Fédération Internationale du Sport Football de Table
Federation of International Sports Table Football

Official Handbook

fistf.com

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Preface

Document Basis & Explanation

- The provisions of this handbook apply to the Federation of International Sports Table Football (FISTF), its Member National Associations (MNAs), Member National Associations - Provisional (MNA-Ps), registered players, registered Clubs, and competition organisers in the conduct of any activity related to sports table football.
- In case of any conflict between the FISTF Statutes and any section of this handbook, the provisions of the FISTF Statutes shall prevail.
- If any provision of this handbook or its applicability to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this handbook whichcan be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisionsof this handbook shall be severable.
- In the event of any controversy, dispute or claim arising out of or relating to this handbook, or to the interpretation, breach, or enforcement thereof, the parties shall in good faith use best efforts to settle such controversy, dispute or claim by negotiation. If such negotiation should fail, such controversy, dispute or claim shall be submitted to the FISTF Board of Directors, which shall issue a final, binding, and conclusive ruling on all interested parties.
- The rights and obligations herein contained shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, FISTF, MNAs, registered players and registered clubs and their respective executors,administrators, successors, and assigns.
- Any forbearance of FISTF, MNAs, MNA-Ps, registered players or registered clubs to exercise any right or remedy to which they are entitled under this handbook shall not be construed as a waiver of, or preclude the exercise of, any right or remedy.
- As used in this handbook, words in the masculine gender shall mean and include corresponding neuter words or words in the feminine gender and vice-versa, words in the singular shall mean and include the plural and vice versa, and the word “may” gives sole discretion without any obligation to take any action.
- Any case not provided for in this handbook shall be referred to the FISTF Board of Directors,which shall issue a final, binding, and conclusive ruling on the case.

Disclaimer of Liability

FISTF hereby disclaims any warranties, express or implied, including, without limitation, any impliedwarranty arising from course of performance, course of dealing or usage of trade, and also disclaims all other obligations and liabilities whatsoever whether in contract, warranty, product liability, tort (including without limitation, negligence, active, passive or imputed liability or strict liability), by statute or otherwise, related to the organisation and conduct of sports table football competitions, except as expressly assumed by FISTF in its statutes or in the present handbook.

MNAs and MNA-Ps, by becoming FISTF members and accepting to organise sports table football competitions, expressly agree that FISTF is released from, and shall not be liable to, MNAs or competition organisers upon, any claim howsoever arising out of sports table football competitions, whether in contract, warranty, product liability or tort (including without limitation, negligence, active, passive orimputed liability or strict liability), by statute or otherwise, and all direct, indirect, special, consequential and incidental damages of any nature whatsoever, except as expressly assumed by FISTF in its statutes or in the valid handbook, and MNAs and competition organisers assume all risk and liability whatsoever related to sports table football competition organised by them, that is not expressly assumed by FISTF.

Should a registered player, registered club, registered referee or any other third party assert a claim against or sue FISTF whether in contract, warranty, product liability or tort (including without limitation, negligence, active, passive or imputed liability or strict liability), either at law or in equity, for events related to a sports table football competition, the competition organiser of such competition shall be responsible for dealing with and settling, at their own expense, any such claim, action or proceeding. Should FISTF incur any expenses in dealing with such a claim, action of proceeding, the competition organiser shall indemnify FISTF for all damages incurred to FISTF.

At the time of renewing their FISTF membership or of first becoming members of FISTF, MNAs and MNA-Ps have been expressly made aware of the provisions of this section “disclaimer of liabilities” and, by accepting membership, recognise that these provisions are fully understood and accepted.

At the time of applying for the organisation of a table football competition, competition organisers have been expressly made aware of the provisions of this section “disclaimer of liabilities” and, by accepting membership or the task of competition organiser, recognise that these provisions are fully understood and accepted.

In case of any conflict between this section “disclaimer of liabilities” and any other section of this handbook (excepting the FISTF statutes), the provisions of this section “disclaimer of liabilities” shall prevail.

This handbook shall be a ‘living’ document, which will be posted on the FISTF website (fistf.com). All changes will be made to it, becoming active at the time of publication, unless otherwise stated. A register of changes will be kept as an addendum.

Convention:

References hereunder to MNAs include MNA-Ps, unless otherwise stated.

All dates linked to the current season are highlighted in blue.

Section 1 - Internal Regulations

1.1 FISTF Departments

1.1.1 FISTF Board of Directors

(a) As the representatives of FISTF, the Board of Directors has the authority and the responsibility for the following matters:

(i) Organisation and administration of the FISTF MNAs and registered players, referees, clubs, and supporters.

(ii) Organisation and administration of international sports table football competitions. FISTF will support competitors taking part in competitions by offering well organised and high-quality sports table football.

(iii) Implementing rules of the game and rules of competitions.

(iv) Production and distribution of international official and promotional sports table football newsletters, videos, and other digital material.

(v) Promotion and development of sports table football so that the number of members and registered players, referees, clubs, and supporters can increase and to develop recognition of sports table football as a sport by the public.

(vi) Development and support of players' abilities through meetings and specialist high level training camps for players and referees.

(vii) Ensuring that sports material is available and distributed and promotes a positive image of sports table football.

(b) All FISTF Board of Directors must use institutional emails for official communications. Any email from other email addresses will not be considered an official FISTF communication.

1.1.2 Definition of Department

(a) Each Board Member has their own Department under their supervision, as follows:

Board Member	Department
President	President's Advisory Group Disciplinary Council Independent Arbitrators Committee
General Secretary	Administrative Department
Sports Director	Sports Department Rules and Referees Committee
Finance Director	Finance Department Independent Auditors Committee
Media Director	Communications Department EditorialCommittee
Promotion & Marketing Director	Promotion and Marketing Department

Board Member	Department
Development Director	Development Department
Special Sports Director	Special Sports Department
Asian Confederation VP	CASTFA Board
African Confederation VP	ACSTFA Board
North America Confederation VP	CONASTF Board
South America Confederation VP	CSAFM Board
European Confederation VP	ECSTFA Board

(b) Each Department can create Commissions for the purpose of the management of a predetermined task under that Department.

(c) All Departments must communicate with each other and communicate with the Secretary General and the FISTF President in relation to their activities.

1.2 Decisions by the FISTF Board

(a) It is solely at the discretion of the FISTF Board of Directors to take a decision about any situation not described or not well clarified by the present Handbook.

(b) In the case of any doubt, the decision of the FISTF Board will be accepted as valid. The Board has the right to take such decisions to an ad hoc vote of the member associations for validation.

(c) Any decision taken by the FISTF Board of Directors/Members within this context will prevail for future similar situations.

(d) Only the FISTF AGM or Congress has the authority to override the decisions of the FISTF Board of Directors.

1.3 FISTF Commissions

(a) FISTF Commissions (Committees) are special groups of people (*Commissioners*) invited or nominated by the FISTF Board of Directors or the relevant Board member to help on determined tasks under the supervision of one of the FISTF Board members who shall have the right to be members of those Commissions.

(b) It is not mandatory that Commission members be members of a FISTF MNA.

Section 2 - Administrative Regulations

2.1 FISTF Members

2.1.1 Types of FISTF Members

(a) FISTF MNAs, as defined in the statutes and licensed by FISTF, are the only FISTF members.

(b) An MNA does not necessarily have to be an independent nation. Examples include Gibraltar, England, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland (GBR), Hong Kong & Macau (CHN), Faroe Islands (DEN), Monaco, San Marino & Andorra, etc. Applications may be accepted by the Board of Directors as stated in the FISTF Statutes.

2.1.2 Criteria for admission (and continuation) as a FISTF MNA or MNA-P

(a) Any country wishing to apply to become an MNA or MNA-P must complete a **Form 09** (MNA/MNA-P Application) and submit it together with a **Form 01** (National Association Member Form) and submit both forms to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/. Both forms are available at https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/.

MNAs and MNA-Ps – common criteria for admission

(b) A constitution/statutes setting out the need for a Board with at least 3 persons: President/Chair, two others; an annual/regular general meeting; and annual/regular elections.

(c) Registration with national authority: Each MNA/MNA-P is strongly encouraged to register as a club/association or official body within the juridical laws of that Nation (country). Where there are no such laws, the MNA/MNA-P must prove such a situation with an appropriate document or reference to government statutes. Where registration is possible but is not sought by the MNA/MNA-P, the MNA/MNA-P must set out the reasons for not seeking registration. Where an MNA/MNA-P cannot be registered officially as a club/association or official body, or has chosen not to, FISTF will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to admit the MNA/MNA-P. An organisation must in any case have a constitution which requires that it is led by a competent Board of Directors, holds annual/regular general meetings, and conducts annual/regular elections. An association cannot be in the ownership of or under the control of one or two persons (see section 2.1.2).

(d) A Program of sports activities: Organisation of competitions within its national boundaries, and licensing of all players and referees.

(e) Proof of a registered bank/PayPal account (account name and account number): Accounts of an MNA/MNA-P must be controlled by the MNA/MNA-P Board of Directors, with at least two responsible officers in charge of activities.

(f) Completing the relevant FISTF forms as set out in 2.1.5, a membership application to become an MNA or MNA-P, enclosing its statutes.

(g) The request for admission as an MNA or MNA-P must contain a commitment:

  (i) To comply with statutes, rules and decisions of FISTF.

  (ii) To observe the laws of the game in force in FISTF.

(h) Payment of membership fees as set out in 2.5.1 and 2.5.2.

(i) Compliance with administrative duties of MNAs/MNA-Ps as set out in 2.1.4.

MNAs – specific criteria for admission

(j) An MNA shall have a minimum of ten (10) registered players.

(k) An MNA shall have a minimum of one (1) club (with team).

(l) An MNA shall aim to have at least a National Championship and National Cup for Individuals and Teams.

(m) An MNA shall have a web page or other social media platform for sports table football (STF) information purposes.

MNA-Ps – specific criteria for admission

(n) An MNA-P shall have a minimum of five (5) players.

(o) As stated in the FISTF Statutes, an observation period of a minimum of six months and a maximum of thirty (30) months as an MNA-P is required to validate the application for affiliation as a full MNA.

(p) An MNA-P undergoing the observation period cannot take part in votes at the AGM but may take part in other FISTF voting activity as decided by the Board.

(q) An MNA-P which meets the criteria for admission as a full MNA, including a minimum of 10 licensed players and one licensed club, shall be admitted as an MNA at the end of its observation period.

(r) An MNA-P which does **not** meet the criteria for admission as a full MNA, including a minimum of 10 players at the end of its observation period shall, in consultation with and with approval by the FISTF Board of Directors, decide whether it wishes to extend its observation period for a set period up to a maximum of a further twenty-four (24) months or withdraw its application for membership altogether.

Annual renewal of status and consequences of non-compliance with membership requirements

(s) Status as a FISTF MNA or MNA-P is valid for one sports season only and must be renewed each season. Each MNA's/MNA-P's status as a member of FISTF will be validated annually at the Annual General Meeting of FISTF, on the recommendation of the FISTF Board, bearing in mind the criteria set out below.

MNAs

(i) An MNA will continue to be admitted as a full MNA if it continues to meet the criteria for admission set out at 2.12(a) to (m) above and the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below.

(ii) An MNA that fails to meet the criteria for admission set out at 2.12(a) to (m) above or the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below will temporarily lose its full MNA status. It will have no voting rights at the FISTF AGM or Congress, and all events in its territory will be suspended. To revert to full MNA status, it must meet the criteria for admission set out at 2.12(a) to (m) above and the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below.

(iii) An MNA that has not met the rules for registration set out at criteria for admission set out at 2.12(a) to (m) above and the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below for 3 years consecutively will be downgraded to MNA-P, meaning that it will have no voting rights at the FISTF AGM or Congress. To revert to full MNA status, it must complete these forms and comply with the other MNA criteria.

MNA-Ps

(iv) An MNA-P will continue to be admitted as an MNA-P if it continues to meet the criteria for admission set out at 2.1.2(a) to (i) and at 2.1.2(n) above and the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below.

(v) An MNA-P that fails to meet the criteria for admission set out at 2.1.2(a) to (i) and 2.1.2(n) above or the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below will temporarily lose its MNA-P status. All events in its territory will be suspended. To revert to MNA-P status, it must meet the criteria for admission set out at 2.1.2(a) to (i) and 2.1.5(n) above and the rules for registration set out at 2.1.5 below.

2.1.3 Rights of MNAs and MNA-Ps

(a) An MNA/MNA-P may:

(i) Apply to organise its own FISTF tournaments and have its licensed players take part in tournaments listed in the FISTF calendar.

(ii) Grant licenses to its clubs and players to attend FISTF tournaments.

(b) FISTF will issue an official diploma proving the membership and setting out the status of the MNA/MNA-P each season, upon request.

2.1.4 Administrative Duties of MNAs/MNA-Ps

(a) As outlined in 2.1.5 below, an MNA must complete its respective Google Sheet **Form 01** (National Association Membership Form) and **Form 20** list of its licensed players and clubs. An MNA will be asked to update its forms prior to the start of each season but must update both the **Form 01** and **Form 20** as required throughout the season to ensure that its contact points are up to date and players and clubs are correctly registered.

(b) An MNA must pay all fees, levies, and penalties set out in 2.5 incurred by it in the season.

2.1.5 Rules for the continuing registration of an MNA/MNA-P

(a) Guidelines about National Association Membership **Form 01**

(i) The completion of this form is mandatory for all MNAs in the terms referred in 2.1.4.

(ii) The form must be completed with as much detailed information as possible. Some of this information will be published on the FISTF website under the Nations pages. It is requested that email addresses of all officeholders of the MNA be kept up to date. This is to ensure communication with MNAs is accurate. Additional information of each MNA is appreciated: website, Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter handles.

(iii) As well as completing the Google Sheet **Form 01**, the MNA must send all the following documents to FISTF:

(A) Statutes of the MNA (only when first applying to become an MNA or where there are any changes to the Statutes).

(B) Proof of ongoing registration as a club/association or official body within the juridical laws of that Nation (country) or, where such registration is not possible or has not been sought, a brief statement to that effect.

(C) Proof of an ongoing registered bank/PayPal account (account name and account number).

(D) Evidence of the MNA's most recent General Meeting (in the form of minutes taken of the meeting) and signed by the President/Chairman.

(E) Evidence of the voting for Board positions - in the form of a list of candidates and the final board.

(b) Guidelines about Google Sheets **Form 20** - MNA - Licensed Clubs & Players Form

(i) The maintenance of this form is mandatory for all MNAs in the terms referred to in 2.1.4. It must be updated and maintained on a regular basis for all players and clubs listed in the **Form 20** to play in FISTF Tour events and to appear in the FISTF World Ranking.

(ii) MNAs can (and should) make updates of the **Form 20** list of licensed players and clubs, including new licenses, at any time.

(iii) In this way, new players/clubs registered during the season can participate in FISTF tournaments as soon as the **Form 20** has been updated to include them. The FISTF Database is updated each month, at the same time as the World Ranking is published, so tournament organisers can determine if a player is licensed by checking the database at https://fistf.com/data-centre/players-clubs/

(iv) While the **Form 20** should be kept up to date on a regular basis, MNAs will be formally requested to update their **Form 20** prior to the start of each season. If an MNA does not update its **Form 20** as required at the start of the season, players and clubs, if listed on the **Form 20** from the prior season, may (unless otherwise suspended - see point (d)(v) below) still participate in FISTF events but will not be credited points in the World Ranking (WR) and will be removed from the WR until the **Form 20** has been updated by their MNA. In addition, as outlined above under 2.1.2(s)(ii), the MNA will be temporarily suspended until the **Form 20** (and any other membership requirements that have not been fulfilled) has been updated.

(c) Licensed Clubs

(i) As noted above, the **Form 20** must include all clubs licensed by the MNA. Clubs not included in the list will not have a FISTF license and cannot participate in FISTF Tour events. Clubs which <u>are</u> licensed by their MNA, but whose MNA does not maintain **Form 20** as required, may (unless otherwise suspended) still participate in FISTF events but will not be credited points in the World Ranking (WR) and will be removed from the WR until the MNA has updated the **Form 20]**.

(ii) Every club shall have a unique FISTF license code and maintain the same code from the previous season. This code never changes and cannot be used by other clubs in the future.

(iii) The 3 letters of the MNA code, followed by the letter "C" and 3 sequential digits from 000 to 999, compose the structure of the Club license code. For example, valid club license codes for Austria are AUTC001, AUTC002, …, AUTC999. In the instance of a new club, the code and abbreviation of the club will be assigned by the FISTF Database Manager.

(iv) For each club, it is mandatory to indicate: Full Club Name, Contact Person, Contact Email, Address, and City. Also appreciated are the website, Facebook page, and Instagram and Twitter handles and the club logo.

(v) A club may enter two or more club teams in FISTF events, such as B-Teams.

(d) Licensed Players

(i) **Google Sheet Form 20** must include all players licensed by the MNA. Players not included in the list will not have a FISTF license code and cannot participate in FISTF events. Where a player without a license registers/attempts to register for a tournament, the tournament organiser shall inform the player that they cannot play without a license and that the player must obtain a license from their MNA in order to participate in the event.

(ii) Every player shall have a unique FISTF license code and maintain the same code from the previous season. This code never changes and cannot be used by another player in the future.

(iii) The structure of the Player license code is composed of the 3 letters of the MNA code, followed by 4 sequential digits from 0000to 9999. For example, valid player license codes for Austria are AUT0001, AUT0002, etc.

(iv) The inclusion of a date of birth is mandatory for a player to be issued a FISTF license.

(v) A player who is under sanction, either from the FISTF Disciplinary Council (DC) or their own MNA - where the sanction includes the withdrawal or suspension of the player's FISTF licence - cannot participate in any FISTF events (either domestically or internationally) and so cannot receive WR points.

(vi) A player who is inactive i.e. has not participated at individual or team competitions for a minimum of three consecutive seasons, should be marked as inactive on the **Form 20**. Such a player should also be marked as a "free agent".

(vii) An inactive free agent player can join a club at any time.

(e) Foreign players registered with a National Club

(i) An MNA has no authority to grant a FISTF license to a foreign player.

(f) Administrative Sanctions for MNAs

(i) The sanctions for MNAs which fail to comply with these rules of registration, including updating the **Form 01** and **Form 20**, are set out at 2.1.2above.

(g) Administrative Sanctions for Players/Clubs where an MNA does not update its **Form 20**

(i) If an MNA does not update its **Form 20** registration as required at the start of the season, licensed players and clubs from that MNA may still participate in competitions (unless they are under sanction). However, until the **Form 20** is up to date, there will be no World Ranking points awarded to these players and clubs for any competitions. These points will be restored as soon as the data is updated by the MNAs.

2.2 FISTF Licensed Clubs

2.2.1 Definition of FISTF Licensed Club

(a) A FISTF Licensed Club is a club officially recognised by its MNA, after which it can be included on the list of the MNA's licensed clubs (Google Sheet **Form 20**), or, in the case of there being no MNA in its country, a License awarded directly by FISTF.

(b) A FISTF License is valid for one sports season only and must be renewed each season.

(c) A club that is inactive i.e. has not participated in competitions for a minimum of three consecutive seasons, should be marked as inactive.

2.2.2 Definition of the Nationality of Clubs

(a) The MNA of the country where a club is headquartered, providing this MNA is a member of FISTF, shall solely grant the license to the club.

(b) An MNA shall not unreasonably deny a license to a club headquartered within the country it is representing.

A club headquartered in a country where no sports table football MNA exists, or where the MNA is not a member of FISTF, shall be granted a license directly by FISTF.

2.2.3 Rights of FISTF Licensed Clubs

(a) All clubs that are registered with an MNA may take part in all tournaments listed in the FISTF calendar (unless the club is under suspension) and will be included in the world ranking table (but see 2.1.5(c)(i) above).

2.2.4 Duties of FISTF Licensed Clubs

(a) Only FISTF licensed clubs can get points for the FISTF World Ranking.

(b) To get points for the FISTF World Ranking, the Club must request a FISTF License from its MNA annually.

2.2.5 Rules for the Licensing of a Club

(a) To have a FISTF license, a new club shall request its affiliation with the MNA existing in its country. This should be done by the President and Secretary of the new club completing the **Form 10** and submitting it to their MNA. Once approved by the MNA, the Form 10 must be submitted to FISTF.

(b) Changes of club name should be requested by the club President and Secretary completing the **Form 11** and submitting to their MNA. Once approved by the MNA, the Form 11 be submitted to FISTF.

(c) Where two existing clubs wish to merge, the President and Secretary from both clubs must complete the **Form 12** and submit to their MNA. Once approved by the MNA, the Form 12 must be submitted to FISTF. The new, merged club will be given the average of the points in the world ranking of the two merged clubs, that is, the points of Club A + points of Club B divided by two.

(d) If there is no MNA in its country, the club shall request a FISTF license directly from FISTF. The creation of new clubs, changes to details of existing clubs, mergers of clubs or cessation of a club must also be noted by an MNA in its **Form 20**.

2.2.6 Administrative Sanctions for Clubs

(a) As set out at 2.1.5(c) above, a club without a valid FISTF license may not take part in FISTF events. Clubs which are licensed by their MNA, but whose MNA does not maintain **Form 20** as required, may participate in FISTF events but will not get points in the World Ranking until the MNA has updated the **Form 20**.

(b) A club that is not licensed, or that has decided not to apply for/renew a licence, may not take part in events as in (a) above. However, players previously listed as members of that club and who are licensed (as an individual player), but whose club is not, may participate in events but will appear as 'free agent' in the world ranking (see 2.3.6 below).

2.3 FISTF Licensed Players

2.3.1 Players' Nationality

(a) Players are entitled to register with the MNA of the country:

(i) in which the player was born,

(ii) of which the player is a legal citizen, or

(iii) in which the player has been a permanent resident for a period of three (3) continuous years; and

(iv) as long as they comply with the statutes/constitution/regulations of the relevant MNA.

(b) Players who are citizens shall provide official documentation such as a passport, while those who are not citizens need to provide relevant documents to prove their permanent residency for the required period of three (3) continuous years.

(c) FISTF reserves the right to request copies of these documents with the submission of the MNA's **Form 20**.

(d) For all UK players (having the same British citizenship), the requirement for membership shall be the country of birth or the place of residency uponapplying for registration for the first time with FISTF.

(e) For the purposes of players in the UK, 'country' refers to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

(f) Example: A player who was born in Scotland, but has lived continuously in England for three years, and who chooses to become a registered player, can decide to register with either the SSTFA or the ESA.

(g) Players who are currently registered with an MNA cannot transfer nationality unless they meet the requirements of section 2.3.2. Players can only be registered with one MNA/MNA-P.

(h) Any dispute or appeal related to the licensing or nationality of players shall be referred in writing within thirty (30) days to the FISTF General Secretary.

(i) Notwithstanding the identity of the MNA with which the player registers, the player shall have the right to be a member of any club of their choice, whether or not that club is operating within the country where the player resides, subject to the rules and regulations established by FISTF for membership and transfers to and from clubs.

(j) Example: Player C has Belgian citizenship and is licensed by the Belgian MNA (FBFTS). Player C may also be a member of the Washington, D.C.,Table Football Club.

(k) Notwithstanding the club of which the player is a member, the player shall have all the rights and obligations of the other players being granted a license by the same MNA.

(l) By being granted a license by an MNA, the player becomes eligible to represent this MNA in individual and team international competitions, including but not limited to the World Cup, subject to the agreement of the MNA and to the rules of the competition.

(m) Example: Player C has Belgian citizenship, is licensed by the Belgian MNA (FBFTS), but is a member of the Washington D.C. Table Football Club. Player C may be selected by FBFTS to represent Belgium in the World Cup (both for the individual and team competition).

(n) An MNA may impose additional regulations on any player joining their association, such as requirements for financial registration, code of conduct etc.

2.3.2 Change of Nationality

(a) A player may request to change their FISTF-recognised nationality under the following conditions:

(i) The player can prove, by providing official papers, that they have the legal citizenship of the country represented by the MNA of which they are applying to become a member;

or

(ii) The player can prove, by providing official documentation, that they are a long-time resident (at least 3 continuous years) of the country represented by the MNA of which they are applying to become a member;

and, in addition to fulfilling either (a)(i) or (a)(ii) above;

(iii) The player has not changed his FISTF nationality during the previous 5 years.

(iv) For the purposes of players with British Citizenship, 'country' refers to England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Transfers to another MNA within the UK can only be approved if players have resided in one of these 'countries' for at least three years. Citizenship is not a determining transfer factor for players in the UK as they all have the same citizenship (British).

(v) Players wishing to transfer nationality must submit **Form 02**, available on the FISTF website. Players must also alert their current MNA of their desire to change MNA, and the current MNA must sign the **Form 02** before it is submitted.

2.3.3 Players without MNA

(a) A player having their nationality in a country where no sports table football MNA exists, or where the MNA is not a member of FISTF, shall be granted a license directly by FISTF.

(b) Example: Player B has a Kenyan citizenship, where no MNA exists. FISTF will grant the player a license on request.

(c) If a FISTF-registered player (player without FISTF nationality) transfers to a club, then this player acquires the club's MNA nationality and becomes a citizen of this MNA for FISTF purposes.

2.3.4 Rights of FISTF Licensed Players

(a) All players who are licensed to play sports table football by an MNA/MNA-P may take part in all tournaments listed in the FISTF calendar, unless they are under sanction, and will be included in the world-ranking table if their MNA's **Form 20** is up to date (see 2.1.5(b) above).

2.3.5 Rules for the Registration of Players

(a) Other than for disciplinary reasons (which may involve suspension/temporary withdrawal of a license), non-payment of any fee imposed for registration, or failure to meet other domestic registration requirements, an MNA shall not deny a license to a player who is entitled to register with that MNA. In case of conflict, a player may ask FISTF to examine the problem, and to decide whether or not to require the MNA to register the player.

(b) Players who take part in FISTF events must provide their nationality, gender, club, and birth date to their MNA to be passed on to FISTF. **All data is mandatory**.

(c) If a player has not provided their birth date, the player cannot attend any FISTF tournament.

(d) It is the responsibility of the MNAs to make sure all players have provided the requested data and validate them.

(e) Only the FISTF registration Google Sheet **Form 20** updated by the relevant MNA is valid for this purpose.

2.3.6 Rules for Free Agents ("unattached" players)

(a) A Free Agent is a player who is not registered with any licensed Club. Free Agents may participate in FISTF individual competitions.

(b) If a player wants to become a free agent (that is, a player in the individual ranking, but not registered with any club), for the following season, the player shall inform FISTF through the relevant MNA, during the Transfer Period. No permission/signature from their existing club shall be needed. **Form 06** must be completed by the player and submitted to their MNA for sending to FISTF to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf- for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

(c) A free agent may join any club (existing or new) during the Transfer Period. A player registered as a free agent for longer than 13 months (1 year = 365 days, plus 1 month = 31days), including an inactive player (per 2.1.5(f)(vi) above), may join any FISTF club at any time, not just during the transfer period.

(d) A new player is automatically registered as a free agent unless they join a club during their registration.

(e) A non-ranked (a new player who has never played in any individual or team competition) free agent player can join a club at any time during the Sports Season. If they have participated in any FISTF competition, rule 2.3.8 applies.

(f) A player can change their status to free agent only once during a Sports Season.

2.3.7 Rules for the players registered with a club which has ceased activity

(a) All players registered with a club which has ceased its activity, change their status to "Free Agents" (2.3.6). As noted under 2.3.6(a), these players may play in all FISTF Individual competitions during the season.

(b) Registering with a new club shall still respect all rules under 2.3.8. Therefore a "Free Agent" cannot transfer during the season to play team competitions.

(c) A club/team reserves the right to "release" a player from its list of players during the season. In this case, the team is obliged to inform FISTF (through its MNA) accordingly using the Transfer **Form 06**. The"released" player is then automatically registered as a free agent. If the "released" player has already played for the club during the season in an individual or team event, he/she must wait until the next "Transfer Period" to transfer to a new club (per 2.3.8 below). If, however, the player has not played for the club during the season in an individual or team event, and the timing permits, they may transfer to a new club prior to 31 December during the "extended transfer period" (per 2.3.9(e) below).

2.3.8 Rules for the Transfer of a Player between two clubs

(a) Players may transfer between two clubs subject to the following conditions:

(i) The "Sports Season" for 2024-2025 is the period between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025, both dates inclusive.

(ii) "National Transfer" is defined as the transfer of a player between two (2) clubs of the same nationality as the player.

(iii) "Transfer Period" is defined as the period between 1 July 2024 and 31 August 2024 , both dates inclusive, for all nations, all regions, using Central European Time as the official date. The official date of the transfer request is the date of email sent to FISTF, not the date of signature. All correspondence must be received BEFORE 31 August 2024 as mentioned above. All transfers properly requested during the transfer period take effect at the beginning of the new sports season (1 September).

(iv) All National Transfer requests shall be made using **Form 06** (Downloadable on https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ tab "Forms"). The new club must send **Form 06** to MNA and the MNA must send it to FISTF via the website method to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for- operations-sport-calendar-rankings/ . The MNA must make the changes in their own Google Sheet **Form 20** and must send **Form 07** (All MNA Players Transfer List). This must be done as soon as possible and no later than 31 August 2024, so that the World Ranking database is up to date with all transfers prior to the start of the season. No permission/signature from their existing club shall be needed.

(v) An "International Transfer" is the transfer of a player when the former club or new club has a different nationality to that of the player.

(vi) All International Transfer requests shall be made using **Form 06** (Downloadable on https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ tab "Forms"), following the process described in (a)(ix).

(vii) A player may only play for one club in FISTF Teams competitions during a sports season.

(viii) A player can only make one transfer during a Sports Season, excluding a Loan Transfer.

(ix) In the case of an International Transfer, the following procedure must be followed:

As mentioned in **Form 06** (downloadable here: https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ TAB "Forms"):

(A) New club must fill in all the boxes containing the necessary information, INCLUDING THE FISTF LICENCE NUMBER.

Everybody can find license numbers here by searching for the player's name: https://fistf.com/data-centre/players-clubs/

This form must be signed by the player and by an official of the new club. The signature of the official of the former club is not mandatory, but the official still must be informed by being included in the recipient list of the request email.

(B) New club submits **Form 06** to the player's MNA and the previous clubs (for his information). MNA contacts can be found in Appendix 2.

The player's MNA checks that all the data has been entered. It's up to the MNA to verify that the new player has never had a license number from the country in which he resides as well as to verify the player's personal information.

(C) The MNA of the player then submits the form to FISTF on the website contact page: https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for- operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

(D) The MNA of the player must make the changes in their own Google Sheet **Form 20**

This must be done as soon as possible and no later than 31 August 2024, so that the World Ranking database is up to date with all transfers prior to the start of the season as well as a summary of these via **Form 07** via the website method to : https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

(x) There is no restriction on the number of players that can be transferred within the same MNA.

(xi) New players can join a club at any time during the season, as defined above.

(xii) Players may join a newly created club in the period outside of the Transfer Period if they are registered on **Form 20** at the same time as **Form 10** and **Form 20** are submitted by the MNA to FISTF.

(xiii) Players shall be enrolled anew each season.

2.3.9 Special/Extended Transfer Periods

(a) A special transfer period is accepted for players licensed by Member Nations outside Europe, which have a different season period between 1 January and 31 December.

(b) These Member nations shall inform FISTF they have a different season period before the FISTF Season starts.

(c) This special transfer period is between 1 January and 31 January. No transfers will be allowed out of this period.

(d) All remaining transfer regulations will apply to the players of these Member Nations.

(e) Extended transfer period - Players who have not played in any individual or team FISTF tournaments in the 2024-25 season can transfer until 31 December 2024. This transfer must be received by 24.00 hrs (Paris CET), 31 December 2024. The normal administrative requirements for transfers, as set out above, will apply.

2.3.10 Foreign Player Rule (FPR)

(a) Foreign players are players who, at the time of the filing of the transfer request, have a different nationality to that of the club to which they are registered, or to which they request to be transferred.

(b) A club may enrol as many foreign players as they want in a sports season or during a specific Teams competition, but only two foreign players registered with that club may be selected to play with the club team in the same match at the same time.

(c) For UK players, the 'nationality' is as described in 2.3.1.

(d) Players in youth categories who have a different nationality to parents in the same club are also exempt from the FPR.

(e) Players who are permanent residents of the country in which their club is registered are also exempt. A copy of the Permanent Residency document must be provided to FISTF as proof.

(f) Players who have resided on a full-time basis, for three years or more, in the country in which their club is registered, are also exempt. However, they must provide applicable legal documentation as proof of this. The Board of FISTF has the right to ask for full and detailed documentation before accepting this exemption.

2.3.11 Loan transfer

(a) Any registered player may apply for a loan transfer to another club in a different country in a different Confederation to his/her current domicile (target loan club).

(b) This "loan transfer" rule is designed for players who intend on spending at least one month in a different country and Confederation to their current domicile, either for travels, work assignment or extended holiday. The loan period cannot exceed three months.

(c) The target loan club must be registered:

(i) in the country where the loan player intends to reside during the loan period, and where the target club is in a different Confederation from their home country, and

(ii) in an MNA that is different from the MNA indicated in the loan player's FISTF player license code.

(d) A player can only ever be given one loan transfer during their playing career.

(e) They must provide travel documents (transport and accommodation) to prove their domicile during the loan period for at least one month.

(f) The loan player can only play for one club during the loan period.

(g) A loan player can be granted the loan transfer outside of the normal transfer period.

(h) At the end of the loan transfer period, the player reverts to their original club.

(i) The loan transfer cannot be used as a method to circumvent the normal transfer regulations.

(j) The application for the loan shall be sent at least two months before the proposed loan transfer to FISTF, signed by the player and the target club (**Form 06**) and submitted via the FISTF website at https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/.

(k) If there are no outstanding financial penalties on the player, the loan may be approved. The approval is up to the discretion of the Sports Director and/or the Board of Directors.

(l) The period of the loan covers three months from the date of the first tournament in which the player participates.

(m) The player may participate in individual and team events for the target loan club and will be designated as being a member of that club. For example, a player from Singapore Lions TFC may apply for a "loan transfer" to Budapest Subbuteo. When the player participates in the event, they will be designated as "Budapest Subbuteo".

(n) Loan players will be subject to the Foreign Player Rule in 2.3.11 where the player's classification as a foreign player will be considered relative to the target loan club.

2.3.12 Administrative Sanctions for Players

(a) As set out above, a player without a valid FISTF license cannot take part in FISTF events.

(b) A player who is licensed by their MNA, but whose MNA does not maintain **Form 20** as required, may participate in FISTF Tour events but will not receive WR points or be included in the WR until the MNA has updated the **Form 20** (see 2.1.5(g)(i) above).

(c) A player who is under sanction, either from the FISTF Disciplinary Council (DC) or their own MNA - where the sanction includes the withdrawal or suspension of the player's FISTF licence - cannot participate in any FISTF events (either domestically or internationally) and so cannot receive WR points (see 2.1.5(d)(v) above).

2.3.13 Players with a Disability

(a) Disability sport classification.

(i) Players interested in registering for a disabled license must apply to the Disabled Sport Department to obtain the relevant license, giving proof of disability directly from their MNA which may needto obtain a confirmation from the relevant disability sports organisation in their country. This is to be sent to the FISTF – Disabled Sports Department, which will communicate with them in order to obtain the necessary license issued by FISTF Sports Department and included in the FISTF World Ranking.

(ii) Any National Federation that wishes to stage a disability event must get full clearance via Disability Sport, FISTF Sport Departments.

(iii) Sports Rules for the game includes specific rules for players witha disability. Rules for this Handbook remain, however, the same, unless otherwise specified and until further notice from the relevant Departments. Duration of match will also be the same as normal matches.

(b) Class Acceptance for Disabled Sports License

(i) Classes 42 to 46

(A) Classes 42 to 46 are for athletes with limb deficiencies, such as amputations. In classes 42-44, the legs are affected by impairment. In classes 45-46, the arms are affected. All athletes in the 40s classes compete standing and do not use a wheelchair.

(B) **Class 42** Competitors in class T42 and F42 have single above knee amputation, combined arm/leg amputation, or comparable leg impairments. The IPC defined this as: "Single above knee amputees and athletes with other impairments that are comparable to a single above knee amputation. This includes athletes with loss of muscle power in the lower limbs consistent with Class F57 or F58 class."

(C) **Class 43** Competitors in class T43 and F43 have double below knee amputation (or combined arm/leg amputation) or comparable leg impairments.

(D) **Class 44** Competitors in class T44 and F44 have single below knee amputation or those that can walk with moderately reducedfunction in one or both legs.

(E) **Class 45** Competitors in class T45 and F45 have double above elbow or double below elbow amputations or similar disabilities.

(F) **Class 46** Competitors in class T46 and F46 have single above or below the amputations or have normal leg function but impairment in the arms/trunk.

(G) **Classes T51-54 and F51-58** The 50s sport classes only includeathletes competing in a wheelchair. A lower number indicates a higher activity limitation.

(H) **T51-52** These athletes have activity limitations in both lower andupper limb.

(I) **T53** These athletes have normal arm and hand function, no or limited trunk function, and no leg function.

(J) **T54** Athletes competing in T54 have partial trunk and leg function.

(K) **F53** Athletes in this class have mild limitations of hand function -no leg or trunk function.

(L) **F54** Athletes in this class have normal function in their arms andhands with no leg or trunk function.

(M) **F55** These athletes have normal arm function, the ability to rotatethe spine, and no leg function.

(ii) **F56** These athletes have normal arm function, the ability to rotatethe spine, can move backwards and forwards, and no leg function.

(A) **F57** These athletes have normal arm, hand, and near normal trunk function. They have increased leg function as compared toF56.

F58 These athletes have normal arm, hand, and trunk function with more leg function than F57.

(ii) Other Classes
F20 (Intellectual impairment)
F35-38 (Co-ordination impairments (hypertonia, ataxia and athetosis))
F40-41 (Short stature) [to be defined by experts]

2.4 FISTF Licensed Referees

2.4.1 Definition of FISTF Referee Categories

(a) FISTF defines two different referee categories as follows:

(i) Head Referee.

(ii) Referee.

2.4.2 FISTF Head Referee

(a) Definition of FISTF Head Referee

(i) During every FISTF event, there must be at least two (except for Satellites, where only one is required) competition Head Referees to supervise all aspects of refereeing. Their job, during the event, is to:

(A) Take decisions about rules.

(B) Take decisions about the behavior of players, coaches andreferees.

(C) Take decisions about equipment used by players.

(D) Support the Tournament Manager in appointing referees.

(E) Inform players and coaches about referee rights and duties.

(F) Submit reports to FISTF about players, coaches, and referees.

(G) Monitor players', coaches', and spectators' behavior.

(b) Appointing of Head Referee

(i) Head Referee(s) will be appointed as described in this handbook for each type of tournament category.

(ii) The appointed Head Referee's(s') name(s) and Club(s) shall be noted in the tournament venue during the competition.

(iii) The Head Referee(s), when not playing, should be free of refereeing commitments in order to be available at any time. For this reason, the Head Referee must remain in the venue and at the Organisation Table.

(iv) The Head Referee should submit a full report with all incidents that occurred, using the Head Referee Report Form available in the Forms section of the FISTF website. This report should be given to the organiser in order to be sent to FISTF.

(c) Rights of Head Referee

(i) Head Referees shall be the only person entitled to make reports about referees during matches and submit them to theDisciplinary Council.

(ii) A Head Referee will give a first warning to a referee in the following cases:

(A) is not focused on their assigned game,

(B) leaves the table area during a match,

(C) gives evaluative comments on a player/match,

(D) is not respectful to players/coaches/spectators,

(E) fails to compile and/or deliver the match report,

(F) is unaware of current FISTF Sports Rules, or

(G) behaves in an unsportsmanlike behavior or consumes alcohol.

(iii) In case of a second warning for the cases at 2.4.2 (c)(ii) during the same FISTF event, the Head Referee may substitute the referee and may report the referee to the Disciplinary Council.

(iv) Players with less than a year experience and/or of age categories will be considered as "Beginner Referees" and therefore not able to be sanctioned by the Head Referee. They will, however, be given a warning in cases at 2.4.2.

(d) Duties of Head Referee

(i) A player appointed as FISTF Head Referee shall be responsible for their knowledge of the current version of FISTF Sports Rules of Table Football. The current FISTF Sports Rules of Table Football are available on the FISTF website. FISTF approved translated versions may be available from MNAs.

(ii) For the duration of a FISTF event, the presence of at least one Head Referee in the event hall is mandatory. In case of Head Referee playing in a match, another appointed Head Referee must be available.

(iii) The Head Referee is required to:

(A) be fully focused on what happens in the tournament venue.

(B) be ready to interrupt a match if a player's/coach's/referee's behavior requires this.

(C) assist with clarifications about the rules.

(D) avoid any evaluative comment on players/matches.

(E) be respectful to players/coaches/spectators.

(F) check player equipment if required to do so by an officiating referee.

(G) report a player/coach/referee to the Disciplinary Councilif needed.

2.4.3 FISTF Referee

(a) Definition of FISTF Referee

(i) For every match during a FISTF event, there must be a referee to supervise all aspects of game refereeing according to the FISTF Sports Rules of Table Football. Their job is to:

(A) evaluate the legality of players' equipment and defer to the Head Referee if there is uncertainty,

(B) make all rule decisions during play,

(C) decide in the event of problems regarding the behavior of players, and

(D) submit reports to the Disciplinary Council about players and coaches, if required.

(b) Appointing of FISTF Referee

(i) Referees will be managed by the Tournament Organiser with support from the Head Referee, as described in the **Tournament Organiser's Handbook**.

(ii) The referee's name/club shall be affixed near each match during the competition.

(iii) A team of three players is responsible for finding a fourth referee in order to fulfill their refereeing role 100%. It is not up to the organiser to look for a solution. If the team cannot find a referee, the Organiser can appoint a referee and the team is fined €10.

(c) Rights of FISTF Referee

(i) During any match, the referee's decision is final and cannot be changed, except in cases where the referee may interrupt the match and ask the Head Referee for advice about rules. **When the Head Referee is called, only the match referee can explain the situation for which the call was made. The tournament organiser cannot interfere with or modify a decision of the Head-Referee.**

(ii) Players have TWO appeals per match when they can ask for Head Referee intervention in a match. Only the match referee can ask for further interventions by the Head Referee. Where players have used their two appeals, if possible, the Head Referee should remain in the vicinity of the table in order to intervene promptly if required.

(A) If the appeal is rejected by the Head Referee, the appealing player is penalised with a yellow card. If it happens again, with the second appeal, they are penalised with an orange card. This is to prevent frivolous appeals, or to cause a delay.

(iii) The following behavior by players is strictly forbidden:

(A) Making game calls or refereeing actions themselves (e.g., "back", "foul", figure repositioning etc.).

(B) Changing the referee's decisions.

(C) Criticising or influencing the referee's decisions.

(D) The use of insulting or harmful comments towards the referee.

(E) Threatening or attempting to use force against the referee.

(F) Stealing or damaging the match referee's equipment,

(G) Use of irregular equipment. In this case, the player must change it.

(iv) In (A), (B) or (C) cases listed at 2.4.3 (c)(iii), the referee shall use the following procedure:

(A) At the first offence, the match referee shall warn the player that, should the player commit another offence, a yellow card will be issued.

(B) If another offence is committed, the match referee shall issue the player a yellow card and warn them that, should the player commit another offence, an orange card will be issued.

(C) If a further offence is committed, the match referee shall issue the player an orange card (with the spare goalkeeper removed) and warn them that, should the player commit another offence, a red card will be issued.

(D) If a further offence is committed, the match referee shall issue the player a red card. In such a case, the game is terminated, and the match referee must immediately leave the table and inform a Head Referee and the Tournament Organiser about the situation. The offender is then disqualified and reported to the Disciplinary Council by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(v) In (D), (E), (F) or (G) cases listed at 2.4.3 (c)(iii), at the first offence, the match referee shall give the player a red card. In such a case,the game is terminated, and the match referee must immediately leave the table and inform a Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser about the situation. The offender is then disqualified and reported to the Disciplinary Council.

(vi) If any of (D), (E) or (F) cases listed at 2.4.3 (c)(iii) happens immediately before or after a match, the referee must inform a Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser about the situation.

(vii) The offender is then disqualified and reported to the DisciplinaryCouncil by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(viii) The following behavior by a coach is strictly forbidden:

(A) Disturbing players or referees.

(B) Giving verbal instructions in an unreasonable manner (NB: giving remaining time is allowed but in a **reasonable** manner).

(C) Criticising or influencing the match referee's decisions.

(D) The use of insulting or harmful comments towards match referees.

(E) Threatening or attempting to use force against the referee.

(F) Stealing or damaging the match referee's equipment.

(ix) In (A), (B) or (C) cases listed at 2.4.3 (c)(viii), the referee (or any of the four referees in a team match) shall use the following procedure:

(A) At the first offence, the match referee shall warn the coach that, should the coach commit another offence, the coach will be asked to leave the playing area. If another offence is committed, the match referee will ask the coach to leave the playing area. If the coach refusesto leave, the match referee must inform the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser about the situation. The coach is then reported to the DisciplinaryCouncil by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(B) In (D), (E) or (F) cases listed in 2.4.3 (c)(viii), at the first offence, any of the four referees shall inform a Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser about the situation. The coach is then reported to the DisciplinaryCouncil by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(C) If any of (D), (E) or (F) cases listed in 2.4.3 (c)(viii) happens immediately before or after a match, any of the match referees must immediately inform a Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser about thesituation. The coach is then reported to the Disciplinary Council by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(x) If the Head Referee finds that a match referee (individual or team) doesn't follow the procedures described above deliberately, their behavior can be considered a deliberate breach of the present regulations, with the intent to change the normal course of a match. In this case, the referee (individual or team) may be reported to the Disciplinary Council by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(d) Duties of FISTF Referee

(i) For any referee it is mandatory to have a good knowledge of the current version of FISTF Sports Rules of Table Football. The current FISTF Sports Rules of Table Football are available on theFISTF website. FISTF approved translated versions may be available from MNAs.

(ii) The referee shall follow the Referee's Guide part of the FISTF Sports Rules.

(iii) The referee is required to:

(A) Enforce the FISTF Sports Rules during the match, including disabled player rules if applicable.

(B) Be fully focused on the game.

(C) Be at the game table on time and during the full duration of the match.

(D) Avoid any evaluative comment on the match/a player.

(E) Be respectful to players/coaches/spectators.

(F) Compile and deliver the match report.

(G) Check each player's equipment.

(H) Keep match time with their own watch. As the official timekeeper for the match, each referee must have their own timer (or use one of the player's timers), even if there is a "big" timer in the hall.

(I) Issue yellow, orange and red cards as appropriate.

(J) Ask the Head Referee for advice about Rules if needed.

(iv) A referee who repeatedly violates the behavior listed at 2.4.3 (d)(iii) may be reported to the Disciplinary Council by the Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser.

(e) Refusal to Referee

(i) A player refusing to referee in an assigned round will be fined 25 EUR. For a team refusing to referee in an assigned round (team event), the sanction shall be a fine of 100 EUR. The Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser shall also report the player or the team to the Disciplinary Council.

(ii) A player leaving the tournament without refereeing in the round immediately following their elimination will be fined 25 EUR, <u>except if the player or the club have the agreement of the organiser</u>. For a team, the sanction shall be a fine of 100 EUR. The Head Referee or the Tournament Organiser shall also report the player or the team to the Disciplinary Council.

(f) Replacement of Referee

(i) A referee (individual or team) may be substituted by the Head Referee or by the Competition Manager before starting a match if it appears that their nationality or club could be a conflict of interest with one of the players or teams in the match.

(ii) A referee (individual or team) may be substituted after receiving the second warning (see 2.4.2 (c)(iii)), but ONLY if so requested by the Head Referee. The new referee (individual or team) will be appointed by the Head Referee.

(iii) A referee (individual or team) may be substituted before or during a match in case of health problems, if the head-referee decided it after having noticed that it was necessary to do so following a bad course of the match/refereeing, or other serious reasons. This change can be made at half time and/or before sudden death. The Head Referee shall approve referee substitution and appoint the new referee (individual or team).

(iv) Except for cases 2.4.3 (f)(i), 2.4.3 (f)(ii) and 2.4.3(f)(iii), a referee (individual or team) cannot be substituted before or during a match, even if substitution is asked by the referee (individual or team).

(v) Referee (individual or team) substitution is applicable ONLY if a suitable replacement referee (individual or team) is available and accepted by the referee.

(vi) Under no circumstances may an individual player or team request a change of referee.

2.5 Membership Fees & Levies

2.5.1 Membership Fees for MNAs

(a) Upon successful admission as an MNA, an MNA must pay a membership fee of 100 EUR per season.

(b) This membership fee does not apply to an MNA-P. The membership fee for an MNA-P is set out in 2.5.2.

(c) The FISTF Board of Directors can exempt an MNA from the payment of their Membership Fee on a case-by-case basis when the MNA adheres to the FISTF Development Program (see § 6.1). Once they have reached a Developed status, they must pay the 100 EUR fee.

2.5.2 Membership Fees for MNA-Ps

(a) Consistent with the FISTF Statutes, there is no membership fee for MNA-Ps. Once they have reached full MNA status, they must pay the 100 EUR fee.

2.5.3 Tournament Levies

(a) Each MNA must pay the tournament levies based on the values set out in the table below.

Tournament Type	Values per Player		Values per Team
	Individual competitions		Team competitions
	Open, Veterans & U20	U16, U12 & Ladies	
Major Grand Prix	**2.00 EUR**	**No Levy**	**5.00 EUR**
International Grand Prix	**1.50 EUR**		**4.00 EUR**
Golden Grand Prix	**1.50 EUR**		**4.00 EUR**
International Open	**1.00 EUR**		**3.00 EUR**
Satellite Tournament	**0.50 EUR**		**2.00 EUR**
Champions / Europa League	**No Levy**		**ECSTFA HB**
World Cup			**No Levy**
Promotional Event			
National Team Tournament			
Continental Championships			

*See also **Entry fees - Maximum values** in the **Tournament Organisers Handbook**.*

(b) Please note that where an individual enters more than one category for which a levy is payable (Open, Veterans, U20), the MNA/tournament organiser will be required to pay the levy to FISTF for all categories in which the player has entered.

(c) Payment information is included in the Event Report that must be completed by the tournament organiser after every event.

(d) To help the development of the game outside of Europe, the FISTF Board has decided that there will be **no tournament levies for Satellites held outside Europe**.

2.5.4 Transfer fees

(a) There is no fee for the transfer of players.

2.5.5 Clubs' fees

(a) Clubs do not have to pay a fee to be members of FISTF.

2.5.6 Players' fees

(a) Players do not have to pay a fee to FISTF to be a registered player or to pay a transfer fee. MNAs may however impose fees on players to be a registered member of that association.

2.5.7 Payments to FISTF

(a) All payments regarding tournament fees levies and fines to penalties incurred by MNAs, clubs, and players shall be made directly by the MNA or by any player/, club/, or tournament organiser on behalf of the MNA to FISTF.

(b) If a player, club, or tournament organiser makes payment for any fees, levies, or penalties to FISTF on behalf of an MNA, FISTF will inform the MNA.

2.5.8 Prompt Payments of Fees, Tournament Levies, and Penalties

(a) MNAs must make payment in full for fees, levies, and penalties within 30 days from the date of the invoice received from FISTF, unless otherwise agreed with the FISTF Finance Department.

(b) In the case of tournament levies, if FISTF receives payment in full for the invoice within 14 days from the date of the invoice received from FISTF, FISTF will grant a discount of 15%. The invoice will set out the amount of discount.

(c) Payment for event taxes must not be made before FISTF Finances issues an invoice, to ensure compliance with the correct tournament levies.

2.5.9 Sanctions for Payment delays

(a) For every payment not made in full within the deadline set out in 2.5.8 (a), a sanction fine penalty will be applied on the following terms:

(b) For payments made after the deadline, 15% of the value in debt. In addition, all tournaments that are scheduled during three months after the date when the payment was due will be cancelled.

(c) Should the outstanding payments (including the 15% penalty) be paid, the tournaments which have been cancelled can be reactivated.

2.6 FISTF Age Categories

2.6.1 Tournaments are divided into different age categories

(a) Players may normally play in only one category at each tournament, apart from the U12 and Female players (see below). Only if the organiser allows it, players can compete in two categories.

(b) Veterans must be 50+ years old from the beginning of the season. The under categories must be on or under the age limit until the last day of the season. For this purpose, the World Cup is considered part of the previous season - if it takes place for example in September.

2.6.2 Definitions

For the 2024-2025 season, the categories will be as follows:

(a) Open: all players of any gender and age;

(b) Veterans: players born before September 1st, 1974;

(c) Under-20: players born on or after September 1st, 2004;

(d) Under-16: players born on or after September 1st, 2008;

(e) Under-12: players born on or after September 1st, 2012;

(f) Women: female players only, of any age.

2.6.3 Dress Code

(a) Definition:

All individual players shall wear sports clothing such as their club or national team shirt, tracksuit, etc. Team players should wear their club colors, and sports shoes must also be worn (following the guidelines of individual venues). These guidelines are essential in promoting the image of the sport.

(b) Infringement:

(i) The organiser must report infringements to the FISTF Sports Director. Any player who fails to observe this rule will be fined a token amount of 1 EUR or 3 EUR in case of a repeat offence.

(ii) The players of a team must wear the colors of their club. In case of infringement, there will be a fine of 20 EUR applied to the team, or 50 EUR in case of a repeat offence.

2.6.4 Late withdrawals, late arrivals or early departures of players from FISTF events

(a) Players who:

(i) are not present at the scheduled beginning of any competition which they have committed themselves to attend, and who fail to give early notice or to present a reasonable justification to the organiser of that competition within a reasonable time, or

(ii) leave the competition while they have already qualified for a next round of games, without playing their scheduled games (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule or where a delay in competition may result in the player missing travel home on the same day e.g., Saturday or Sunday). If players are planning to stay overnight and travel home the next day (e.g., Monday), they shall stay at the event and play and show respect to fellow competitors.

(iii) Shall be penalised as follows:

(A) First time: 50 EUR fine and deduction of 50 world ranking points.

(B) Second time (same season): 100 EUR fine and deduction of 100 world ranking points.

(C) Third time: 150 EUR fine, deduction of 200 world ranking points and 6 months' suspension from any FISTF event.

(D) Forfeit of any match (recorded as 0-3) for which the player was not present at the scheduled commencement of the match.

(E) Additionally, players who leave the competition without playing their scheduled games (or without being given permission to leave where there are competition delays) will be awarded no world ranking points from that competition. If the player wants to leave earlier, they will lose games not played by 3-0. If, however, a game is not played by mutual agreement between both players (for example, because both have to depart early), no result will be recorded. If a player has played part of his group matches but does not complete the others, a score of 3-0 will be noted for **all** his group matches, regardless of the result of each of his matches already played.

(iv) Players must stay at the event, play and show respect for the other competitors. They may not leave the premises without permission to do so if the competition is delayed.

2.6.5 Late withdrawals, late arrivals or early departures of club teams from FISTF events

(a) Club teams which:

(i) are not present at the scheduled beginning of any competition which they have committed themselves to attend, and which fail to give an early notice or to present a reasonable justification to the organiser of that competition within a reasonable time, or

(ii) leave the competition while they have already qualified for a nextround of games, without playing their scheduled games (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule or where a delay in competition may result in the players missing their travelhome on the same day).

(b) shall be penalised as follows:

(i) First time: 50 EUR fine and deduction of 50 world ranking points.

(ii) Second time (same season): 100 EUR fine and deduction of 100 world ranking points.

(iii) Third time: 150 EUR fine, deduction of 200 world ranking pointsand 6 months' suspension from any FISTF event.

(iv) Forfeit of any match (recorded as 0-4, and 0-3 for each individual game) for which the entire team was not present at the scheduled commencement of the match.

(v) Additionally, club teams which leave the competition without playing their scheduled games will be awarded no world ranking points from the specific competition. (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule or where a delay in competition may result in the players missing their travel home on the same day). If a team has played part of their group matches but does not complete the others, a score of 0-4 (0-3 for each individual game) will be noted for all their group matches, regardless of the result of each matches already played.

(c) Those tournament organisers who send a report with players who failed to attend without valid justification, shall be reimbursed the missing registration fee of those players by FISTF.

2.6.6 Special Rules for FISTF World Cup

(a) MNAs which:

(i) withdraw from a World Cup Teams event after already having registered, and which fail either to give early notice of at least two weeks or to present a reasonable justification to the organiser of that competition within a reasonable time, or

(ii) leave the competition while they have already qualified for a next round of games, without playing their scheduled games (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule),

(b) Shall be penalised as follows:

(i) Withdrawal without giving early notice of at least two weeks: 30 EUR per team.

(ii) Withdrawal in the last 5 days before the competition: 50 EUR per team

(iii) Withdrawal in the last 48 hours before the scheduled start of the competition: 100 EUR per team and suspension of the withdrawn team from the next World Cup.

(iv) Additionally, National teams which leave the competition without playing their scheduled games will be awarded no world ranking points from the World Cup. (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule or where a delay in competition may result in the players missing their travel home on the same day). A delay in competition may cause missing travel home on the same day (e.g.: Saturday or Sunday). If players stay overnight and travel home the next day (e.g.: Monday), they shall stay at the event and play and show respect to fellow competitors.

(c) Players who:

(i) withdraw from a World Cup Individuals event after already having registered, and who fail to give early notice of at least two weeks or to present a reasonable justification to the organiser ofthat competition within a reasonable time, or

(ii) leave the competition while they have already qualified for a next round of games, without playing their scheduled games (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule),

(d) Shall be penalised as follows:

(i) Withdrawal without giving an early notice of at least two weeks: 15 EUR

(ii) Withdrawal in the last 5 days before the competition: 25 EUR

(iii) Withdrawal in the last 48 hours before the scheduled start of the competition: 50 EUR, deduction of 100 world ranking points and suspension from the next World Cup.

(e) Additionally, players who leave the competition without playing their scheduled games will be awarded no world ranking points from the World Cup. (except for cases of huge delays of competition schedule or where a delay in competition may result in the players missing their travel homeon the same day)

2.7 FISTF Calendar

This section sets out the rules used to optimise the construction of the official FISTF calendar for the 2024-25 season.

The organisers of any proposed event to be included in the calendar **should if possible wait for the confirmation of the tournament from FISTF before proceeding to book their venue**. In any case, if an organiser books a venue and the event is not confirmed by FISTF, then FISTF is not liable for any costs or out-of-pocket expenses that the organiser may incur.

The first edition of the calendar for season 2024-25 will be available before 18 August 2024. Multiple renewals will follow on a monthly basis.

Please note: for the 2025-26 season, the Board will be introducing a revised timetable which will allow for better overall management of the FISTF Calendar by the Board, as well as more time for planning in the lead up to tournaments for tournament organisers and individual players. Further information regarding the calendar for the 2025-26 season will be provided later in 2024, but the revised process will include an initial deadline of **31 May 2025** for the submission of requests for tournaments to be held in the 2025-26 season. MNAs and tournament organisers are asked to take note of the revised deadline and plan accordingly.

2.7.1 Rules of construction of the Calendar

(a) All MNAs which have not sent their requests for events in the 2024-25 season by 4 August 2024, will have to send their request to FISTF before the tournament takes place.

(b) Only for Europe: To provide national federations with a slot reserved for major national (domestic) competitions, the third weekend every month (except for June, July, and August) should be free of Major Grand Prix, International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix and International Open tournaments.

(c) Conversely, FISTF expects national federations in Europe not to create conflicts with the FISTF calendar which would adversely affect attendance at FISTF events FISTF therefore asks MNAs **not** to organise major national competitions on any other weekend than the third weekend of the month between September 1 and May 31.

(d) Are also authorised on the 3rd weekend following competitions: World Cup, Continental Cup, Champions League/Europa League.

(e) Per the World Cup Handbook, the World Cup will take place in September every second year (in even years), excluding the first weekend of September.

(f) An event over a weekend straddling two months will be considered as belonging to the ending month.

(g) The deadlines for requesting an event are:

  (i) Major Grand Prix - **4 months** before the date of the tournament

  (ii) International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix - **3 months** before the date of the tournament

  (iii) International Opens - **2 months** before the date of the tournament

  (iv) Satellite Tournaments - **2 weeks** before the date of the tournament.

2.7.2 Criteria of priorities in case of multiple requests for the same date

(a) Request on time - before 4 August 2024 (for 2024-25 season)

(b) Respect for the timelines (per nation) in sending all requested files such as results, posters, invitations, reports etc. of the tournaments the previous season.

(c) Usage of the same date previous season(s). Traditional dates should be respected.

(d) Type of tournament. First is Major Grand Prix, then International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix, then International Open and last Satellite.

(e) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates is required on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

2.7.3 Rules for the request of a FISTF Tournament for the 2024-25 season

(a) MNAs must send the dates for their FISTF tournaments for the following season using **Form 04** via the website method to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/ before 4 August 2024.

(b) The tournaments are only officially confirmed if they are confirmed by the FISTF Sports Director and mentioned in the official FISTF calendar that is published in the FISTF newsletter or on the FISTF website and/or social media pages. FISTF is not liable for delayed or missing confirmations and each MNA has full responsibility for verification of requested tournaments' acceptance. The first version of the FISTF calendar will be published no later than 18 August 2024.

(c) After 4 August 2024 candidatures will not be accepted if they don't respect the deadline referred to in 2.7.1 (g) for the tournaments they request.

(d) The FISTF Sports Director may move late applications according to the available dates.

2.7.4 Rules for the Major Grand Prix

(a) A Major Grand Prix is requested before 4 August 2024 through a separate process run by FISTF Sports Department, as described in 2.9.1.

(b) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates has been requested on Form 04. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(c) A Major Grand Prix tournament must be the only tournament on the weekend in the relevant continent.

(d) At least 3 Head Referees are appointed by the Sports Director of FISTF after the registration deadline and before the tournament. The tournament organiser can, however, liaise with the Sports Director to change the appointed Head Referee(s) for specific reasons, which must be documented.

2.7.5 Rules for the International Grand Prix / Golden Grand Prix

(a) An International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix must be requested by an MNA 4 August 2024.

(b) Only one International Grand Prix continent is allowed on the same weekend.

(c) A Golden Grand Prix every two years.

(d) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates has been requested on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(e) At least 2 Head Referees are appointed by the Sports Director of FISTF after the registration deadline and before the tournament. The tournament organiser can, however, liaise with the Sports Director to change the appointed Head Referee(s) for specific reasons, which must be documented.

(f) An International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix may only be confirmed for an MNA that does not have any outstanding invoices payable to FISTF.

(g) Update website and social media activity during the tournament.

2.7.6 Rules for the International Opens, Satellites

(a) These tournaments can be requested by the MNA beginning on 4 August 2024.

(b) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates has been requested on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(c) For International Opens, at least 2 Head Referees are appointed by the Organiser or Sports Director of FISTF after the registration deadline and before the tournament. The tournament organiser can, however, liaise with the Sports Director to change the appointed Head Referee(s) for specific reasons, which must be documented.

(d) For Satellites, at least 1 Head Referee is appointed by the Organiser after the registration deadline and before the tournament.

(e) Satellites can also be organised on the 3rd weekend of the month.

(f) The tournament organiser is, or will appoint, the Head Referee of the tournament.

(g) An updated website for each tournament is advised.

2.7.7 Combination of Tournaments in the same weekend

(a) Two (2) or more tournaments can be organised on the same weekend in different countries of the same continent, with the exception of a Major Grand Prix, International Grand Prix and Golden Grand Prix. Therefore, the following combinations will be accepted:

(i) International Open + International Open

(ii) Major Grand Prix/International and Golden Grand Prix/International Open + Satellite

(iii) The number of satellites allowed on the same weekend is not limited and can be organised at the same time as any competition, except WC/EC/CC/CL/EL/CCC.

(iv) Countries not in Europe are permitted to play the above-mentioned combinations.

(b) The FISTF World Cup weekend will be free of tournaments all over the world.

(c) Tournaments completed in a single day of the weekend (that is, only the Saturday or the Sunday) are considered as occupying the whole weekend. If an event takes place for instance on a Sunday of such a weekend (for example, a weekend falling on June 30th and July 1st), if the event is played on Sunday July 1st, it will be accounted in the July World Ranking and not June World Ranking.

2.8 FISTF Tournaments

2.8.1 Major Grand Prix

(a) Definition:

(i) Each season, the five best Grand Prix tournaments around the world are allotted the status of Major Grand Prix. These tournaments are considered the most prestigious outside of the World Cup and Continental Championships. The allotment of allfive Major Grand Prix will be reconsidered each season.

(b) System of selection:

(i) The right to organise a Major Grand Prix will be given to those tournaments considered to be the best choices for the next season only, according to certain weighted criteria that FISTF has defined.

(ii) The idea is to form a list of "candidate" tournaments every year and let FISTF criteria decide the best five to be named Majors Grand Prix for the next season. Every year, the list of "candidates" shall be populated by a maximum of two tournaments per nation, including any event from the same country already among the five current Majors Grand Prix, which will be named exclusively by the respective MNAs, if candidate events from the same country must be at least 50 Km away from each other.

(iii) Applications must be sent based on the deadlines established insection 2.7.3.

(iv) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates has been requested on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(v) The criteria for the selection of Majors Grand Prix will be the following:

(A) Total number of individual participants in all categories the last time the event was organised (*)

(B) Total number of categories played (Open, Veterans, U20, etc.) the last time the event was organised (*)

(C) Total number of foreign players in all categories the last time the event was organised (*)

(D) Total number of top-10 ranked players in all categories the last time the event was organised (*)

(E) Total number of events (International Open, Golden Grand Prix/International Grand Prix and Major Grand Prix) organised in the country of the candidate event during the current season.

(F) An international airport in a short distance from the venue of the event

(G) An overall evaluation judging the quality of venue, condition & number of tables, media coverage, organisers' spirit of cooperation with FISTF, decided by FISTF BoD.

(*) If the event has not been held before the third weekend of April of the current season, the statistics of last year's version of the event will be used instead.

(vi) The five tournaments in the list of candidates collecting the most points will be named Majors Grand Prix for next season. No more than 2 tournaments from the same country will be allowed to have a Major Grand Prix status during the same season.

(c) Deadline for the MNAs to send candidacies:

(i) must be sent based on the times established in section 2.7.3;

(ii) the application must come from the MNA but FISTF can contact the organisers if the **Form 04** does not arrive on time.

(d) Tournament System:

(i) It is mandatory to have both events, Individual and Teams, in a Major Grand Prix.

(ii) The first round of the tournament must be a group stage with a minimum of 4 players per group, in which all players must participate. Groups with a bigger number of players are accepted.

(iii) The organiser must inform FISTF about the structure of the tournament's groups one month before its date. For this purpose, a detailed invitation is mandatory. The invitation shall mention:

(A) the exact venue at which the tournament will be played.

(B) advice on routes and directions how to reach the venue.

(C) registration deadlines.

(D) timetable for both competitions.

(iv) When recording registrations, if the players register in a category (under the conditions of date of birth and gender) and that this category cannot be on the program, the organiser has a duty to tell the players concerned with the different structure of the tournament. But the Open category is a mandatory category.

(v) Compliance with the sports regulations defined in the **FISTF Tournament Organisers Handbook** is mandatory.

(e) Major Grand Prix Organisers' Obligations

(i) The following are mandatory obligations on the Organisers of the FISTF Major Grand Prix:

(A) Download the latest version of the Event Report from https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ (competition tab). Results file properly completed and submitted before the Friday after the event to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

(B) Live results delivered over the weekend for the Table Football Community.

(C) Live streaming of at least ONE "show table". This must involve fixed cameras, scores on screen, and not roaming handheld. Commentary is optional.

It must be announced at least the day before the tournament where the live streaming will take place. It has to be a « public » space (no private Facebook group). Live streaming is mandatory only starting from Last 8. FISTF logo has to be present during all the live streaming in the bottom right corner of the screen.

(D) Tournament report and Podium photos is mandatory within 24 hours. FISTF will provide a template that Organisers can complete for tournament report.

(E) Promotional posters/flyers to be displayed in the region of the event.

(F) Ongoing promotion to local/national media/sports websites.

2.8.2 International Grand Prix/ Golden Grand Prix

(a) Definition:

(i) An International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix should be the best international tournaments organised in a country in terms of quality and total number of players, not considering a Major Grand Prix, organised by the same MNA.

(ii) Only high-quality international tournaments will be accepted as an International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix.

(b) Specific competition rules:

(i) Each MNA of FISTF is entitled to organise one (1) International Grand Prix per season.

(ii) Each MNA of FISTF is entitled to organise one (1) Golden Grand Prix once every second season.

(iii) For Europe, an order of preference of three (3) dates has been requested on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(iv) The Golden Grand Prix are for events which have reached at least 20, 25, 30, 40 etc. consecutive editions of the event, or existence of the club. Each club can only stage the GGP once every 5 years.

(c) Tournament System:

(i) The first round of the tournament must be a group stage, in which all players must participate. The minimum number of players/teams in a group is 3, however groups of at least 4 should be preferred to groups of 3 if possible. Groups with a bigger number of players are accepted, up to a maximum of 10 players.

(ii) If a group or groups of 3 players is/are necessary in order to manage the tournament (that is, the total number of players is not divisible by exactly 4 and there is insufficient time to complete the matches/rounds required for groups of 5 or more players), the group(s) of 3 should occur in the first group(s). For example, if there 11 players in total, group 1 should have 3 players, and groups 2 and 3 should have 4 players each.

(iii) The organiser must inform FISTF about the structure of the tournament's groups one month before its date. For this purpose, a detailed invitation is mandatory. The invitation shall mention:

(A) the exact venue at which the tournament will be played.

(B) advice on routes and directions how to reach the venue.

(C) registration deadlines.

(D) timetable for both competitions.

(iv) When recording registrations, if a player registers in a category (under the conditions of date of birth and gender) and this category cannot be on the program, the organiser has a duty to inform the players concerned. But the Open category is a mandatory category.

(v) Compliance with the sports regulations defined in the **FISTF Tournament Organisers Handbook** is mandatory.

(d) International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix Organisers' Obligations

(i) The following are mandatory obligations on the Organisers of the FISTF International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix:

(A) Download the latest version of the Event Report from https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ (competition tab). Results file properly completed and submitted before the Friday after the event to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

2.8.3 International Opens

(a) Definition:

(i) An International Open is a "mid-tier" event and is the most commonly organised type of international tournament.

(b) Specific competition rules:

(i) Each MNA of FISTF is entitled to organise two (2) International Opens per season.

(ii) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates is required on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(c) Tournament System

(i) The organiser must inform FISTF about the structure of the tournament's format one month before its date. For this purpose, a detailed invitation is mandatory. The invitation shall mention:

(A) the exact venue at which the tournament will be played.

(B) advice on routes and directions to reach the venue.

(C) registration deadlines.

(D) timetable for both competitions.

(ii) When recording registrations, if the players register in a category (under the conditions of date of birth and gender) and that this category cannot be on the program, the organiser has a duty to tell the players concerned with the different structure of the tournament. But the Open category is a mandatory category.

(iii) Compliance with the sports regulations defined in the **FISTF Tournament Organisers Handbook** is mandatory.

(d) International Open Organisers' Obligations

(i) The following are mandatory obligations on the Organisers of the FISTF International Open:

(A) Download the latest version of the Event Report from https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ (competition tab). Results file properly completed and submitted before the Friday after the event to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

2.8.4 Satellites

(a) Definition:

(i) A Satellite is an international tournament reserved for players who are not highly ranked in the FISTF lists. However, all FISTF standards must be respected.

(b) Specific competition rules:

(i) Each MNA of FISTF is entitled to organise five (5) Satellites per season. An MNA/MNA-P may hold not more than one Satellite per month. Satellites are allowed on the third weekend of the month.

(ii) At least 8 players must take part for world ranking points to be awarded.

(iii) Only players ranked outside the top 50 in the individual Open and Veterans World Ranking may take part (subject to 2.8.4(h) below - Wild cards). This restriction applies to both individual and team competitions.

(iv) In a Satellite, all players should compete in the Open category.The only other categories allowed are U20, U16 and U12.

(v) Players competing in other Categories (i.e., U20, U16, U12) are restricted to those ranked outside the top 20 in the World Ranking.

(vi) For Europe, an order of preference of three dates is required on **Form 04**. The calendar will be established by the Sports Director according to the preferred dates of each tournament.

(c) Tournament System:

(i) When recording registrations, if a player registers in a category (under the conditions of date of birth and gender) and that this category cannot be on the program, the organiser has a duty to inform the players concerned. But the Open category is a mandatory category.

(d) Satellites Organisers' Obligations

(e) The following are mandatory obligations on the Organisers of the FISTF Satellite:

(i) Download the latest version of the Event Report from https://fistf.com/technical-pages/documents-library/ (competition tab). Results file properly completed and submitted before the Friday after the event to https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

(f) Compliance with the sports regulations defined in the FISTF Tournament Organisers Handbook is mandatory.

(g) Teams Competition:

(i) Satellites for teams can be organised, but are not mandatory.

(ii) Only clubs which are not in the Top 20 of the Teams Ranking can take part. As noted above, no player in the top 50 world (individual, Open or Veterans) ranking may take part in the team competition, in any circumstances.

(iii) A minimum of 4 teams must take part for world ranking points to be awarded.

(iv) A club from the Top 20 can register its B-team providing:

(A) The B-team is not in the world's Top 20, and;

(B) The players taking part are not in the Top 50 in the Open world ranking.

(h) Wild cards:

(i) For Satellites organised outside Europe, there is no restriction on the qualification of players for the event.

2.8.5 Submission of Results

(a) See Tournament Organisers Handbook

2.9 Friendly International Matches (National Team)

2.9.1 Definitions

(a) Friendly international matches are matches between two national teams.

2.9.2 Specific competition rules

(a) There can be 2 official matches between 2 nations possible per season. See also section 2.10 International National Team Tournaments.

(b) Matches can be staged between MNAs and MNA-Ps.

(c) If the match takes place at an international tournament, the organiser of this tournament must be informed.

(d) If both MNAs confirm the scheduling of an official match, but one nation fails to attend, the game will be awarded as a 4-0 forfeit.

(e) Official friendly national team games/matches must be played with referees.

(f) After the match a **Form 03: International National Team Friendly match** with the results and the referees must be sent to FISTF for the result to be included in the FISTF Nations ranking.

2.10 International National Team Tournaments

(a) FISTF permits the organisation of tournaments involving national teams, so that emerging MNA-Ps and their players experience “internationals” and gain “caps” for playing international matches.

(b) These events may be used to draw media attention when internationals are played, such as the “British Home Nations” or regional matches like in Iberia, Central Europe, the Scandinavian region or in other confederations. Local or regional rivalries can boost interest and participation in every region in the world.

(c) World ranking points. There will be an additional percentage of World Ranking Points awarded as in normal friendly matches.

(i) 30% more points for a 3-country event than for a simple friendly international.

(ii) 40% more points for a 4-country event than for a simple friendly international.

(iii) 50% more points for a 5-country event than for a simple friendly international.

(iv) 60% more points for a 6- or more country event than for a simple friendly international.

(d) Such events can only be staged once a year.

(e) Such tournaments can only be staged between MNAs and emerging MNA-Ps.

(f) If the games take place at an international tournament, the organiser of this tournament has to be informed.

(g) If the MNAs confirm the scheduling of an official game, but one nation fails to attend, the game will be awarded as a 4-0 forfeit.

(h) Matches at these tournaments must be played with referees.

(i) After the game a **Form 03: International National Team Tournament** with the results and the referees must be sent to FISTF for the result to be included in the FISTF Nations ranking.

2.11 Consolation Tournament

2.11.1 Definitions

(a) Organisers of all tournaments are encouraged to organise consolation tournaments for the players in each category who are eliminated in the first round of the main tournament. This rule is NOT mandatory but recommended.

(b) Each organiser must indicate on the tournament invitation whether or not a consolation tournament will take place.

2.11.2 Specific competition rules

(a) Where possible, consolation tournament matches should have referees, at least for final stages (semi-finals and finals).

2.12 FISTF World Ranking

2.12.1 Rules

(a) For every FISTF tournament, world rankings points are awarded.

(b) When compiling results and rankings of any one month, points from the previous 12 months are counted in full, points from between 12- and 24- months prior are halved and points from more than 24 months prior are removed (except for Nations competitions).

(c) If a tournament is played over 2 days of different months (e.g. September 30 & October 1), the tournament will count for the second month possible (e.g. October).

2.12.2 Tables

(a) Points are awarded as follows:

		Winner	Runner Up	Semi Finals*	Last 8*	Last 16*	Last 32*	Last 64*	Formal Rounds
Type Code	**Tournament Type**	**W**	**R**	**S**	**Q**	**L16**	**L32**	**L64**	**PR**
WC	World Cup	600	400	240	120	60	30	20	15
CC	Continental Cup for Nations	500	350	200	100	50	25	15	13
MJ	Major Grand Prix	400	270	160	80	40	20	15	10
GP	International Grand Prix	300	200	120	60	30	15	10	6
GGP	Golden Grand Prix	300	200	120	60	30	15	10	6

IO	International Open	150	105	60	30	15	8	6	4
ST	Satellite	50	35	20	10	5	3	2	1

**Or barrage if less than the number required for this stage*

(i) If only one group with 4 or 5 participants in a category without KO stage, 1st = W, 2nd = R, 3rd to 5th = PR

(ii) If only one group with at least 6 participants in a category without KO stage, 1st = W, 2nd = R, 3rd and 4th = S, after 4th = PR

(iii) If only one group with at least 9 participants in a category without KO stage, 1st = W, 2nd = R, 3rd and 4th = S, 5th to 8th = Last 8, after 8th =PR

(b) Sanctions

(i) 0 points for anyone who was not present but with a reasonable excuse.

(ii) -50 points for anyone who was not present without reasonable excuse.

(iii) points not accounted in WR without licence issued by a national federation.

(iv) 0 point for a missing licence or wrong category or red card.

(c) FRIENDLY INT TEAM (2 nations can meet only twice a year)		
Win	**Draw**	**Loss**
20	8	0

(d) Bonus points for the FISTF Nations Ranking:

(i) 10 points for beating the World's number 1 team.

(ii) 6 points for beating the World's number 2 team 3 points for beating the World's number 3 team.

(iii) 30% more points for a 3-country event than for a simple friendly international.

(iv) 40% more points for a 4-country event than for a simple friendly international.

(v) 50% more points for a 5-country event than for a simple friendly international.

(e) Adjustment of points awarded

OPEN	VETERAN	U20 - U16	TEAM - U12 Women	CL/EL/CCC	CC TEAM
More than 64 = **120%**	More than 48 = **120%**	More than 32 = **120%**	More than 16 = **120%**	More than 24 = **120%**	More than 24 = **120%**
48-64 = **100%**	36-48 = **100%**	16-32 = **100%**	12-16 = **100%**	16-24 = **100%**	16-24 = **100%**
32-47 = **90%**	24-35 = **90%**	8-15 = **90%**	8-11 = **90%**	12-15 = **70%**	12-15 = **70%**
16-31 = **75%**	12-23 = **75%**	5-7 = **75%**	4-7 = **75%**	8-11 = **50%**	8-11 = **50%**
8-15 = **60%**	6-11 = **60%**	4 = **60%**	3 = **60%**	3-7 = **30%**	3-7 = **30%**
6-7 = 4**0%**	Less than 6 = **0**	Less than 3 = **10%**	Less than 3 = **10%**	Less than 3 = **10%**	Less than 3 = **10%**
Less than 6 = **0**					

NATION TEAM - OPEN - VETERAN	NATION TEAM U20- U16 - U12 - WOMEN
More than 16 = **120%**	More than 10 = **120%**
12 - 16 = **100%**	7 - 10 = **100%**
8 - 11 = **90%**	5 - 6 = **75%**
4 - 7 = **75%**	3 - 4 = 5**0%**
3 = **60%**	2 = 5**0%**
Less than 3 = **0**	Less than 3 = **10%**

All events except Nation Events	Decreasing formula		
Nb months less than	13	25	37
Adjustment factor	100 %	50 %	0 %

Nation Events	Decreasing formula		
Nb months less than	25	49	73
Adjustment factor	100 %	50 %	0 %

(f) Specific Event Points

Champions League							
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	800	7	360	13	290	19	230
2	650	8	340	14	280	20	220
3	500	9	330	15	270	21	210
4	475	10	320	16	260	22	200
5	400	11	310	17	250	23	190

6	380	12	300	18	240	24	180

Europa League							
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	250	7	130	13	80	19	45
2	200	8	120	14	75	20	40
3	180	9	100	15	70	21	35
4	170	10	95	16	65	22	30
5	150	11	90	17	55	23	25
6	140	12	85	18	50	24	20

Other Continental Club Championship							
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	800	9	250	17	150	25	65
2	600	10	240	18	140	26	60
3	450	11	230	19	130	27	55
4	425	12	220	20	120	28	50
5	375	13	210	21	110	29	45
6	350	14	200	22	100	30	40
7	325	15	190	23	90	31	35
8	300	16	180	24	80	32	30

Section 3 - Equipment Control

3.1 Controls on the Game Equipment and Event Locations

3.1.1 Definition

(a) Regular controls over equipment and event locations are an essential feature of any sporting activity. They are managed according to the **FISTF Equipment Handbook** that includes the list of all FISTF-approved equipment. The controls on the players' equipment (4.1.2) are implemented in every FISTF tournament; controls on the organisers' equipment and the event locations (4.1.3) are intermittently carried out byFISTF officials. Finally, in certain high-level tournaments the organisers must provide information about the pitches and goals they will use in the event (4.1.3).

3.1.2 Controls on the players' equipment

(a) The controls are handled by the Head Referees. They are implemented mainly through the FISTF Measuring Tool, following the instructions of the "FISTF Measuring Tool – Directions of use" document. The equipment checked includes bases, balls and goalkeepers. Figures only come into consideration insomuch as the height of base + figure is concerned.

(b) The organisers must:

(i) Have at least two FISTF Measuring Tools.

(ii) Have a copy of the latest FISTF Equipment Handbook.

(iii) Have a copy of the FISTF Measuring Tool - Directions of use.

(iv) Appoint one or more Head Referee to carry out the controls.

(v) Send an Equipment Report to FISTF with any issues that occurred. This report is part of the Head Referee Report available in the Forms section of the FISTF website.

(c) For each event day (this usually means once for the team event and once for the individual competition), the Head Referee(s) check several game tables equal to 15% (rounded up) of the number of players participating in the tournament. The tables to be checked are chosen at random. The checks are performed before the start of the matches, after the players have deployed their teams and goalkeepers. Moreover, checks must be run in at least two separate batches performed at different times. If the tournament is subdivided into categories, at least one table in each category must be checked. If the Equipment Report is not sent, it will be mandatory to pay a penalty of 100 EUR.

(d) For each table the Head Referee(s) checks the ball, the goalkeeper and one of the bases (selected at random) used by each player, taking advantage ofthe FISTF Measuring Tool.

(i) In the case of the base the Head Referee checks:

(A) the minimum height of base + figure.

(B) the maximum base diameter.

(ii) In the case of the goalkeeper the Head Referee checks:

(A) that the figure passes through the opening smoothly, while holding the rod in a perfectly horizontal position.

(B) the thickness of the goalkeeper figure.

(C) the straightness of the rod. Only a slight angle at the junction point between the rod and the handle is allowed.

(D) The rod's width.

(E) The lengths of the rod and the handle.

(iii) In the case of the ball, the Head Referee checks its diameter and that it rolls straight.

(e) A player who suspects their opponent is using irregular equipment may alert the referee either before the match starts or during the half time interval. The referee determines if the charge is plausible. If so, the Head Referee(s) and/or the organisers shall be alerted. Checks requested by players must be noted in the pertinent form, but they do not count toward the minimum number of controls that must be performed each day.

(f) If a referee believes a player is using irregular equipment, they proceed in the same way and at the same points in time (before the match starts or during the half time interval).

(g) Disagreements on the regularity of a player's equipment are adjudicated by the Head Referee(s).

(h) **Sanctions:** Upon being confirmed to be using irregular equipment, a player must immediately surrender it to the organisers, who shall hold it in custody if the player remains in play. No attempt to rectify the item(s) on the spot is allowed. A yellow card will also be issued to the player, which will apply to the player for all remaining games - individual and/or team - during the event. Repeat of the infringement or refusal to surrender it will lead to the player's immediate disqualification from the tournament (both days). The Head Referee or Tournament Organiser must report the incident in their report to FISTF. The FISTF Sports and Disciplinary Departments will keep a record of any such incidents. Any player who is found to have used irregular equipment again within a two year period will be fined 100 EUR.

(i) A player found to have used irregular equipment will have the right to appeal to the FISTF Equipment Committee following the tournament.

3.1.3 Presentation of Equipment

(a) Definition:

Some players use teams in which some figures and bases are different from the rest of the team. Understandably, there will be breakages in a set of figures, but players must ensure that all their figures and bases are of the same design and color. A player has the right to ask their opponent to change teams if this regulation is breached. There is no penalty for abusing this rule, but the referee must enforce it.

11 Infringement:

The referee must ask the offending player to change their playing figures.

3.1.4 Controls on the organisers' equipment and the event locations

(a) The controls are performed by the Head Referee(s).

(b) FISTF will present Head Referees with any information provided by the organisers about the equipment used in the event.

(c) The Head Referee checks:

(i) The pitches and goals to see if their brands correspond to the organisers' indications.

(ii) the tables and pitches, paying attention to:

(A) the balance of the table (the surface must be neither bent nor inclined); and

(B) the uniformity of the cloth (there must be no bubbles or waves especially in the playing area).

(iii) the functional and aesthetic value of the equipment (newness, cleanliness, lack of wear).

(iv) the merits of the facilities arranged by the organisers, including:

(v) the game hall.

(vi) the positioning of tables and fences.

(vii) the bar / restaurant.

(viii) The toilets.

(d) Optionally, the Head Referee may assess additional features, like the respect of the time schedule, of FISTF tournament regulations, players wearing sports uniforms, and the suitability of the official hotel accommodation, if applicable.

(e) **Sanctions for false statements rendered by the organisers:** False statements rendered by the organisers shall be sanctioned with a fine between 20 EUR and 100 EUR, depending on the severity of the situation.

Section 4 - Finance Regulations

4.1 Bank Account and PayPal Account for Online Payments

The FISTF Finance Department will maintain the following (a) bank account and (b) PayPal account for receipt of payments from MNAs, players, clubs, and tournament organisers.

(a) Bank Commonwealth Bank
BIC/Swift: CTBAAU2S
Account No: 06294837010581
Account name: FISTF

(b) PayPal: stevedettre.fistf@gmail.com

4.2 Financial Plan – Expenditure

Several issues are anticipated about expenditure:

4.2.1 FISTF organisation and administration

(a) The members of the Board of Directors and any committees may present a claim for payment of expenses to the Board of Directors. These expenses can only be for the purpose of attending FISTF sporting events. However, the BoD shall limit the payment to the Director whose place of residence is closest to the venue for the above events. Only one Directorshall be entitled to claim expenses per event. If the Director takes part in the event as a player, then the Director shall be ineligible to make a claimon expenses. It shall then be at the discretion of the BoD to allow anotherDirector to claim expenses.

(b) The exception to this rule shall be for the FISTF annual general meeting or the Congress. For these, a BoD member can receive 200 EUR allowance for attendance at the AGM or Congress if it is associated with the World Cup but ONLY if the director attends in a non-playing role. If they attend in a playing role, then the amount remains 20 EUR per day on-site.

(c) Each Director wishing to make a claim must provide an expense claim form (**Form 91**) at least a week before the planned expenses and have this approved by the BoD. The BoD will then instruct the Finance Director to authorise payment on receipt of invoices/proof of expenses/travel.

4.2.2 The purposes to which FISTF's funds are used

(a) As outlined in this Handbook, FISTF collects funds from MNAs, event organisers and manufacturers of equipment seeking approval for their products. Apart from covering the unavoidable costs of running FISTF (for example, website hosting costs, bank fees, costs associated with supporting the World Cup etc), *the primary purpose of the receipt and expenditure of FISTF funds will be to effectively to promote the growth of the game*.

(b) Each year, the FISTF Board will prepare and share with MNAs: (i) financial accounts for the previous year; and (ii) a budget setting out expected revenue and expenditure for the following year.

(c) **Development assistance** – FISTF will devote part of its budget to the development of sports table football. This assistance will be in practice:

(i) Reductions in the fees paid by the MNAs.

(ii) The purchase and provision of equipment/development kits for the smaller associations.

(iii) Promotional videos and other promotional material.

(d) **Donation to event organisers for the running of events** – Some funds will be set aside each year to support the running of events, in particular where such events will help to promote growth in the game. Anyone applying for funds to support their event will need to set out clearly how the funds would be spent, and to provide a report afterwards on the outcomes achieved.

4.2.3 Allowances

(a) Miscellaneous payments - FISTF may contribute to MNAs whose clubs and players have contributed towards the development of sports table football.

Section 5 - Marketing/ Promotion/Media regulations

5.1 Definitions

(a) The Marketing and Promotion Department is responsible, along with the Media Department, for the aesthetic, technical and practical aspects of FISTF's activities: the FISTF website, news, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other means of generating publicity for FISTF andsports table football.

(b) The Marketing and Promotion Department together with the Media Department shall be responsible for developing relations with the international media and with the communications departments of national associations, so that 'sports table football' is promoted as a sport.

(c) This is necessary to gain publicity and sponsorship for as many events as possible worldwide.

5.2 Communication action points

(a) There are various issues to develop:

(i) Membership administration:

(A) It is the general secretary's responsibility to maintain a list of registered players and clubs of FISTF in conjunction with the MNAs and tournament organisers.

(ii) Rules of the game:

(A) The rules of the game must be available in French and English, the two official languages used by FISTF. The MNAs must arrange translations of the rules into their own national languages. FISTF shall monitor this effort.

(iii) Promotion, public relations, and sponsorship.

5.3 Publications

(a) Sports table football literature

(i) Various publicity leaflets about sports table football will be produced for the attention of the media, the public (for distributionat events) and partners.

5.4 Marketing

(a) Marketing, Promotion and Communication Department shall be responsible for:

(i) The general aesthetic (clothing, places, events, etc.).

(ii) Rules and requirements for FISTF tournaments.

(iii) Licensing of competition equipment, through sponsorship with manufacturers and other companies.

(iv) The Design and Style Guide of FISTF and all the international events, sponsors, relation with producers and distributors ofequipment.

(v) Offering producers and distributors a collaboration package.

5.5 Equipment Guides

(a) This section is available in a new document online on www.fistf.com

Section 6 - Development

6.1 FISTF Development Program

(a) FISTF will issue programs for the development of sports table football at a national and/or regional level worldwide.

(b) These programs shall be established between FISTF and an MNA or a club.

(c) FISTF partners can be added to the program on a case-by-case basis.

(d) A protocol shall be signed between all involved parts to define duties and rights of each part.

(e) There are no restrictions on which MNAs and clubs can take part in the FISTF Development Program.

6.2 FISTF Training Centers

6.2.1 Goals of the centers

(a) To give local, national and foreign players a place to meet, play and communicate with other players.

(b) To have a place to train your local and/or national team for international competitions.

(c) To build the sporting image of Sports Table Football.

(d) To support national federations in developing Sports Table Football intheir country.

6.2.2 Centre characteristics

(a) There must be good quality FISTF approved pitches.

(b) The center should be open at least 1 day a week for a minimum of 3 hours each time.

(c) The center must be set up in a clean and non-smoking environment.

6.2.3 What the Centre gets in return from FISTF

(a) Official title as “FISTF Training Centre”.

(b) A place on the FISTF website listing all the Centers with their locations and information, which is also a way to display the projects and organisational skills of national federations.

(c) Flags, banners, posters, rules can be downloaded freely from the FISTF website.

(d) Countries with little financial resources can request help through the FISTF Development Fund (FISTF MNAs only).

(e) There are no registration fees for creating and maintaining a FISTFTraining Centre.

(f) The club may use the official FTC Logo with the certified Level number (1to 4) on the sports shirts and tracksuits. The graphics are available in the data center for download. FISTF Corporate identity. www.fistf.com

(g) The Club will be recommended by FISTF to players, parents, media, TV and other institutions, as necessary.

6.2.4 How to apply

(a) The **Form 21** (Training Centers Request Form) shall be used for the application.

(b) Applicants must complete a form for each center seeking registration / certification.

(c) A training center can host more than one independent club, but each club must submit its own training center application.

(d) The application will be submitted to the General Secretary of FISTF for clearance and consideration by the FISTF board.

(e) The application/request can be sent at any time. A level 1, 2 or 3 FTC can apply any time to raise its level if conditions are met and proven.

(f) A minimum of 4 photos of the venue shall be included with the application,one photo from outside and three photos from inside.

(g) Clubs as Training Centers must meet a minimum of 5 to 10 conditions:

(i) e1. A permanent training room facility as the home of the club**. Must be a Non-Smoking area**.

(ii) e2. Weekly club training with a fixed time and date. (Minimumrequirement 3x a month)

(iii) e3. Competent trainers to teach youth the sport's rules andcorrect play.

11.1 Note: A competent trainer is a person who is able to teach youth proper play, has experience working with youth, knows FISTF sports playing rules (laws), plays STF himself and speaks the local language.

(iv) e4. A club website to present the sport and inform the public about club activities. A link to the FISTF.com website is required.

11.2 Note: Social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram or similar are NOT websites. Not everyone has access or wants to use social media.

(v) e5. Organising internal club league championships and cups.

11.3 Specify internal club League and knock-out cup system in a handbook. Refer to the FISTF tournament guide and use the FISTF Pyramid.

(vi) e6. Participating in the domestic National Championship (League) and knock-out Cup.

(vii) Individual and Club with one or more teams.

(viii) e7. Respecting the Code of Conduct. Teach clean flicking andfair play.

(ix) e8. Register as a non-profit club in the country to foster stability and sustainability. (**)

(x) e9. Adopt official club statutes / constitution. Copies to be sent toFISTF.

(xi) e10. (*) A club Board of Directors consisting of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Democratic vote according to the club statutes / constitution.

(xii) Additional information: Cooperation with other clubs or institutions.

Please, inform FISTF in relation to (h)(i) to (h)(iv).

(h) Cooperating with other clubs or institutions. More than one is possible, for example:

(i) Football clubs.

(ii) Other sports clubs (e.g., Futsal, Handball, Gymnastics).

(iii) Cultural clubs (e.g., libraries, hobby associations, art and music groups).

(iv) Educational facilities and institutions (e.g., universities, schools).

(i) Supported by the local city council, municipality, district department, such as a free training area or financial support or other support (help).

(j) Supported by sponsors and supporters.

(k) The sports table football club has a membership fee (levies) system.

Please note:

(*) Mandatory for every club world-wide. No club board means no club!

(**) The registration as a non-profit club shall be the target for each MNA and club, as that will warrant the legal status for our sport. In countries where the registration as a non-profit club (some countries call it “association”) is complicated, FISTF is opento an alternative solution. Please inform us on domestic laws in your country.

(***) FISTF has no intent to disadvantage clubs in certain countries and or different cultures, but the target shall be a focus on legal, stable, sustainable, and working clubs. We wish clubs to exist for a long time (tradition) and not fold (shut down) after a short period of time after foundation (establishment) date.

6.2.5 Overall Benefits

(a) All players with a valid FISTF license can use a certified FISTF TrainingCentre for free.

(b) The certified club can publicly use the certificate to promote the club andgain sponsors and new members.

(c) Certification aims to enhance the positive image and status of the club.

6.2.6 FISTF Certification

(a) The certification diploma will be sent to the applicant by the FISTFGeneral Secretary to confirm recognition.

(b) Each certificate diploma will have an FTC code for identification. Example:

(c) FTC 0087

(d) The training centers will be classified into 4 Certification levels: Certification Level conditions fulfilled and confirmed (proven):

(i)	Certification Level 4	10	Red
(ii)	Certification Level 3	8-9	Black
(iii)	Certification Level 2	6-7	Green
(iv)	Certification Level 1	5	Grey

(e) A certification diploma shall be issued to all approved FISTF Training Centers (FTC).

(f) The certification diploma shall be issued for promotion and be publicly viewable, preferably on a board or in a picture frame. It should also be displayed on the club website.

(g) The certification diploma has a validity of maximum 36 months from dateof issue. After 36 months the validity will expire automatically. An extension request with updated new information can be sent at any time. **Form 21** will always be used.

Section 7 - FISTF Disciplinary Council & Regulations

Part 1 Rules of Construction

1 The provisions of these regulations apply to FISTF, MNAs, Clubs, Players and competition organisers in the conduct of any competition activity related to sports table football.

2 In case of any conflict between the FISTF Statutes and any other section of these regulations, the provisions of the FISTF Statutes shall prevail. The definitions used in the FISTF Statutes shall be used in the interpretation of these regulations.

3 If any provision of these regulations or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this handbook which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of these regulations shall be severable.

4 In the event of any controversy, dispute or claim arising out of or relating to these regulations, or to the interpretation, breach, or enforcement thereof, the parties shall in good faith use best efforts to settle such controversy, dispute or claim by negotiation. If such negotiation should fail, such controversy, dispute or claim shall be submitted to the FISTF Disciplinary Council (hereinafter 'Council'), which shall issue a final, binding, and conclusive ruling on all interested parties.

5 The rights and obligations herein contained shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, FISTF, MNAs, Clubs and Players and their respective executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

6 Any forbearance of FISTF, MNAs, Clubs or Players to exercise any right or remedy to which they are entitled to under these regulations shall not be construed as a waiver of, or preclude the exercise of, any right or remedy.

7 Any case not provided for in, but related to, these regulations shall be referred to the Council, which shall issue a final, binding, and conclusive ruling on the case.

Part 2 Organisation and Responsibilities

Article 1 FISTF Disciplinary Council

1.1 The management of disciplinary matters within FISTF is entrusted to the Council, as defined in the FISTF Statutes, Article 30, with the sole exception of the authority to pronounce the exclusion of an MNA, which is reserved by the FISTF Congress in accordance with Article 23.3 of the FISTF Statutes.

1.2 The Council is composed of three disciplinary judges appointed and revoked in accordance with Article 30 of the FISTF Statutes (hereinafter 'Judges'), by the FISTF Board of Directors who will be agents of FISTF when exercising their official duties. Once appointed, these Judges will appoint a Council Chairperson among themselves (hereinafter 'Chairperson'). Should the Judges fail to appoint a Chairman within three months of full manning of the Council, the matter shall be referred to the FISTF Board of Directors (hereinafter 'Board'), who may take any measure it deems appropriate, including but not limited to the revocation of the mandate of one or more Judges and the appointment of a Chairman.

1.3 The FISTF President can become an ex-officio member of the Council, in a non-voting role, to assist with procedures and preparation of documents.

1.4 The Chairperson is responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Council and for the handling of all claims and correspondence addressed to the Council. The Chairperson may delegate this latter responsibility to another member of the Council.

1.5 The Council is responsible for the revising, drafting and promulgation of the FISTF disciplinary regulations in accordance with Article 30 of the FISTF Statutes. For that purpose, it will consult within FISTF on the efficiency of the rules and produce changes as it deems necessary.

1.6 The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the FISTF disciplinary regulation and to impose disciplinary sanctions in accordance with Article 30 and Article 23 of the FISTF Statutes. For that purpose, the Council will render disciplinary judgements (hereinafter 'Judgement').

1.7 When the Council must make a decision related to 1.5 or 1.6 above, it will first of all attempt to reach a consensus of all its members. Should the Chairperson consider, after a reasonable period of discussions, that a consensus cannot be achieved, the Chairperson will call for a vote of the Judges, and the decision will be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. In case of equality of the votes cast, the Chairperson will have the casting vote. The deliberations and votes of the Council will be secret.

1.8 During the discussions leading to a decision related to 1.5 or 1.6 above, the Council may conduct hearings of the parties and witnesses, and consult with competition organisers, MNA and Club representatives, independent experts and Board members.

1.9 Decisions of the Council do not have to be made at a formal meeting, and may be achieved through any reasonable method, including but not limited to informal meetings and e-mail or telephone exchanges. The Chairperson will use their best endeavors to involve equally all Council members in the discussions leading to such decisions.

Article 2 Specific Obligations of Council Members

2.1 The members of the Council, as well as the members of the Board, who are sanctioned for disciplinary reasons according to these Disciplinary Regulations, will be punished exemplarily with the greatest sanction that applies to the specific infraction.

2.2 Members of the Council may not accept from any person instructions, orders, gifts or bribes of any kind that could be related to the exercise of their official duties as Judges. If a member of the Council becomes aware that another Council member has accepted such instructions, orders, gifts or bribes, the member will inform the Chairperson and/or the FISTF President as soon as possible.

2.3 Members of the Council have to inform the other Council members if they are themselves parties in a proceeding before the Council (either plaintiff or defendant), are related in the first degree (husband, wife, recognised partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister) to a party in such a proceeding, or are affiliated in another way with a party in such a proceeding (such as holding a management function in a Club that is a party to such a proceeding) or have a personal friendship with a party.

2.4 Members of the Council must perform their official duties as Judges with utmost impartiality, fairness, and without any discrimination on the grounds of citizenship, gender, age, marital status, employment, education, race, religion, or sexual or political orientation.

Article 3 Competition Organisers and/or Head Referees

3.1 The Council may delegate to the organisers of FISTF competitions and/or the head referee to such competition the power to decide if an action by an MNA, Player or Club is in breach of these disciplinary regulations and refer the relevant party to the Council.

3.2 This will be limited to cases where the Council itself, or a member, is not present to make a referral for judgement and sentence.

Part 3 Disciplinary Sanctions

Article 4 Disciplinary Sanctions against Players and Clubs

4.1 In accordance with Article 23 of the FISTF Statutes, FISTF Clubs and Players who are judged by the Council to have breached the disciplinary regulations will be sentenced by the Council or its delegate, according to the extent of their actions, to one or more of the sanctions below (sanctions may be combined or added one to another as decided by the Council):

(a) Official warning.

(b) Fine.

(c) Deduction of a defined number of world ranking points.

(d) Deduction of part or all the world ranking points gained in a specific tournament.

(e) Disqualification from a specific match.

(f) Disqualification from a specific competition.

(g) Disqualification from a specific competition for a specified period up to one (1) calendar year.

(h) Suspension from participation in defined FISTF competitions (e.g., in a specified country or countries) for a specified period up to one (1) calendar year.

(i) Suspension from participation in all FISTF competitions for a specified period up to one (1) calendar year.

(j) Exclusion from FISTF. Note: This can only be recommended by the DC. As per the FISTF Statutes, only a Congress or AGM of FISTF can expel an MNA.

Offence	Competition Organiser/Head Referee	Disciplinary Council actions			
	Immediate action	Ban	Ranking pts	Additional	Summary
Assault of a player or referee	If a match is in progress, the offending player is immediately issued a Red Card, loses the match 0-3 and is expelled from the tournament. If the match was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such higher score will be kept. All subsequent scheduled matches by the player are registered as 0-3 loss. In a Team event, each game result in the round in which a player (team member) is disqualified is registered as a 0-3 loss and the Match result for that round is registered as 0-4. The Team can play again, but not the offending player. If the offence is committed by a referee, they are immediately expelled from the tournament. The Disciplinary Council informed by an official report.	One year	Loss of all WR points	Formal letter of apology	Must comply with all before can return to play
Threat of violence to player of referee	If a match is in progress, the offending player loses the match 0-3 and is expelled from the tournament. If the match was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such a higher score will be kept. All subsequent matches are registered as 0-3 loss. In a Team event, each game result is registered as a 0-3 loss and the Match result is registered as 0-4. The Team can play again, but not the offending player. If the offence is committed by a referee, they are immediately expelled from the tournament. Disciplinary Council informed by an official report.	Six months	Loss of 500 WR points	Formal letter of apology	Must comply with all before can return to play
Insults, abuse or verbal threats	If a match is in progress, the offending player loses the match 0-3 and is expelled from the tournament. If the match was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such a higher score will be kept. All subsequent matches are registered as 0-3 loss. In a Team event, each game result is registered as a 0-3 loss and the Match result is registered as 0-4. The Team can play again, but not the offending player. If the offence is committed by a referee, they are immediately expelled from the tournament. Disciplinary Council informed by an official report.	One month	Loss of points from the event PLUS additional loss of 100 ranking points	Formal letter of apology	Must comply with all before can return to play

Offence	Competition Organiser/Head Referee	Disciplinary Council actions			
	Immediate action	Ban	Ranking pts	Additional	Summary
Poor behaviour, aggression, failing to follow the rules (persistent breaches of Rule 2.4.3(c)(iii), resulting in red card)	If a match is in progress, and the offending player receives a red card, they lose the match 0-3 and are expelled from the tournament. If the match was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such a higher score will be kept. All subsequent matches are registered as 0-3 loss. In a Team event, each game result is registered as a 0-3 loss and the Match result is registered as 0-4. The Team can play again, but not the offending player. If the offence is committed by a referee, they are immediately expelled from the tournament. Disciplinary Council informed by an official report.	The Tournament	Loss of all ranking points from the relevant event, PLUS additional loss of 50 ranking points	Formal letter of apology	Must comply with all before can return to play
Poor behaviour, aggression, failing to follow the rules (persistent breaches of Rule 2.4.3(c)(iii), resulting in yellow or orange card); failing to complete a match, either by failing to start or failing to finish a match.	DC informed by Competition Organiser and/or Head Referee. Cards are forwarded to the DC. Failing to complete a match, either by failing to start or failing to finish a match, is recorded as a 0-3 loss.	N/A	Loss of all ranking points from the relevant event, PLUS additional loss of 50 ranking points	Formal letter of apology	Must comply with all before can return to play
Consumption of alcohol in the playing venue by referees or players who are still likely to participate in the competition.	DC informed by Competition Organiser and/or Head Referee.	N/A	Loss of 100 ranking points		

Article 5 Official Warning

5.1 An official warning is a letter written by the Chairperson to a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations. The Council may decide that this letter will also be sent to other parties such as the defendant's Club or MNA, as well as the FISTF Board.

5.2 The Council will keep a register of all official warnings. This register must be kept electronically on a suitable web-accessible database, with access by the FISTF President and Secretary General.

Article 6 Fine

6.1 A disciplinary fine is a pecuniary obligation of a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations and sentenced to pay a fixed amount of money. Fines will be defined by the Council in multiples of 10 EUR.

6.2 An MNA, Player or Club sentenced to a fine will be automatically suspended from participating in any FISTF competition until this fine is fully paid, unless the Council decides otherwise.

Article 7 Disqualification

7.1 The disqualification of a defendant who has been judged guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations results in the defendant automatically losing the match and/or competition(s) from which they are disqualified.

7.2 If the disqualification is for one match, the defendant will lose the match with a minimum of 0-3 for an individual match, and of 0-4 for a team match. If the match was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such higher score will be kept.

7.3 If the disqualification is for one or more competitions, the defendant will lose all matches of that competition with a minimum of 0-3 for an individual match, and of 0-4 for a team match. If a match of the defendant was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such higher score will be kept.

7.4 The disqualification of a defendant may be decided by the Council or, by delegation, by a competition organiser and/or head referee. The disqualification is the only disciplinary sanction that the Council may allow a delegate to decide on. In that case, the delegate may only sentence the defendant to a disqualification for the match(es) and/or competition for which they are the organiser and/or head referee.

7.5 When a defendant is sentenced to disqualification by a delegate of the Council, that delegate or a third party may in addition file a claim to the Council for the same facts. Shouldthis be the case, the Council may decide to sentence the defendant to an additional sentence.

7.6 The decision of a delegate of the Council to disqualify a defendant for a match and/or a competition is final and may not be appealed or modified. The Council or FISTF will not hold any liability, monetary or otherwise, towards the defendant for that disqualification.

Article 8 Suspension

8.1 A suspension is an interdiction of a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations to play some or all future FISTF competitions for a defined period of up to one (1) year.

8.2 A suspended defendant will lose all the benefits of FISTF affiliation for the duration of the suspension as defined in the sanction, while still retaining all their FISTF obligations.

8.3 The suspension of an MNA will automatically imply the suspension of all Clubs and Players affiliated with that MNA.

8.4 The suspension of a Club will automatically imply the suspension of all Players affiliated with that Club.

Article 9 Expulsion

9.1 The expulsion of a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations is a revocation of the membership and/or affiliation with FISTFfor that defendant. The expulsion implies the indefinite suspension from all FISTF competition.

9.2 When the Council decides to expel a Player or Club from FISTF, this expulsion will only become effective when ratified by the Board.

9.3 When the Council decides to propose the expulsion of an MNA from FISTF, this expulsion may only be pronounced by a decision of the Congress.

9.4 Even after it has been expelled from FISTF, an MNA, Club, Player, its successors and assignees, shall remain liable for any obligation, monetary or otherwise, incurred when it was an FISTF Member or associated with FISTF.

9.5 FISTF will have no liability whatsoever, monetary or otherwise, towards an expelled defendant, unless these liabilities were incurred prior to the expulsion.

Article 10 Sentencing Guidelines

10.1 The Council will publish sentencing guidelines, where it will present, for several types of breach of these disciplinary regulations, the associated sentences. These sentencing guidelines will be used by the Council and its delegates in further sentencing, without the Council being thereby bound to these guidelines.

10.2 The Council will update these sentencing guidelines on a regular basis.

10.3 The sentencing guidelines are additional to, and do not replace, the provisions of these regulations.

Part 4 Substantive Disciplinary Regulations

Article 11 General Duties and Obligations

11.4 *Obligation of ethical behavior*: The MNAs, Players and Clubs to which the present regulations apply must maintain behavior consistent with the athletic standards of fairness and morals, in all their actions, both during competitions as well as during their financial or social actions relating to FISTF or sports table football more generally. All players, in whatever role, registered with FISTF, have an obligation to maintain the best interests of the sport, and refrain from any action or words which would bring the game or FISTF into disrepute.

11.5 *Obligation to produce documents*: All FISTF MNAs, Players and Clubs are obliged to provide the Council with any information in their possession that the Council requests them to provide during disciplinary proceedings. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that they will be punished with a fine.

11.6 *Obligation to testify*: If a FISTF MNA, Player of Club is called as a witness in disciplinary proceedings by the Council and refuses to testify, the Council may decide that they will be punished with a fine.

11.7 *Obligation to maintain the secrecy of proceedings*: The FISTF MNAs, Players and Clubs who are taking part in disciplinary proceedings are forbidden to make any public declarations related to these proceedings or to make public comments related to other parties to, or persons involved in, such proceedings. They are also forbidden to supply to anyone information regarding disciplinary proceedings that are not yet finalised. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a fine.

11.8 *Obligation to refrain from inciting violence*: FISTF MNAs, Players and Clubs may not publicly make declarations, indirectly or directly, which could, in the opinion of the Council, incite others to use any type of violence, negative criticism, or harmful comments. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a suspension from participating in any FISTF Tournament. The Council may also decide to propose to the Board (for Players or Clubs) and/or the Congress (for an MNA) the exclusion from FISTF.

11.9 *Obligation of truthful and complete answers*: FISTF MNAs, Players and Clubs are obliged to send to the Council, full, correct, and honest answers to every question addressed to them. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a fine. In addition, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a suspension from defined FISTF events.

Article 12 General Obligations of Players and Clubs

12.1 *Obligation to refrain from unduly influencing a match result*: The Club, team, or Player whose actions lead to the abnormal conduction of a match will be sanctioned by the competition head referee or, in their absence, by the competition organiser with immediate disqualification of the specific match. The sanction of immediate disqualification can be given to both Players of a match when they both have the same responsibility for the above.

12.2 When there are facts that cannot be technically proved during a match, the Council may examine and judge if the result or the conduct of a match in general was normal. Where it is found not to be normal/acceptable, the Council may disqualify one or both the opponents, or order a replay of the match if it was not played.

12.3 *Liability of Club representatives*: The Players who are appointed to legally represent their Club are presumed to be equally liable, until the opposite is proved, for any breach of disciplinary regulations by their Club.

12.4 *Liability of team captains*: The Player who is the Captain of a Team in a specific game is liable according to the present handbook for any breach of disciplinary regulation by their team. This responsibility for the specific delinquency can be reduced if another specific member of their team is held liable.

Article 13 Special Obligations of Clubs

13.1 Clubs may reply directly to FISTF or the Council through their official representative, according to the FISTF rules.

13.2 *Vicarious liability of Clubs*: Clubs may be held vicariously liable for the acts of their representatives and may face equally any consequence where one of their representatives being found in breach of these disciplinary regulations.

13.3 *Liability for negligent oversight*: The Council may decide on its own initiative to enter Judgement and sanction on Clubs that negligently fail to ensure that their Players do not breach these disciplinary regulations.

13.4 *Obligation of internal control*: A breach of a disciplinary regulation by a Player member of a Club will not automatically lead to the liability of their Club. However, if a Player is sentenced by the Council, their club has the obligation to sanction him internally.

13.5 *Obligation not to employ suspended or disqualified Players*: The sanction of disqualification will be given to a Club by the competition head referee or, in their absence, by the competition organiser which uses suspended or disqualified Players during a competition, or Players who in general have no right to play.

Article 14 Special Obligations of Players

14.1 *Obligation of restraint*: Players will show restraint during competitions, whether they are presently engaged in a match. In particular, the following will be considered as a breach of these disciplinary regulations:

(a) Negative criticism or harmful comments about another Player, Club, a referee, the head referee, a third party, the competition organiser or an MNA. Behavior or declarations which are capable of leading to acts of violence.

(b) Deliberate breach of the present regulations or of the FISTF rules of the game, with the intent to change the normal course of a match.

(c) Exaggerated celebration of a win or a goal, which could be considered as an insult to the opponent.

(d) Swearing during the match against anyone.

(e) Insults against another Player, Club, a referee, the head referee, a third party, the competition organiser or an MNA.

(f) Denial of a request to referee a game or absence during a mandatory refereeing.

(g) Threat or attempt to use force against another Player, a referee, the head referee,a third party, or the competition organiser.

(h) Unlawful use of force against another Player, the referee, the head referee, a third party, or the competition organiser.

(i) Damage of the opponent's or a third party's equipment.

(j) Damage of the equipment used for the competition.

(k) Repeated violation of referee duties.

14.2 Players breaching the above obligations will be punished according to the extent of their actions, with one or more of the following sanctions (sanctions can be combined or added one to another):

(a) For the cases 14.1 (a) to 14.1 (f): The delegate of the Council may sentence the offender to disqualification from a match or disqualification from the competition. In addition, the Council may give the defendant an Official Warning and/or a fine.

(b) For the cases 14.1 (g) to 14.1 (j): The delegate of the Council may sentence the offender to disqualification from a match or disqualification from the competition. In addition, the Council may sentence the defendant to any disciplinary sanction.

(c) For the case 14.1 (k): The delegate of the Council may give the defendant an Official Warning and/or a fine.

14.3 For the sentencing of all breaches of the obligation of restraint, the delegate of the Council, or the Council itself may consider acts of provocation or a breach of these disciplinary regulations by the victim, as extenuating circumstances.

Article 15 Red Cards Records System

15.1 The Council will hold a record of the Red Cards that have been issued to Players in accordance with the FISTF rules of the game.

15.2 In addition to the sanctions referred to Article 14, the following sanctions will be given by the Council:

(a) Player who has been issued two (2) Red Cards during the same sports season (September to August): Loss of 200 World ranking Points and any fine.

(b) Player who has been issued three or four (3 or 4) Red Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 200 World Ranking points, a fine, and a 3 months' disqualification from any FISTF competition.

(c) Player who has been issued five (5) Red Cards or more during the same sports season: Loss of a minimum of 300 World Ranking points, any fine, and disqualification from any FISTF competition for a minimum of one (1) year.

Article 16 Orange Cards Records System

16.1 The Council will hold a record of the Orange Cards that have been issued to Players in accordance with the FISTF rules of the game.

16.2 In addition to the sanctions referred to Article 14, the following sanctions will be given by the Council:

(a) Player who has been issued three or four (3 or 4) Orange Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 50 World Ranking points, and a 40 EUR fine.

(b) Player who has been issued five or six (5 or 6) Orange Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 150 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 2 months' disqualification from any FISTF competition.

(c) Player who has been issued seven (7) Orange Cards or more during the same sports season: Loss of 200 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 3 months' disqualification from any FISTF competition. The Council may decide, depending on the number of cards and/or the specific cases, if the player should get any additional sanction.

Article 17 Yellow Cards Records System

17.1 The Council will hold a record of the Yellow Cards that have been issued to Players in accordance with the FISTF rules of the game.

17.2 In addition to the sanctions referred to Article 14, the following sanctions will be given by the Council:

(a) Player who has been issued four (4) Yellow Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 50 World Ranking points, and a 20 EUR fine.

(b) Player who has been issued five to seven (5 to 7) Yellow Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 100 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 1-month disqualification from any FISTF competition.

(c) Player who has been issued eight (8) Yellow Cards or more during the same sports season: Loss of 150 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 3 months' disqualification from any FISTF competition. The Council may decide, depending on the number of cards and/or the specific cases, if the player should get any additional sanction.

Article 18 Cards Records System - Combinations

18.1 In addition to the sanctions referred to Article 15, Article 16 and Article 17, the Council may give a sanction to a player who has a combination or Red/Orange/Yellow cards. Any player having two (2) or more cards in each category (e.g., 2 Orange & 2 Yellow) and even if according to Article 15, Article 16 and Article 17 they would get no sanction, may be sentenced by the Council according to its judgment.

Article 19 Recurring Breaches of Disciplinary Regulations

19.1 A Club or Player who, after they have been sentenced by the Council according to the present disciplinary regulations, fails to comply with the sentence and/or breaks the same or any other rule repeatedly, will receive a stronger sanction.

19.2 To be considered as recurring breaches, the breaches must have occurred during the last two (2) sports seasons.

Part 5 Rules of Procedure of the FISTF Disciplinary Council

Article 20 Filing of Claims

20.1 Notwithstanding the rights of the Head Referee and Tournament Organisers outlined elsewhere in the regulations, when FISTF, an MNA, Player or Club becomes aware of a possible breach of these disciplinary regulations, they may file a claim reporting such breach. This must be reported to the Council within thirty (30) calendar days of the presumed breach. Such a claim will be addressed to the Council Chairperson, or the person to whom they have given the authority to process claims.

20.2 Claims must be filed in writing by one named plaintiff against one or more named defendants. FISTF, MNAs, Clubs and Players may be plaintiffs or defendants. Such claims will set out in enough detail the charges against the defendant, and will list as a minimum:

(a) The names and contact details of the plaintiff.

(b) The name of the defendants in enough detail to allow the Council to identify them.

(c) A description of the facts presumed to be a breach of these disciplinary regulations, including but not limited to time and place information.

(d) If possible, citation of the part of the disciplinary regulations that the plaintiff considers have been breached.

(e) A description of the prejudice caused to the plaintiff by the presumed breach, if any.

Should the initial claim, in the opinion of the Council, not contain enough information, the Chairperson n will contact the plaintiff to collect that information. The plaintiff will be responsible to provide the missing information to the Council.

20.3 Players may appeal to the FISTF DC relating to any domestic disciplinary committee proceedings. However:

(a) Players must have been charged by their domestic disciplinary committee, and have received an adverse judgement.

(b) They must have then appealed the domestic judgement.

(c) Only after they have exhausted all domestic avenues of appeal can they lodge a claim with the FISTF DC.

(d) The claim must be lodged within 30 days of the conclusion of any domestic process.

20.4 Should the Council decide that the plaintiff has not provided sufficient information to allow the Council to render a Judgement, the claim will be dismissed as inadmissible. The Chairperson will inform the plaintiff in writing as soon as possible of such a decision.

20.5 Should the Council decide that the claim is admissible, the Chairperson will inform in writing as soon as possible the defendant of the details of the claim and charges against him, and that the defendant may file a written explanatory memorandum in their defense to the Council within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the Chairman's message.

Article 21 Proceedings before the Council

21.1 For the investigation of the claim, the Council may request the production of other supporting documentation, such as Match Report, Referee's Reports, Head Referee's Report, Report of the Competition Manager and the defendant's apology letter. Upon receiptof the Council request to produce such supporting documentation, the document holder hasthe obligation to provide a copy of the requested document to the Council.

21.2 Proceedings before the Council will be accusatory. Both plaintiff and defendant will be invited to present their case before the Council. This presentation does not have to be made within the frame of formal hearings and may be achieved through any reasonable method as determined by the Council, including but not limited to informal meetings and e-mail or telephone exchanges.

21.3 Should the Council decide that a preponderance of the available evidence suggests that a breach of the disciplinary regulations did take place, the Chairman will request the defendant to submit an apology letter to the plaintiff and/or any part that has suffered damages from the breach, with a copy to the Chairman. The defendant will have to submit such an apology letter in writing within ten (10) days of the Council decision.

Article 22 Judgement

22.1 Based on the available evidence and on the apology letter of the plaintiff, if any, the Council will render a Judgement, where it will decide that a preponderance of the available evidence suggests that the defendant is:

(a) Guilty of one or more breaches of the disciplinary regulations, and will then sentence the defendant to one or more disciplinary sanctions; or

(b) Not guilty of a breach of the disciplinary regulations.

Such Judgement will be supported by a reasoned opinion approved by the Council that sets-out the reasons for the Judgement and sentence.

22.2 A defendant may be found guilty of breaches of the disciplinary regulations that were not listed among the charges in the original claim.

22.3 In rendering Judgement, the Council will use as guidelines previous Judgements of the Council and the applicable sentencing guidelines but will not be bound by such Judgements or guidelines.

22.4 In sentencing the defendant to a disciplinary sanction, the apology letter of the defendant, if any, will be considered as a mitigating circumstance.

22.5 When more than one claim is filed against the same defendant for the same facts, only one Judgement may be rendered against the defendant (no double jeopardy). However:

(a) When additional claims are filed after Judgement has been rendered, that add new facts that the Council decides to be relevant to the original charges, the Council may decide to reopen the disciplinary proceeding.

(b) A claim that has been dismissed as inadmissible will not preclude the filing of another claim against the same defendant for the same facts.

22.6 The Chairperson will inform in writing as soon as possible the plaintiff and the defendant of the Judgement rendered by the Council and of the related sentence. In addition, the Judgement and sentence will be published as soon as possible on the FISTF official website www.fistf.com.

Article 23 Execution of Disciplinary Sanctions

23.1 Any disciplinary sanction will become effective, and its execution will start on the day following the publication of the sentence on the FISTF official website, unless the Council decides otherwise in the Judgement.

23.2 The execution of a sentence will be suspended during the duration of the proceedings that follow the admission by the Council of an appeal from the related Judgement. The period between the start of the execution of the sentence and the suspension of the disciplinary sanction will be deducted from the duration of any new disciplinary sanction imposed by the Judgement on appeal.

23.3 If a sentence cannot be fully executed during a sports season, it will continue during the next sports season(s).

23.4 If a Player is transferred to another Club and/or MNA, they will normally continue their sentence, even if for example a whole team to which they are not a member anymore had been sanctioned.

Article 24 Appeal

24.1 The plaintiff, the defendant or both may, within thirty (30) calendar days of the publication of the Judgement on the FISTF official website, appeal from a Judgement and/or sentenceby writing to the Chairperson.

24.2 Should the Council decide that the plaintiff, the defendant or both have not provided any additional evidence that could lead the Council to review its Judgement and/or sentence, the relevant appeal will be dismissed as inadmissible.

24.3 Should the Council decide that an appeal, either by the plaintiff, the defendant or both, is admissible, the Council will suspend the Judgement and the execution of the sentence. The Chairperson will inform as soon as possible the plaintiff and the defendant.

24.4 Following the suspension of the initial Judgement, the Council will re-start the proceedings and render a new Judgement as described in Article 2 and Article 3.

Article 25 Miscellaneous Provisions

25.1 When a member of the Council is a party in a proceeding before the Council (either plaintiff or defendant), is related in the first degree (husband, wife, recognised partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister) to a party in such a proceeding, or is affiliated in another way with a party in such a proceeding (such as holding a management function in a Club that is a party to such a proceeding, or as mentioned earlier), they will not take part in the decisions of the Council related to that proceeding.

In cases where a member of the Council absents themselves because of 25.1, the Chairperson of the Council may appoint a suitable replacement member for the period of the proceedings.

25.2 For these rules of procedure, written documents will include, but not be limited to manuscripts, typed letters, faxes, e-mails (and their attachments) and cell phone text messages. In case of doubt, the Council will decide if a specific communication is a written document.

Section 8 - Rules of the Game

8.1 Rules of the game

(a) The laws of the game are available in a separate specific document. This file consists of two parts:

1 Rules of the game.

2 Referee's guide.

8.2 Rules and Referees Committee

(a) Establishment

(i) In August 2023, the FISTF Board of Directors decided to revamp the FISTF rules process through the creation of a new Rules and Referees Committee (RR Committee).

(ii) The RR Committee is an autonomous committee, in the same way as the Disciplinary Council, Equipment Committee and Operational Secretary are able to make and implement their own decisions, under the authority of FISTF. It shall report on its activities to the Board through the Sports Director.

(b) Scope

(i) The scope of the Committee is:

(A) To protect the core values, especially the simplicity of playing the game.

(B) To adopt a clear decision-making process and implementation by the RR Committee.

(C) To benefit the game at all levels, whether small, local clubs, national competitions or elite international events.

(D) The development of a thorough training process to assist all players in understanding and learning the rules.

(E) Development of a proper Referees Guide and an associated Referees course and certification.

(F) Develop and maintain the Rules of the Game document, as well as a simplified rules document for beginners.

(c) Composition

(i) There will be seven (7) members on the RR Committee.

(ii) Four (4) positions will be available for nomination by the MNAs. If there are more than 4 nominations, then an internet vote of the Members will be held to determine the four persons to be named on the RR Committee. Of these 4, only one from an MNA can be elected - an MNA can only have a maximum of one elected representative.

(iii) The FISTF Board will nominate three (3) members. The FISTF nominees will not be constrained by MNA, so they may come from an MNA which has an elected representative.

(iv) All candidates for the RR Committee must abide by the policies of FISTF in relation to its board and committees:

(A) Committee solidarity (a decision taken in proper form by the whole committee is a decision of all members).

(B) Confidentiality policy (internal discussions, correspondence, and reports must remain confidential, until released by the Chairman of the Committee).

(d) Decision making process

(i) The RR Committee will decide its internal votes by a simple majority.

(ii) In the interests of dealing with any changes to the rules in an efficient and transparent manner, the RR Committee will follow the following process:

(A) FISTF provides the authority to the RR Committee.

(B) The RR Committee is the owner of the Rules of the Game document and will create a separate Referees Guide.

(C) The Chairman of the RR Committee is the executor, under the authority of the Committee and the FISTF Board.

(D) The RR Committee can accept and call for contributions/suggestions. However, the RR Committee owns the decision making process and has the authority to reject or accept these suggestions.

(E) The RR Committee can also ask for clubs or small tournaments to 'play test' potential new rules and request analysis of these changes before they are implemented generally.

(F) Changes/amendments to the rules of the game are then implemented. In the case of major changes, they will be in force at the start of the next season.

(G) Internal discussions, correspondence, and reports must remain confidential, until released by the Chairman of the Committee. Internal discussions must not be aired in a public forum.

(e) Other

(i) The RR Committee may issue its own internal rules of procedure.

Section 9 - Forms

National Federations must fill out the following forms where applicable:Notes:

- **Form 01** and **Form 20** are available via Google Sheets.
- The remaining forms are available on the FISTF website at https://fistf.com/technical- pages/documents-library/

FORM 01 – National Association Member Form (Excel version)
FORM 02 - Change of nationality
FORM 03 - International Friendly Game
FORM 04 - FISTF Event Request
FORM 05 - Event Promotion
FORM 06 - Player Registration (Transfers, Loan Transfers, Free Agent)
FORM 07 - All MNA Players Transfer List
FORM 08 – FISTF Players transfer List
FORM 09 – MNA & MNA-P Application
FORM 10 - Club Registration
FORM 11 - Change of Club Name
FORM 12 – Merger Between Two Clubs
FORM 21 – Training Centers Request
FORM 24 – Team Competition Match Sheet
FORM 25 – Individual Competition Match Sheet
FORM 26 – Equipment Registration
FORM 26a – Equipment Registration - Application for Balls Inspection
FORM 26b – Equipment Registration - Application for Bases Inspection
FORM 26c – Equipment Registration - Application for Figures Inspection
FORM 26d – Equipment Registration - Application for Goalkeeper Inspection
FORM 26e – Equipment Registration - Application for Goals Inspection
FORM 26f – Equipment Registration - Application for Pitch Inspection
FORM 27 - Recognition for new producing Company
FORM 28 - Partner License Request form
FORM 30 - New Equipment Registration
FORM 40 – World Cup Registration
FORM 61 - Disciplinary Council Protest
FORM 90 - FISTF Board Candidature for election
FORM 91 – FISTF Board Expenses Claim

Appendices

Appendix 1 FISTF Timeline Checklist

Timeline (1 September - 31 August)

General

- 31 August
  - Updated Google Sheets **Form 01**
  - Google Sheets **Form 20** of all associations (licensed players and clubs) 31 August

Handbook

- 1 to 31 January
  - Collecting ideas for changes in handbook from associations
- 1 February to 30 March
  - Board drafts revisions to the Handbook
- 1 to 15 April
  - Internet vote about proposed main changes to the Handbook to be proposed to the MNAs, each point should be voted with relative majority.
  - FISTF reserves the right to revise the published Handbook for one month following the date of publication of the provisional Handbook.
- 31 May
  - Publish the new valid release of the Handbook

Calendar

- Before July 1st
  - Letter to the MNAs with the dates of the Major Grand Prix tournaments, World Cup and Continental Championships and Champions League/Europa League, publishing 'draft' calendar version on FISTF website.
  - Ask MNAs to nominate their requested events, following the requirements:

    Membership of the MNA is paid for the following season

    No open payments of tournament organisers and/or MNA (fines orsomething similar)

    Updated **Form 01** has been submitted

    Updated **Form 20** sent.
- 1st August
  - Letter to the MNAs with the approved events (Majors Grand Prix, International Grand Prix/Golden Grand Prix, FISTF WC, FISTF Continental Championships, FISTF Champions League/Europa League, FISTF Continental Team Competition), Publishing the calendar on FISTF HP

Transfer Period

- 1July to 31 August

- Is the transfer period for both international and nationaltransfers
- For international and national transfers, **Form 06** must be completed.

World Cup (in World Cup Year)

- 4 July
  - Letter to the MNA with information for the WC (list of qualified players from the WR, and registration form for the WC)
- 14 July
  - Deadline of registration for the World Cup
  - Sport Department makes the starter list and informs the associations who are the reserves who can play in the individual categories
  - Publish starter list and list of reserves in order.

Administration

- General activities during the season:
  - Appointing of head referees by the sports department till latest Thursday every week, when there is an event on the following weekend where a head referee is necessary according to the handbook, request the starter lists from the organisers or refer to the tournament HP. Maybe it could be good to have a set of Head Referees who are ready to do the job, if they are taking part in the tournament, then it would be easier for the Sports Department to appoint people.
  - Take care that the tournament papers and result sheets are available on the FISTF HP, if not the FISTF Sports Department must send the papers to all tournament organisers when their events are approved by the sports department.
  - FISTF Financial Department should send out the payments latest on 10th of the month for the tournaments of the previous month.
  - Results and tournament papers must be sent in time
  - Use the possibilities of sanctions, especially when Majors Grand Prix, International Grand Prix, Golden Grand Prix, WC, CC and/or CL/EL are organised.
  - Every request for tournaments or transfers must be answered by FISTF officially. If the request is ok a confirmation is needed, if the request is not ok, a refusal must be sent. That work should be done by the Gen. Sec., always based on the FISTF Handbook.
  - FISTF Tour results must be online as soon as possible after FISTF has received them. Otherwise, it is difficult to ask the results of the events immediately after the event from the organisers, while FISTF isn't publishing them quickly.
  - All important information (forms, etc.) must be available in the latest version on FISTF HP.
  - FISTF Calendar on FISTF HP

    The tournament homepage (if available) should be available withoutclicking into the tournament details. They should be added to this page of the calendar - fistf.com/events/

- Check all the links on FISTF HP

Appendix 2 All Contacts

Here after are presented all FISTF mail addresses. **Any official communication** between players, clubs or MNAs and FISTF must be initiated via the following contact form : https://fistf.com/contact/contact-fistf-for-operations-sport-calendar-rankings/

Any Form or request sent to FISTF by mail will not be considered. Thus, the following addresses, can be used only for informal discussions or need of information.

Email Address	Description
africa@fistf.com africa_vp@fistf.com	FISTF Africa Confederation FISTF Africa Confederation VP
asia@fistf.com asia_vp@fistf.com	FISTF Asia Confederation FISTF Asia Confederation VP
board@fistf.com	FISTF Elected Board & Board Support
communication@fistf.com communication_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Communications Director FISTF Communication Team
database.manager@fistf.com	FISTF Database Manager
development@fistf.com development_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Development Director FISTF Development Team
disciplinary@fistf.com disciplinary.council@fistf.com	FISTF Disciplinary Council Mailing list FISTF Disciplinary Council email
elected_board@fistf.com	FISTF Elected Board
equipment@fistf.com	FISTF Homologation Committee
europe@fistf.com europe_vp@fistf.com	FISTF Europe Confederation FISTF Europe Confederation VP
finances@fistf.com finances_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Finance VP FISTF Finances Department
full_board@fistf.com	FISTF Board & Disciplinary & Departments
homologation@fistf.com	FISTF Homologation Committee
it_admin@fistf.com	FISTF IT Manager
marketing@fistf.com marketing_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Marketing Director FISTF Marketing Department
media@fistf.com media_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Communication Director FISTF Communication Team
north.america@fistf.com north.america_vp@fistf.com	FISTF North America Confederation FISTF North America Confederation VP
operational.secretary@fistf.com	FISTF Database & WR Manager
president@fistf.com president_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF President FISTF President Department
rrc@fistf.com	FISTF Rules and Referees Committee
secretary@fistf.com secretary_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF General Secretary FISTF General Secretary Department
south.america@fistf.com south.america_vp@fistf.com	FISTF South America Confederation FISTF South America Confederation VP
special.sport@fistf.com special_sport_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Special Sport Director FISTF Special Sport Team
sports@fistf.com sports_dpt@fistf.com	FISTF Sports Director FISTF Sports Team

MNAs' mail addresses can be found on the following page : https://fistf.com/members/

Appendix 3 Summary of Main Amendments for 2024-25 Season

Page no.	Section	Issue	Proposed change/background
9	1.2	Decisions by the Board	This is not a change *per se*. Rather, this section has been moved, without any change to the wording, from section 3.2 where it was not best placed.
10 – 12	2.1.2	Criteria for admission (and continuation) as a FISTF MNA or MNA-P	This important provision has been re-organised to make the FISTF membership requirements clearer. The need for this became clear after recent audits of MNAs'/MNA-Ps compliance with the membership requirements. Few substantive changes have been made to the existing requirements, but: 1. Some information previously in section 2.1.5 has been moved here; 2. Where they are different, membership requirements of MNAs and MNA-Ps have been separated; 3. One important change is to require broader compliance by MNAs/MNA-Ps with the core membership requirements when seeking annual renewal of status as an MNA/MNA-P, not just completion of the Form 01 and Form 20 – see 2.1.2(s). This again reflects the outcomes of the recent membership audits, where many countries were not fully in compliance with the core membership requirements; 4. Regarding the issue of national registration of MNAs/MNA-Ps with a national authority, it is proposed to change the wording so that registration is strongly encouraged but not required. This reflects the resolution put to the 2023 AGM. Unlike other AGM resolutions, which are not yet reflected in draft amendments, the Board proposes to include this change now in order to "regularise" the position of a number of MNAs.
13	2.1.5(b)	Guidelines about Google Sheets Form 20 – MNA – Licensed Clubs & Players Form	It is important that the Form 20 is kept as up to date as possible, including to ensure that only registered players participate in FISTF tournaments. The text has been expanded to made it clearer how tournament organisers can check if players are registered and to clarify the existing policy that, where an MNA/MNA-P has not updated its Form 20 at the start of or during the season, players and clubs will not receive world ranking points until the form is updated by their MNA/MNA-P.
14 – 15	2.1.5(d)	Licensed players	The text has been re-organised to flow more logically. In addition: • For the sake of clarity and simplicity, it is proposed to revert to the pre-2022 rule that a player with a license may not participate in FISTF events.

Page no.	Section	Issue	Proposed change/background
			This would replace the recent modification to this principle which allows an unlicensed player to participate in an event and seek registration from their MNA (and receive World Ranking points) after the event; • it has been clarified that a player who is under sanction, <u>either from the FISTF Disciplinary Council (DC) or their own MNA</u> (for either a FISTF or a non-FISTF tour event) - where the sanction includes the withdrawal or suspension of the player's FISTF licence - cannot participate in any FISTF events (either domestically or internationally) and so cannot receive WR points.
16 - 17	2.2.5	Rules for the Creation of a Club	A new Form 12 has been created for use when two existing clubs wish to merge. In addition, when revising this section of the Handbook, it was realised that the existing Form 10 (Club Registration) and Form 11 (Change of Club Name) had not been referenced in the Handbook. This has now been rectified.
17	2.3.1(n)	Players' nationality	This makes it clear that MNAs/MNA-Ps may impose additional regulations on any player joining their association, such as requirements for financial registration, code of conduct etc. This has always been implicit in the rules and has occurred in practice, but has been made explicit after the issue arose during the year.
18	2.3.5(a)	Rules for the registration of players	The amendment makes it clear that, other than for disciplinary reasons (which may involve suspension/temporary withdrawal of a license), non-payment of any fee imposed for registration, or failure to meet other domestic registration requirements, an MNA shall not deny a license to a player who is entitled to register with that MNA. In case of conflict, a player may ask FISTF to examine the problem, and eventually decide whether or not to require the MNA to register the player. Again, this has previously been implicit, but is being made explicit after the issue arose during the year.
19	2.3.7(c)	Rules for the players registered with a club	The proposed change makes it clear that, where a team "releases" a player from its list of players during the season, the "released" player is then automatically registered as a free agent. If the "released" player has already played for the club during the season in an individual or team event, he/she must wait until the next "Transfer Period" to transfer to a new club (per 2.3.8). If, however, the player has not played for the club during the season in an individual or team event, and the timing permits, they may transfer to a new club

Page no.	Section	Issue	Proposed change/background
			prior to 31 December during the "extended transfer period" (per 2.3.9(e)). This issue arose during the 2023-24 season and the Board considered it appropriate to allow a player who has not yet played in a season to represent another club.
20	2.3.8(a)(iii)	Transfer period	**This is an important change.** The proposed change is to make the transfer period 1 July to 31 August each year, rather than 1 July to 30 September. There are two main reasons for this proposed change: 1. The Sports Season starts on 1 September each year. It makes sense - and is administratively simpler for all concerned - to have transfers completed prior to the start of each season. 2. The Board considers 2 months should be sufficient for players and clubs to complete transfers. 3. The additional opportunity for transfers/flexibility provided by the new "Extended Transfer Period", which lasts until 31 December, for any player who has not yet played in any FISTF individual or team events. This change was brought in during the current season in response to several requests from players/clubs in this position. 4. The existing policy is that transfers made during the transfer period only take effect from the beginning of the next season, however this was not explicitly stated in the Handbook. This has now been rectified for the sake of clarity.
21	2.3.9(e)	Extended Transfer Period	Please see the previous comment for the background to this change.
23	2.3.12	Administrative Sanctions for Players	Clarifies/consolidates the administrative sanctions for players who are not licensed, whose MNA/MNA-P has not updated its Form 20, and/or who is under sanction either from the FISTF Disciplinary Council (DC) or their own MNA.
30	2.5.2	Membership fees for MNA-Ps	The amendment clarifies that, consistent with the FISTF Statutes, there is no membership fee for MNA-Ps. Previously it had stated that there was a 25 EUR fee. Once they have reached full MNA status, MNA-Ps must pay the 100 EUR fee.
31	2.5.3(b) and (c)	Tournament levies	The additional text clarifies that where an individual enters more than one category for which a levy is payable (Open, Veterans, U20), the MNA/tournament organiser will be required to pay the levy to FISTF for all categories in which the player has entered. It also makes it clear that payment information is included in the Event Report that must be completed by the tournament organiser after every

Page no.	Section	Issue	Proposed change/background
			event.
38	2.7.1(e)(iv)	Rules for the construction of the calendar	The proposed amendment states that only two weeks' notice is required for Satellite Tournaments (previously it was one month). This is to allow more flexibility and to encourage more Satellite tournaments, following the decision at the 2023 AGM to increase maximum number of Satellites per season per MNA from 3 to 5 in 2024-25 (see 2.8.4(b)(i) of the Handbook).
41	2.8.2(b)(iv)	Golden Grand Prix	Clarifies the existing intention that a club may only stage a Golden Grand Prix every five years (that is, after 20, 25, 30 etc years).
42 – 43	2.8.2(c)	2.8.2 International Grand Prix/ Golden Grand Prix – tournament system	The proposed change states that the minimum number of players/teams in a group is 3, however groups of at least 4 should be preferred to groups of 3 if possible. Groups with a bigger number of players are accepted, up to a maximum of 10 players. This section previously stated that a minimum of 4 players in a group was compulsory. While this is preferred – to allow more matches for players – this was not consistent with the Tournament Organisers Handbook. In addition, in practice it is not always possible to meet the minimum requirement of 4 players per group in the time available (for example, if groups of 5 or 6 were required to meet the minimum of 4 and more rounds of matches are therefore required). New 2.8.2(c)(ii) provides an example. This is also subject to more detail in the Tournament Organisers Handbook.
44 – 45	2.8.4	Satellite tournaments	The proposed amendments provide that each MNA is entitled to organise five (5) Satellites per season (versus 3 in 2023-24), that an MNA/MNA-P may hold not more than one Satellite per month, and that Satellites are allowed on the third weekend of the month. In addition, the top 50 players (rather than the top 100 as at present) are excluded from Satellites (apart from wild cards, as at present), and this restriction applies to both individual and team competitions.
50	2.12.2(e)	Adjustment of points awarded	Currently, for points to be awarded for the U20s and U16s, a minimum of 4 players is required. This has been amended to a minimum of 3 (as for the U12s and women's teams), and an adjusted allocation of 10% of points (rather than)% as at present) to encourage and reward participation by younger players, given that the number of U20s etc has significantly decreased in recent years.

Page no.	Section	Issue	Proposed change/background
51 - 52	3.1.2	Controls on the players' equipment	The amendments make Head Referees, rather than a delegate appointed by the tournament organiser, responsible for enforcing the rules to control players' equipment, as well as clarifying sanctions and rights of appeal.
52 - 53	3.1.4	Controls on the organisers' equipment and the event locations	Again, the amendments make Head Referees, rather than an inspector appointed by FISTF (or the tournament organiser him/herself, which is not independent), responsible for enforcing the requirements relating to the equipment and venue.
55 - 56	4.2.2	The purposes to which FISTF's funds are used	At the 2023 AGM, it was agreed (under Resolution 6) to formalise/set out more clearly in the Official Handbook the purposes to which FISTF's funds are used to support MNAs/MNA-Ps and event organisers. This was not included in the previous draft but has now been done in the attached version of the Handbook.
71	Section 7, Article 20.3	Rights of appeal	The proposed new article provides that players may appeal to the FISTF DC relating to any domestic disciplinary committee proceedings. However: (a) Players must have been charged by their domestic disciplinary committee, and have received an adverse judgement. (b) They must have then appealed the domestic judgement. (c) Only after they have exhausted all domestic avenues of appeal can they lodge a claim with the FISTF DC. This has been included in response to events that have occurred this season.
75 - 76	8.2	Rules and Referees Committee	This new section reflects the creation of the Rules and Referees Committee during the 2023-24 season. It is closely based on the communication which was sent to all members on 15 August 2023 announcing the creation of the RRC.
78 - 79	Appendices	Appendix 1 FISTF Timeline Checklist	Proposed some revisions to various deadlines during the year to better manage the FISTF calendar.