It shall also deal with the working conditions of the media at events organized by the league and collaboration with media groups, in collaboration with the General Secretariat. It shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and four (04) members.

Article 56: Security Committee

(1) The Security Committee shall be responsible for:

- (a) organizing the protection of persons and property during football matches;
- (b) ensuring compliance with the number of places available;
- (c) prohibiting access to the stadium by all persons in possession of objects that can serve as projectiles, pyrotechnic articles such as lasers, fireworks, rockets or flares whose lighting, projection or explosion may cause serious accidents;
- (d) prohibiting the sale of beverages in packaging other than plastic or cardboard within football playgrounds.
- (e) verifying the reliability of sports facilities.

It shall comprise a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members.

III- DURATION OF MANDATES AND FUNCTIONING OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 57: Duration of mandates

The President, Vice-Presidents, Rapporteurs and members of the standing committees are appointed for a period of four (04) years by the Board of Directors on the proposal of the President of the league.

Article 58: Functioning

The rules of operation of each standing committee are set out in directives of the Board of Directors.

IV- AD HOC COMMITTEES

Article 59: Unique

- (1) The Board of Directors may, where necessary, set up *ad hoc* committees for a specific purpose and for a limited period of time, on the proposal of the President of the league. The President of the league shall designate a (01) chairperson, a (01) deputy chairperson, a (01) rapporteur and three (03) members of the *ad hoc* committee.
- (2) The duties of the *ad hoc* committee shall be defined by separate regulations or circulars established by the Board of Directors. An *ad hoc* committee shall report directly to the Board of Directors.

- (3) The League's President, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, may chair an *ad hoc* committee.

SECTION 7: JUDICIAL BODY

Article 60: General Provisions Governing Judicial Body

- (1) The judicial bodies of the league shall be the Divisional Homologation and Disciplinary Committee;
- (2) The powers and duties of the above-mentioned judicial body shall be governed by these statutes, the Statutes, codes and regulations of FECAFOOT.
- (3) The duties of member of judicial bodies shall be incompatible with those of member of another league body.
- (4) The composition of judicial body shall be laid down by these Statutes, the statutes, codes and regulations of FECAFOOT as well as by separate instruments.
- (5) Judicial body must be composed in such a way as to ensure that all their members have the knowledge and skills required to perform their duties, as well as specific experience enabling them to accomplish their tasks properly. The chairperson, deputy chairperson, rapporteur, at least one member and alternate members of judicial body must have a legal background. Their term of office shall be 4 (four) years. Members shall be elected by single ballot. They may be re-elected or dismissed at any time, considering that their election or dismissal shall be carried out only by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Board of Directors.
- (6) The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, rapporteurs and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the General Assembly and must not belong to another league's body.
- (7) The procedures for terminating the activities of members of judicial body shall be as follows:
 - (a) Where during his mandate the Chairperson of the judicial body ceases to perform his duties for good, he shall be automatically replaced by the Deputy Chairperson. The Deputy Chairperson shall be replaced by the eldest member of the body.
 - (b) Where the Deputy Chairperson of a judicial body ceases to perform his duties for good during his mandate, he shall be automatically replaced by the eldest member of the body. Where the rapporteur of a judicial body ceases to perform his duties for good during his mandate, he shall be automatically replaced by the first member on the body.

- (8) In the absence of the Chairperson, his/her prerogatives shall be exercised by the Deputy Chairperson.
- (9) Members of judicial body must not have previously been found guilty in any matter incompatible with their duty.

Article 61: Divisional Homologation and Disciplinary Committee

- (1) The Divisional Homologation and Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions prescribed under these Statutes and the FECAFOOT Disciplinary Code on members, officials, players, match agents and intermediaries.
- (2) The Divisional Homologation and Disciplinary Committee shall consist of 1 (one) chairperson, 1 (one) deputy chairperson, 1 (one) rapporteur and 4 (four) members. Its chairperson, deputy chairperson, rapporteur and at least one member must have a legal background. The members of the Committee must be of established reputation.
- (3) The organization and functioning of the Committee shall be governed by the FECAFOOT Disciplinary Code.

Article 62: Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures shall include:

- (1) against natural persons and legal entities
 - (a) warning;
 - (b) reprimand;
 - (c) fine;
 - (d) the return of awards.
- (2) against natural persons:
 - (a) warning;
 - (b) expulsion;
 - (c) suspension from match;
 - (d) ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - (e) ban from entering a stadium;
 - (f) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
 - (g) community work.
- (3) against legal entities:
 - (a) ban from registering new players;
 - (b) obligation to play behind closed doors;
 - (c) playing a match on neutral ground;
 - (d) ban on playing in a particular stadium;

- (e) cancellation of the results of matches;
- (f) exclusion from a competition;
- (g) forfeiture;
- (h) deduction of points;
- (i) loss of match by penalty;
- (j) relegation to lower division(s);
- (k) replaying a match.

Article 63 : Sports Disputes, Mediation and Arbitration

- (1) The settlement of sports disputes between leagues, clubs, trade associations, licensees of FECAFOOT and/or within themselves, shall be done following rules specific to FECAFOOT.
- (2) After exhausting all internal remedies within FECAFOOT, one of the parties may ultimately, at the national level, refer the matter to the Chamber of Conciliation and Arbitration of the Cameroon National Olympic and Sports Committee.
- (3) Sports-related disputes referred by FECAFOOT, its members, players, officials, intermediaries and match agents to the CCA of the CNOSC, are subject to a prior and compulsory conciliation.
- (4) In case the parties do not reach a total or partial mediation and if the parties do not agree on the competence of the CCA/CNOSC to hear the matter in arbitration, the dispute shall be referred only to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 64 : Prohibition to Refer Matters to Ordinary Courts and Option for Exclusive Jurisdiction

- (1) FECAFOOT, its Members, players, officials, intermediaries and match agents shall not refer any sports dispute to ordinary courts unless it is specifically stated in FIFA's Statutes and regulations. All disputes shall be referred to the jurisdiction of FECAFOOT, CAF or FIFA.
- (2) FECAFOOT shall be competent to hear domestic disputes occurring between its Members. FIFA shall be competent to hear international disputes occurring between parties from different federations and/or confederations.

Article 65 : Court of Arbitration for Sport

- (1) In accordance with applicable provisions of the FIFA Statutes in force, any appeal against a decision of last resort at the national level shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) based in Lausanne, Switzerland. CAS shall not deal with appeals relating to violations of the Laws of the

Game or a match suspension for less than or equal to four matches or three months.

- (2) FECAFOOT must ensure that all final decisions taken by a FIFA body, a CAF body or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) based in Lausanne Switzerland, are respected by its Members, players, officials, match agents and intermediaries.

SECTION 8: GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 66: General Provisions Applicable to the General Secretariat

The General Secretariat shall perform all the administrative tasks of the league, under the supervision of a Secretary-General. The staff of the General Secretariat shall observe the Statutes, codes, regulations, decisions and guidelines of the league and FECAFOOT and perform the tasks assigned to them.

Article 67: Secretary-General

- (1) The Secretary-General shall head the administration of the league. He may be assisted in the performance of his task by at least one Deputy Secretary-General.
- (2) He shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, on the proposal of the President of the league, and shall be hired on the basis of an employment contract.
- (3) He shall be responsible for:
 - (a) enforcing the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, in accordance with the instructions of the President of the league;
 - (b) participating in the General Assembly and in the sessions of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors Bureau, standing and *ad hoc* committees and judicial body, in an advisory capacity;
 - (c) organizing the sessions of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Bureau of Board of Directors and the various committees and the judicial body, in conjunction with their chairpersons;
 - (d) taking down the minutes of General Assembly, Board of Directors and Board of Directors Bureau meetings;
 - (e) controlling of the management of the league's assets and the proper keeping of accounts by the Administrative and Financial Director;
 - (f) managing all the league's correspondences;
 - (g) relations with Members, judicial body, committees and FECAFOOT;

- (h) organizing the General Secretariat;
 - (i) proposing the hiring and firing of the junior staff of the Secretariat General to the President of the league;
 - (j) the administration and management of competitions,
 - (k) publishing decisions taken by the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors Bureau and the judicial body.
- (2) The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-general may neither be a delegate to the General Assembly nor member of another league's body.

CHAPTER V : FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 68 : Exercice fiscal

- (1) The league's financial year shall cover one calendar year. It shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year.
- (2) The league's revenue and expenditure must be balanced during the financial year. The President of the league shall be the authorizing officer of the budget of the league. A provision must be made to support the performance of the main tasks of the league
- (3) The President of the league shall present to the General Assembly the consolidated annual accounts of the league as at December 31 of each year.
- (4) The independent audit firm shall present its report to the General Assembly.
- (5) The General Assembly shall or shall not grant discharge.

Article 69: Resources

The league's resources shall be mainly derived from:

- (1) membership dues;
- (2) revenue from the marketing of rights co-owned or owned by the league ;
- (3) fines imposed by the relevant bodies;
- (4) all sorts of revenue from competitions, sporting activities, events and contests;
- (5) income from its property;
- (6) proceeds from the sale of publications, badges and emblems, and from advertising;

- (7) any donations within the limits authorized by law;
- (8) damages;
- (9) revenue from organizations using the calendar competition for advertising purposes;
- (10) subsidies from the State or regional and local authorities;
- (11) contributions and subsidies from FECAFOOT;
- (12) subsidies and revenue that are consistent with league's objectives;
- (13) any other resources authorized by law.

Article 70 : Expenditure

The President shall commit, validate and order the payment of:

- expenditure provided for in the regular budget and dedicated budgets;
- expenditure approved by the General Assembly, and that of the Board of Directors within the limits of its powers and possibilities;
- all expenses consistent with the league's objectives.

Article 71: Divisional Funds

- (1) Funds and securities shall be deposited at bank in accounts opened in the name of the league.
- (2) The withdrawal of funds or securities, regardless of the amount, shall require two signatures: that of the President of the league and that of the Secretary General. In the absence of the President of the league, the 1st Vice-President and the Secretary-General shall sign.
- (3) The assets of the league shall be considered to be corporate assets. In the event of embezzlement, the managers shall be prosecuted by the competent ordinary courts, as an exception to the rule of exclusive jurisdiction referred to in Article 74 of these Statutes.

Article 72: Subsidies

The league shall be accountable to the State and to regional and local authorities for funds received from them, such funds being public funds governed by Article 67 of Law No. 2018/14 of 11 July 2018 relating to the organization and promotion of physical and sporting activities in Cameroon.

Article 73: Accounting Principles

The league's accounts shall be kept in accordance with the OHADA Accounting Plan.

Article 74: Legal Action

The Board of Directors shall, as a precautionary measure, suspend forthwith, until the holding of the next General Assembly, any member of a league body, standing or *ad hoc* committee responsible for a financial transaction at the league and indicted for embezzlement, without prejudice to criminal proceedings that the Committee may initiate against him.

Article 75 : Independent Audit Body

The audit firm appointed by the General Assembly shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee, in accordance with OHADA accounting principles, and submit a report to the General Assembly. It shall be appointed for a two-year term, renewable.

Article 76: Annual Dues

- (1) Annual dues shall be due on 31 January each year. Dues from new members for the current year shall be paid within 30 (thirty) days following the end of the General Assembly at which they were admitted.
- (2) The amount of the annual dues shall be fixed yearly by the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Board of Directors. It shall be the same for all members.
- (3) Members who do not pay their dues on time shall be automatically suspended. The suspension shall be lifted automatically upon payment.

Article 77: Compensation

The league may settle its claims against its Members with its assets. Therefore, the league may automatically deduct the corresponding amount.

Article 78: Percentage

The league may request to receive, from its Members, a share of the revenue collected during matches.

CHAPTER VI

COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Article 79: Competitions

- (1) The divisional league shall organize and coordinate all official competitions taking place in its area of jurisdiction.
- (2) The divisional league may delegate authority to a league to organize competitions.

Article 80: Licences

The system of management of licences for the participation of clubs in competitions shall be determined by the General Regulations of FECAFOOT.

Article 81: Rights

- (1) The league and its Members shall be entitled to revenue generated from competition rights and other events organized within their respective jurisdictions.
- (2) Such rights shall include: all types of proprietary rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotion rights, intellectual property rights, rights over distinctive marks, etc.
- (3) The Board of Directors shall determine how and to what extent these rights shall be utilized and lay down special provisions to this end. It shall decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively by the league, jointly with third parties, or entirely delegated to third parties.

Article 82: Authorization

The league and its Members shall be exclusively responsible for authorizing the broadcasting, especially on audiovisual media, of matches and events falling under their respective jurisdiction, without any restriction or consideration of venue, content, date, technique or rights.

Article 83: Organization of International Matches

- (1) The responsibility of organizing international matches and competitions involving national teams, leagues and/or club teams shall rest solely with FECAFOOT. No match or competition shall take place without prior approval of FECAFOOT, of the other association, of CAF and FIFA.
- (2) Any sports encounter organized by the league and a non-FECAFOOT member association or provisional members of confederations or their clubs shall require FECAFOOT's, the other association, CAF's and FIFA's approval.

CHAPTER VII: MISCELLANEOUS, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 84 : Incompatibilities

- (1) The following duties shall be incompatible with those of President, Secretary-General and Deputy secretary-general of the league:
 - (a) member of the executive body or owner of a football club or a licensed training entity;
 - (b) licensed football player;
 - (c) licensed football referee, coach or instructor;
 - (d) licensed intermediary or match agent.
- (2) Considering that they may give rise to conflicts of interest, the duties of member of an executive body of another national sports federation shall be incompatible with those of President of the ligue.
- (3) Any member affected by the incompatibility provisions shall have thirty (30) days from the date of his election or appointment to resign from his previous position, under pain of dismissal by the Board of Directors.

Article 85: Approval

1. the functioning of the divisional league is subject to prior approval of the FECAFOOT during a General Assembly convened for this purpose.
2. Its existence and functioning shall cease as from withdrawal of that authorization. In this case, the provisions article 87 (2) above shall apply.

Article 86: Unforeseen Circumstances and Force Majeure

The Board of Directors of the league shall pass decisions in sole instance on all cases not provided for in these Statutes or in cases of force majeure, without prejudice to a contrary decision of the General Assembly of the league.

Article 87 : Dissolution

- (1) The decision on the dissolution of the league shall require a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority of the votes validly cast at a General Assembly specially convened for this purpose.
- (2) Upon dissolution of the league, its assets shall be made available to national sports organizations that will continue to manage them until the constitution of a new divisional football association.

Article 88: Continuity of Service

The General Assembly of the league, the Board of Directors and Board of Directros Bureau of the league, standing committees and the judicial body of

divisional leagues in office shall continue to discharge their duties until the progressive conformity of these bodies with the present statutes.

Article 89: Electoral Process

Election within divisional leagues shall be conducted on the basis of these standard statutes and the Electoral Code of FECAFOOT.

Article 90 : : Special Provisions

Clubs to participate in the 2021 electoral process must be affiliated and shall have taken part in the competitions organized during the 2020 - 2021 sports season without having been subject to a general forfeiture by a final decision of a judicial body that has become final.

Article 91: Pre-eminence of the Statutes

Where there is a conflict between the provisions of these Statutes and those of a any text of the divisional league, the latter shall be deemed unwritten.

2. Where there is a conflict between the provisions of any text of FECAFOOT and those of these statutes, the latter shall be deemed unwritten.

Article 92: Entry into Force

These Statutes, drafted in English and French, have been adopted by the FECAFOOT General Assembly at its extraordinary session of 07 August 2021 and enter into force immediately upon their adoption.

Yaounde, the 7th August 2021

SIKI AWONO Parfait Nicolas

SEIDOU MBOMBO NJOYA

SECRETARY GENERAL

PRESIDENT