



ARUBAANSE VOETBAL BOND

BYLAWS OF THE ARUBAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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I. General Provisions

Article 1 - Name

The Aruban Football Association shall be referred to in these Bylaws as A.V.B., and it is domiciled in the island of Aruba.

Article 2 - Powers

- 1) The powers of the A.V.B. shall extend over the entire island of Aruba.
The A.V.B. is the general governing body in the field of football in Aruba. It shall only cooperate with organizations that recognize it as such.
- 2) The A.V.B. shall reserve the exclusive right:
 - a) to act as the representative of Aruba in the field of football and, as such, to enter into agreements with organizations, both within and outside Aruba;
 - b) to organize and arrange matches for winning the championship of Aruba;
 - c) to give permission to football organizations in Aruba to play matches against organizations or teams from outside Aruba;
 - d) to elect or organize elections for all representative Aruban selection teams, both senior, youth and women.

II. Members and Membership

Article 3 - Members

- 1) The A.V.B. shall consist of ordinary members, supporting members and honorary members.
- 2) Ordinary members shall be:
 - a) incorporated clubs of natural persons, domiciled in Aruba, which exclusively or partly aim to play the game of football, and which have been admitted as members as such;
 - b) the natural persons who are entitled to vote and/or play for the clubs referred to in subparagraph a, hold a position with such clubs, as well as those who have been appointed as referees and/or hold any position with the A.V.B.;
 - c) other natural persons who have been admitted as members by the Board.
- 3) Supporting members shall be those who support the Association financially, and who have been accepted as such by the Board.

- 4) Honorary members shall be those who have been granted this title or that of Patron, Patroness or Honorary President by the General Meeting, on the recommendation of the Board.

Article 4

A club that wishes to become a member of the A.V.B. shall submit a written application to that effect to the Board of the A.V.B. The Board shall decide on this application and may attach conditions to obtaining such membership.

Article 5 - Amateur and Professional League

The natural persons who are members of the A.V.B shall belong to the:

Amateur League:

These are the people who play the game solely for the sake of the purpose and pleasure it gives them, while, when choosing the club for which they wish to play, they are only guided by personal preference, without any ulterior motives, and those who dedicate themselves selflessly to the game of football.

Article 6 - Obligations of the Members

- 1) A club shall be obligated:
 - a) to comply with the Articles of Associations, Regulations and Board resolutions of the A.V.B;
 - b) to comply with the conditions laid down in the Club Licenses Regulations;
 - c) not to harm the interests of the A.V.B. and the game of football in general;
 - d) to provide, when requested, complete and correct information and statements, both orally and in writing, to the Board or to a person designated by this Board;
 - e) to keep regular accounts;
 - f) to provide the Board, when requested, with a copy of the accounts and records and the corresponding documents at any time;
 - g) to make payments only against receipt or other proper documents showing the payment made; if it concerns expenses for which receipts are not usually given, or which are not substantiated by any other documents, to account for these expenses by means of properly specified invoices signed by an authorized person of the club;
 - h) to ensure that the A.V.B. shall always have in its custody a deposit of Afl. 100,- to be used for payment of amounts due when terminating membership;
 - i) to make ordinary membership of the A.V.B. compulsory for all members and for those holding a position;

- j) to ensure that board and/or other positions are held by its members;
 - k) to immediately exclude from any kind of membership those of its members who have been expelled by the A.V.B.;
 - l) to exclude from the right to participate in matches those of its members who have been suspended by the A.V.B.;
 - m) to keep a file of all members and/or players, containing the data required by the A.V.B.;
 - n) to refrain from making any mutual arrangements or agreements, the purport of which is contrary to the regulatory provisions and rules of the A.V.B.;
 - o) to ensure that its articles of association and regulations do not contain any provisions contrary to the Articles of Association and Regulations of the A.V.B.;
 - p) to notify the Board in writing of its intention to report any criminal offense relating to a football matter.
- 2) Furthermore, a club shall be obligated to give one or more players, selected to be part of a representative team, the opportunity to play for this team and to participate in its training.
- 3) A club shall be co-responsible for the financial obligations of its members or players towards the A.V.B.
- 4) A club shall not be allowed:
- a) to become a member of a football organization not recognized by the A.V.B. or to participate in any way in a football match organized by such an organization;
 - b) to play a match against an organization that is not a member of the A.V.B. without the permission of the Board.

Article 7

- 1) A member-natural person shall be obligated:
- a) to comply with the Articles of Association, Regulations and Board resolutions of the A.V.B.;
 - b) not to harm the interests of the A.V.B. and the game of football in general;
 - c) to provide, when requested, complete and correct information and statements, both orally and in writing, to the Board or to a person designated by this Board;
 - d) to behave properly on the occasion of a football match, either before, during or after the match, and, if necessary, to help maintaining order;
 - e) to notify the Board in writing of his intention to report any criminal offense relating to a football matter.

- 2) A member-natural person shall not be allowed:
 - a) without the permission of the A.V.B., to participate or cooperate in a football match that has not been organized by the A.V.B. or an organization recognized by the A.V.B., or for which the permission required has not been given;
 - b) to infringe the exclusive powers of the A.V.B.

Article 8 - Termination of Membership

Membership of a club shall end:

- 1) by written notice of termination to the Board, provided that a notice period of two months is observed;
- 2) by dissolution or loss of legal personality;
- 3) by expulsion.

Article 9

Membership of a member of a club shall end:

- 1) by death, resignation or removal from his club;
- 2) by expulsion by the Board;
- 3) by the club ceasing to be a member of the A.V.B.

Article 10

- 1) Membership of a member as referred to in Article 3c and of a supporting member shall end by death, expulsion by the Board or by written notice of termination to the Board, provided that a notice period of two months is observed.
- 2) Membership of a referee shall end by removal by the Board as a referee or by mutual consent
- 3) Honorary membership shall end by notice of termination, by death or by expulsion by the General Meeting of Members.

Article 11 - Doping

The use or facilitation of the use of doping substances or agents shall be prohibited. In case such use or facilitation is detected, the Board shall take the necessary measures in accordance with the regulatory provisions.

III. Organization

Article 12 - The Board

- 1) The Board shall consist of an odd number of persons with a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 11.

It shall consist of the following persons:

- a. President;
 - b. Vice-President;
 - c. Secretary;
 - d. Assistant Secretary;
 - e. Treasurer;
 - f. Assistant Treasurer;
 - g. one or more officers.
- 2) The members of the Board shall be elected by the member clubs from among the adult members of Dutch nationality of the member clubs. A Board member who is not domiciled in Aruba shall be dismissed from his position by the Board.

Article 13

- 1) The members of the Board shall have a term of office of four consecutive years. After a period of two years, half the number of Board members, rounded down, shall retire at the first General Meeting of Members; after another period of two years, those Board members who have served four consecutive years shall retire.
- 2) The retiring Board members may be re-elected at once.
- 3) The President shall be elected by the General Meeting of Members from among the candidates nominated for this position.
- 4) The other positions shall be divided among the members of the Board. If the President is among the retiring Board members, this vacancy shall be filled first and then the other vacancies.
- 5) Election by acclamation shall not be allowed.
- 6) All candidates for the Board shall be nominated in writing by at least 3 member clubs or by the Board, no later than 2 weeks before the Annual General Meeting, and such nomination shall be accompanied by a written statement of the candidate to the effect that he will accept a possible election.

- 7) After having been given the opportunity to defend himself, a Board member may be suspended from his office by the Board until the next General Meeting of Members has decided on this suspension, all this if, in the opinion of the Board, the Board member neglects or harms the interests of the A.V.B.
- 8) If an elected member is expelled, his membership of the Board shall end; a new election shall be called to fill the vacancy.
- 9) Interim vacancies shall be filled by an election at a General Meeting, to be held in a place and on a date to be announced in advance; all this to be arranged by the Board. The Board shall set the date for the closing of nominations of candidates within 3 weeks after the vacancy has arisen. The person elected shall retire at the time when his predecessor had to retire.
- 10) The list of candidates shall be communicated to the clubs at least one week before the General Meeting of Members. If more candidates have been nominated than the number of vacancies to be filled, a vote and, if necessary, a second vote shall be taken.
- 11) If the number of candidates nominated does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, the candidates shall be declared elected; if necessary, a further election shall take place.
- 12) Voting shall take place in writing in the manner determined by the Board.

Article 14

The duties of the Board shall include the following:

- 1) the interpretation of the Articles of Association, the Bylaws, other regulations, as well as the implementation of Board resolutions, provided that this has not been entrusted to others;
- 2) the provision of information and publicity, including the designation of the association body;
- 3) the management of the funds;
- 4) the appointment of committees, provided that this has not been entrusted to others;
- 5) the admission of members and referees, provided that this has not been entrusted to others;

Article 15

- 1) The President shall be in overall charge. He shall ensure compliance with the Articles of Association, the Bylaws and all other regulations and provisions.
- 2) He shall be the spokesperson of the Board at all official occasions unless this task is assigned by him to another Board member. He may cosign all documents sent by the A.V.B.; he shall chair the meetings and determine the agenda, subject to the right of the meeting to make amendments thereto; he shall have the right to close the deliberations if he believes that the meeting has been sufficiently informed but shall be required to reopen it if 1/3 of the Board members present at a Board meeting or 1/3 of the members entitled to vote present at a General Meeting express the desire to do so. He shall have the right to adjourn the meetings if he deems so desirable. He shall have the right to attend the meetings of all committees established by the A.V.B. and shall have an advisory vote at such meetings.
- 3) In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall take over his duties and, for the duration of such absence, shall have all rights and obligations of the President.
- 4) In the absence of the President and the Vice-President, the Board members present shall decide who will deputize for them, which person shall then assume the rights and obligations of the President.
- 5) The Secretary shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Articles of Association, Regulations and the Board resolutions, as well as for convening the meetings. He shall conduct correspondence and be the records manager. He shall prepare a report on the past association year for the Annual General Meeting of Members.
- 6) The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary and replace him in his absence.
- 7) The Treasurer shall manage the funds of the A.V.B.; he shall collect the claims and pay the debts; he shall be required to keep accurate records and separate accounts of the funds, bank, accounts receivable and accounts payable. He shall prepare a financial report on the past association year for the General Annual Meeting of Members.
- 8) The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and replace him in his absence.
- 9) One of the officers shall be responsible for supervising all possessions, game material and other property of the A.V.B. as material officer. He shall keep proper records of the possessions of the A.V.B. and of any changes therein.

- 10) The other officers shall assist in the performance of the duties of the Board.

Article 16

As a rule, the Executive Board of the A.V.B. shall consist of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, but it may also consist of the President and two other Board members if the Board deems so desirable. The Executive Board may represent the A.V.B. in and out of court on behalf of the Board.

Article 17 - Meetings

- 1) Each year, two General Meetings of Members shall be held. The first General Meeting of Members shall take place before July 31 and the second General Meeting of Members shall take place before the end of the year.
- 2) Extraordinary General Meetings of Members shall be held:
 - a) if the Board deems so desirable;
 - b) if at least 1/3 of the member clubs so desire.
- 3) The request for holding an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members shall be addressed to the Board in writing, signed by those clubs that wish to hold the Meeting, stating the reasons and the business to be transacted. The Board shall comply with this request within four weeks after it has been received.
- 4) The clubs shall be informed of a General Meeting of Members to be held by circular at least three weeks in advance, except in special cases to be determined by the Board.
- 5) Except for the representatives, honorary members and committee members of the A.V.B. shall have access to the General Meetings of Members.
- 6) Each member club shall be obligated to delegate up to two representatives of the club, who are of age and entitled to vote, to the General Meeting of Members. The representatives shall be obligated to attend the Meeting up to and including its conclusion.
- 7) The representatives shall be in possession of a written statement, signed by two Board members, to the effect that they are authorized to act on behalf of the club. This statement may not be signed by the representatives themselves and shall be submitted to the Board of the A.V.B. before the start of the Meeting for which it is issued. This shall not apply if the representatives are members of the executive board of the club.

- 8) The representatives can hold only one mandate at the General Meeting of Members and, in general, at any meeting where the club needs to be represented.
- 9) If a representative, who is not a member of the executive board of the club, is not in possession of an authorization, or if an authorization has not been signed in the prescribed manner, it shall be assumed that the club is not represented.
- 10) If the representative leaves the Meeting without the permission of the Board of the A.V.B., the club shall incur a fine of Afl. 50.-.
- 11) The Board shall determine when the fines referred to in this Article are not imposed.
- 12) The Board shall report and render account in respect of the past association year at the Annual General Meeting of Members.
- 13) The agenda of the Annual General Meeting of Members shall be communicated to the clubs at least two weeks in advance.
- 14) At least three of the member clubs shall be entitled to have proposals, motions or questions added to the agenda of a General Meeting of Members, provided that the Secretary has been notified thereof in writing no later than one week before the day of the General Meeting of Members.
The Board shall be entitled to add subsequently received proposals, motions, questions or its own proposals to the agenda. The Board shall adopt the agenda.
- 15) The agenda of the Annual General Meeting of Members shall in any case include the following business to be transacted:
 - a) the minutes of the previous General Meeting of Members;
 - b) the report of the Board on the past association year;
 - c) the account of the Board for the management of the funds conducted by it;
 - d) the report of the Financial Committee;
 - e) the election of the Board;
 - f) the election of a Financial Committee;
 - g) the election of an Appeals Committee;
 - h) nomination of candidates for:
 - the Disciplinary Committee;
 - the Protest and Conflicts Committee.
- 16) The General Meeting of Members shall have legislative power; it shall also exercise all powers reserved to it in these Bylaws.
- 17) The members entitled to vote of the General Meeting of Members shall have the right to propose legislation, the right of amendment and the right of interpellation.



- 18) General Meetings of Members shall be valid if at least 2/3 of the member clubs are present. If this number is not present, a second General Meeting of Members shall be convened within 14 days, which shall be valid irrespective of the number of member clubs present.

Article 18

- 1) Board meetings shall be held whenever the Board, the President or at least 3 members deem so necessary. Board meetings shall be convened by the Secretary. Honorary members of the A.V.B. shall have access to the Board meetings and have an advisory vote at such meetings.
- 2) Board meetings shall be valid if half the Board members plus one, rounded down, are present. Board meetings shall be secret unless the Board decides to make them public.

Article 19

- 1) The representatives of the member clubs shall each have one vote at the General Meeting of Members, on the understanding that the representatives of a club that did not participate in the last competition or is not participating in the current competition shall have no vote.
- 2) Honorary members and committee members shall have an advisory vote at the General Meeting.

Article 20

Unless otherwise provided for in the Articles of Association or the Bylaws, resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of the votes.

Article 21

The General Meeting of Members and the Board shall adopt valid resolutions if at least half the members present has taken part in the vote.

Article 22 - Voting

- 1) Voting shall be in writing if it concerns persons and orally if it concerns business matters. When the majority of the Meeting so desires, voting on business matters may be in writing.

- 2) If there is a vote for the election of one person, the person who has obtained the most votes shall be declared elected, provided that an absolute majority is obtained during the first vote.
- 3) If an absolute majority is not obtained, a second vote shall be taken between the two persons who have obtained the most votes. If more than two persons are eligible by obtaining an equal number of votes, all shall participate in the second vote. In case of a second vote, the highest number of votes shall decide.
If the votes are still tied, lots shall be drawn.
If there is a vote for the election of more than one person, and a number of persons equal to the number to be declared obtain an absolute majority during the first vote, all of them shall be declared elected. If more persons than the number to be elected obtain the absolute majority, a second vote shall be taken between them. During this second vote, the simple majority shall be decisive. If the votes are still tied after this second vote, lots shall be drawn. If a smaller number of persons than the number to be elected obtain an absolute majority during the first vote, these persons shall be declared elected; a second vote shall be taken between all candidates who have not been elected to fill the remaining vacancies. This vote shall be governed by the rules set forth above.
- 4) The Electoral Committee shall consist of two persons from the Meeting who do not take part in the vote. A Board member shall keep a record of the votes cast.
- 5) The following shall be invalid in case of a vote by ballot:
 - a) ballot papers not clearly showing the names;
 - b) signed ballot papers;
 - c) blank ballot papers;
 - d) illegible ballot papers;
 - e) ballot papers containing names of persons not standing for election.

Invalid ballot papers shall be deducted from the total number of votes cast.

- 6) No vote resulting in a decision may be declared invalid, except on account of an apparent irregularity that could have affected the outcome.
- 7) Resolutions at Board meetings shall be adopted by a majority of the votes. In the event of an equality of votes within the Board, a proposal shall be deemed to have been rejected; in the event of an equality of votes as regards persons, lots shall be drawn. If a Board member so desires, voting on business matters shall take place in writing.

Article 23

- 1) The Board shall bring to the notice of those concerned all announcements prescribed by regulations or deemed necessary by the Board.
- 2) These announcements shall be considered to have been brought to the notice of those concerned no later than the day following their publication.

Article 24 - Committees

- 1) There shall be supporting committees and committees with a special assignment. The supporting committees shall be appointed as follows:
 - by the General Meeting of Members: the Financial Committee and the Appeals Committee;
 - by the Board, from candidates nominated by the General Meeting of Members:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Protest and Conflicts Committee.
- 2) The General Meeting of Members and the Board shall always have the right to establish committees with a special assignment and to provide for their appointment and procedures.
- 3) Any adult member of the member clubs of the A.V.B., who has not been excluded from membership of the A.V.B. pursuant to any provision of the Articles of Association or Regulations, may be appointed member of a committee.
- 4) The appointment shall be made, subject to interim removal, revocation of the mandate, suspension or expulsion as a member of the A.V.B., either for no more than the duration of the association year or until the mandate has been completed or revoked.

Article 25 - Financial Committee

- 1) The Financial Committee shall consist of three members, who are not members of the Board. No later than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting of Members, candidates for this Committee can be nominated by the member clubs or by the Board. The appointment shall each time be valid for the duration of the association year. The members may not be interested parties, this at the discretion of the Board. The members shall elect a president and a secretary from their midst. All documents and books concerning the financial management, as well as the funds shall always be available for inspection by the Financial Committee at the Treasurer.

- 2) For the purpose of inspecting the funds, verifying the manner in which the capital has been invested and safeguarded and checking the income and expenditures with the relevant documents, the Committee shall meet:
 - a) whenever the Board or the Committee deems so desirable;
 - b) in case the Treasurer has been suspended or removed.
- 3) The Board may ask its advice in all matters of a financial nature, falling outside the daily management.
- 4) The Board may assign an accountant to the Committee, to whom the Committee may entrust part of its activities.

Article 26 - Appeals Committee

- 1) The Appeals Committee shall consist of five members who may not be Board members. They shall be elected from a binding nomination by the Annual General Meeting of Members for a period ending at the next Annual General Meeting of Members.
- 2) No later than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting of Members, candidates for this Committee can be nominated by the member clubs or by the Board.
- 3) The committee shall appoint from among its members a president, vice-president, secretary and a deputy secretary.
- 4) The following shall be subject to its investigation and decision in the highest instance:
 - a) all cases of suspensions and the cases referred to in Article 4 of the Competition Matches Regulations;
 - b) all sanctions imposed by the Board;
 - c) all cases submitted to it by the Board or the General Meeting of Members;
 - d) the assessment of granting or refusing arbitration in disputes between the Board and a club or a club member.
- 5) An appeal shall be lodged within four workdays after the person concerned has been notified of the suspension and the sanctions referred to in subparagraphs b and d; in the cases referred to in Article 4 of the Competition Matches Regulations, this period shall also be four workdays.
- 6) The Committee shall be authorized to confirm or revoke the sanctions, either permanently or conditionally, to reduce, increase or change them into such sanctions as it will deem desirable, all in accordance with the Regulations of the A.V.B.

- 7) The Committee shall determine the costs associated with the appeal proceedings. The party found to be in the wrong shall bear these costs. The fee for the appeal proceedings shall amount to Afl. 450.-.
- 8) For the purpose of the investigation, the Committee shall be authorized to hear all persons deemed necessary by the Committee.
- 9) The decisions of the Committee shall be binding on all parties.
- 10) A member of the Appeals Committee shall be disqualified *ipso facto* in cases concerning his club.
- 11) A decision can only be made by a majority of the votes.

Article 27 - Sanctions Committee

- 1) The Sanctions Committee shall consist of five members. The members may not be interested parties, this at the discretion of the Board. The Committee shall appoint a president and a secretary from among its members.
- 2) The Sanctions Committee shall investigate all cases that are presented to it by the Board and, within 14 days after having received the request from the Board, shall report its findings and determine the severity of the sanction to be imposed. If the Sanctions Committee fails to do so, the Board itself shall decide on the matter.

Article 28 - Protest and Conflicts Committee

- 1) The Protest and Conflicts Committee shall consist of five members. The members may not be interested parties, this at the discretion of the Board. The Committee shall appoint a president and a secretary from among its members.
- 2) The Protest and Conflicts Committee shall investigate all cases presented to it by the Board and, within 14 days after having received the request from the Board, shall report its findings and determine the severity of the sanction to be imposed. If the Sanctions [*Protest and Conflicts...?/translator*] Committee fails to do so, the Board itself shall decide on the matter.

IV. Finances

Article 29 - Funds

- 1) The Board shall be accountable to the General Meeting of Members for the financial management. At the Annual General Meeting of Members, the Board shall be discharged from liability for the financial management in respect of the past year.
- 2) No debt may be written off or remitted without the prior authorization by the General Meeting of Members.

Article 30 - Financial Report

The financial report shall include:

- a) a statement of assets and liabilities as of the end of the reporting year;
- b) a statement of income and expenditure in respect of the reporting year;
- c) a balance sheet as of the end of the reporting year.

Income and expenditures shall be itemized.

Article 31 - Income

The income of the A.V.B. shall consist of:

Registration fees, membership fees, receipts from matches, fines, accrued interest, donations, subsidies and extraordinary income.

Article 32 - Registration Fees and Membership Fees

- 1) Member clubs that become a member of the A.V.B. shall be required to pay a registration fee of Afl. 500.-.
- 2) The membership fee shall amount to Afl. 100.- per year and shall be paid one month before the start of the competition; the club that does not pay this membership fee or does not pay it in time shall be excluded from participating in the competition.
- 3) The minimum membership fee for supporting members shall be Afl. 25.- per year.
- 4) Honorary members shall be exempt from the membership fee.
- 5) A club shall only obtain the rights granted to it by the Articles of Association and Regulations, if the registration fee has been paid by it; it shall lose these rights if the obligation referred to in paragraph 2 has not been complied with.

Article 33 - Fines

- 1) The Board shall be authorized to impose a fine on clubs for violation of regulatory provisions and Board resolutions.
- 2) When determining the fine, the nature of the violation shall be taken into account, except for the fixed fines mentioned below.
- 3) A fine of up to Afl. 1,000.- may be imposed:
 - a) for failure to pay amounts due to the A.V.B. in time;
 - b) for not or not timely submitting forms;
 - c) for not properly completing forms;
 - d) for failure to provide information or data requested by or on behalf of the Board;
 - e) for failure to provide information requested to referees.

Article 34 - Expenditure

- 1) All claims shall be submitted at the office of the A.V.B. Payment shall be made against proper receipt.
- 2) Orders for the A.V.B. may only be placed against issue to suppliers of purchase orders signed by persons authorized by the Board.
- 3) Payments regarding such deliveries shall be made only against surrender of the payments orders referred to in the preceding sentence. If orders are placed and carried out in any way other than described above, they shall not be acknowledged by the Board, and the person(s) who placed the order shall be personally liable for payment.

Article 35

- 1) All claims for expenses incurred on behalf of the A.V.B. shall be submitted at the office of the A.V.B.
- 2) In case of omission or negligence on the part of the Board, the A.V.B. shall reimburse any expenses unnecessarily incurred during matches organized by the A.V.B., to the extent that these expenses could have been avoided if said omission or negligence had not occurred.
- 3) The costs incurred for any investigation into alleged fraud or irregularities shall be borne by the party found to be in violation of the regulatory provisions of the A.V.B.

- 4) If an investigation is initiated at the request of a club, and the violation is not proven, the costs shall be borne by the club that requested the investigation.
- 5) The clubs shall be held liable for its members in this regard.
- 6) In all other cases, the Board shall determine by whom the costs of an investigation shall be borne.

Article 36 - Budget

Each year, a provisional budget shall be prepared by the Board and submitted to the Annual General Meeting of Members for assessment.

V. Sanctions

Article 37 - Sanctions

Ordinary members, Board members and supporting members may be suspended by the Board, either temporarily or permanently, for a specified period or for specified events. No expulsion or permanent suspension may be imposed until the persons concerned have been given the opportunity to defend themselves. In case of a suspension, the person concerned shall be notified in writing. In case of an expulsion, the person concerned shall be notified by certified mail.

Article 38 - Organizational Sanctions (Expulsion/Suspension)

Suspension may be imposed by the Board in the following cases:

- a) failure to comply with the financial obligations towards the A.V.B.
- b) harming the interests of the A.V.B., clubs or the game of football, either through acts, negligence, passive resistance or through a crime;
- c) fraudulent acts regarding the appearance of players, and the provision of misleading statements or information;
- d) misconduct at a football match, either before, during or after the match or during half-time;
- e) improper verbal or physical treatment of referees, linesmen, Board members and representatives of the A.V.B., either before, during or after the match or during half-time;
- f) failure to comply with obligations undertaken;
- g) unwillingness or repeated refusal to provide information and data required by the General Meeting of Members, the Board or a Committee;
- h) violation of a secret or serious immodesty concerning that which has been discussed at a meeting or any correspondence conducted;

- i) violation of the exclusive rights and powers of the A.V.B.

Article 39

- 1) If the Board is of the opinion that a more severe sanction than suspension should be imposed, expulsion may be imposed.
- 2) An appeal may be lodged against the decision to suspend with the Appeals Committee.
- 3) An appeal may be lodged against the decision to expel with the General Meeting of Members.

Article 40

Expulsion shall also be imposed in case of violation of Article 15 of the Articles of Association, in which case no appeal may be lodged.

Article 41

The Board shall be authorized to impose a provisional suspension pending the final determination of the sanction after investigation and defense.

Article 42

- 1) When requested, the A.V.B. may take over suspensions and expulsions of members imposed by member clubs and by other organizations, with which an agreement has been entered into for this purpose, and publish them in the Official Body, provided that this request is made within seven days after the decision has become irrevocable and on submission of proof of mailing, showing that the suspension or expulsion has been notified to the member concerned by certified mail.

The request shall also be accompanied by a copy of the letter sent to the person concerned, clearly describing the accusation against him and stating the relevant article of the articles of association or regulations of the requesting club or organization in which the accusation is made punishable by temporary or permanent loss of membership, and by which body the suspension or expulsion was imposed.

- 2) Persons concerned may request the Board to investigate the validity of the reasons that led to the suspension or expulsion. This request shall be submitted in duplicate within 14 days after the person concerned has received the notice of suspension or expulsion by certified mail.

The Board shall decide after having given both parties the opportunity to further explain the dispute. During the investigation, the persons concerned shall maintain their rights as members. The investigation may result in maintaining, changing or withdrawing the sanction as far as it concerns the A.V.B.

Article 43

- 1) Suspension or expulsion from membership of the A.V.B. shall mean that the club or person concerned cannot participate in matches organized or approved by the A.V.B. or in events for which permission must be given by the A.V.B., and that the person concerned cannot hold positions with the A.V.B. or with a club or become a member of another club.
- 2) Clubs of which one or more members has/have been suspended or expelled, and which violate the provisions of this Article shall be punished by a fine, suspension or expulsion; they shall be liable for its members in this regard.

VI. Matches

Article 44 - General Provisions

- 1) Each year, the A.V.B. shall organize competitions in such a way that, if possible, all clubs can participate.
- 2) The A.V.B. can also organize matches for fixed prizes or challenge trophies, as well as matches deemed useful for the game of football.
- 3) Cup matches and matches for challenge trophies shall be played according to a system to be determined by the Board.
- 4) The rules governing the matches organized by the A.V.B. shall be laid down in separate regulations (Competition Matches Regulations).
- 5) All matches shall be played according to the rules of the game of the International Football Association Board (I.F.A.B.), except for exceptions to be determined by the Board.
- 6) The season shall run from August 1 of the current year to July 31 of the following year. The start of the competitions shall be determined by the Board.
- 7) It shall be prohibited to participate in matches for which no permission of the A.V.B. has been obtained, except for an isolated match between two member clubs for which no prize is offered.

- 8) It shall be prohibited to accept prizes at matches organized or approved by the A.V.B. other than those authorized by the Board.
- 9) Unless authorized by the FIFA, clubs shall not be allowed to make their fields available for preliminary matches involving foreigners whose clubs are not members of an association affiliated to the FIFA.
- 10) The permission of the A.V.B. shall be required for participation in matches organized by a non-member of the A.V.B.
- 11) The A.V.B. shall reserve the right to grant or withhold permission to organize matches in which players of the same side do not all belong to the same club; conditions may be attached to the permission.
- 12) The Board shall arrange all matches of the association selections.
- 13) Matches between mixed teams shall not be allowed. Matches between a men's team and a women's team shall not be allowed either, except for dispensation.

Article 45 - International Matches

- 1) For each match against teams from outside Aruba, the Board shall be asked to give written permission no later than 14 days before the match.
- 2) For each match in Aruba between teams from outside Aruba, written permission shall be requested from the Board by the club on whose field the match is to be played, no later than 14 days before the match.
- 3) The Board may attach conditions to the granting of said permission.
- 4) Playing matches against or having matches played among themselves by teams of clubs that are not affiliated to associations that are members of the FIFA shall not be allowed.
- 5) On a reasoned request, the Board may give clubs permission to allow players from other clubs to participate in matches, provided that this is done on their own responsibility, and that the players meet the conditions they must meet to participate in matches of the A.V.B. Conditions may be attached to this permission.

Article 46 - Series Matches

- 1) For all series matches, permission from the Board shall be requested in writing at least 14 days before the start of the first match. The Board may attach conditions to the permission.
- 2) The parties making the request shall be required to inform all participants of any conditions imposed in time.
- 3) The rules for organizing and holding series matches shall be laid down by separate regulations.

Article 47 - Competition Matches

- 1) For the purpose of playing competition matches, the clubs shall be divided into divisions, namely the Premier League, the First Division and possibly the Second Division, the Third Division and the Reserve Division.
- 2) A maximum of 10 clubs may participate in the Premier League and First Division, while the remaining clubs shall compete in the First Division or possibly Second Division or Third Division.
- 3) A club may participate in the competition with several teams. In this case, the lower ranking teams shall compete in the Reserve Division, which in turn may be divided into several leagues. However, no two teams from the same club can compete in the same league in the Reserve Division. A reserve team of a club can only be promoted to a higher reserve league.
- 4) Each newly admitted club shall, as a rule, be placed in the lowest division.
- 5) In case of a merger of clubs into one club, this club shall remain placed in the division to which the highest placed club belonged, provided that the merger is approved by the Board of the A.V.B.
- 6) The Board may decide to promote a club to a higher division for special reasons, provided that, in the opinion of the Board, the rights of others are not violated.
- 7) The transfer from a lower division to a higher division or from a higher division to a lower division shall be determined by the Board each year.

- 8) The Board may also determine that demotion to a lower division shall occur:
 - a) if a club does not participate in any competition during a season;
 - b) if a match is deliberately not played with the purpose of disadvantaging or favoring other clubs;
 - c) if fixed matches are repeatedly not played during a season.
- 9) Each club shall be obligated to play a match, provided that it has been notified of the final date at least 4 days in advance, unless by mutual agreement of the teams in the interest of the progress of the competition [*the final phrase in the original text is not clear/translator*].

Article 48 - Competition Rules

- 1) Before the start of the competition, the Board shall announce:
 - a) the manner and conditions of registration for the competition;
 - b) the classification of the clubs into divisions;
 - c) the promotion and demotion scheme;
 - d) the system, manner and conditions according to which the competition will be played;
- 2) The Board shall determine day and starting time for each match.

Article 49 - Competition for Youth Players

The competition for youth players shall be provided for by separate regulations to be established by the Board.

Article 50 - Withdrawal from the Competition

- 1) A club shall be obligated to allow the teams of the leagues for which they have been registered for the competition to play matches.
- 2) Only with the permission of the Board can a team in a certain league be withdrawn from the competition by the club, provided that the financial obligations towards the A.V.B. have been complied with.

- 3) The withdrawal during the competition shall have the following consequences:
- all matches played by the team in the league in question shall be considered not having been played;
 - no account shall be taken of any points scored deducted as a result of the failure to play against the withdrawn team, while participation in a subsequent competition may only take place with permission, which may be subject to conditions;
 - all yellow cards received by the withdrawn team shall cease to apply, except in case of players who received a yellow card in three official matches;
 - all goals scored, by or against the withdrawn team in the league in question, shall no longer count.
- 4) Withdrawal without permission and without complying with the provision of paragraph 2 of this Article may result in expulsion of the club in question.

Article 51 - Conditions for Participation in Matches

- 1) In order to be able to participate in matches organized or approved by the A.V.B., the player shall be obligated:
- a) to be a member of the club for which he plays;
 - b) not to be excluded from membership of the A.V.B;
 - c) to have obtained permission from the Board if he has participated in a match under the supervision of another association;
 - d) players who do not hold a Dutch passport shall submit the documents mentioned below in order to qualify as members entitled to play:
 - a certificate of registration in the population register (Afl. 10.00), not older than 30 days;
 - a copy of their valid residence permit.

In case of compliance with this provision, these players shall be considered eligible to play for the entire competition year.

In case the competition has already started, players not in possession of a Dutch passport shall, on submission of the required documents, be deemed eligible to play for the remainder of the competition;

- e) to be in possession of a carnet issued by the A.V.B.

- 2) Participation of players who are not of Dutch nationality:
 - a. a club may not allow more than three players who are not of Dutch nationality per team to participate in a match;
 - b. the above shall not apply if it concerns a player who is not of Dutch nationality but has lived in Aruba for 5 consecutive years.

- 3) A player can participate in matches of the club he prefers, if:
 - a) he has never participated in one or more matches organized or approved by the A.V.B.;
 - b) he has not taken part in any match as referred to in paragraph a (taking part in a match shall be understood to be: “entering the football field”) during three consecutive competitions for which he is entitled to play;
 - c) the club at which he was last registered has not participated in two consecutive competitions.

Article 52 - Transfer Provisions

- 1) A player who wishes to play for a club other than the one for which he is entitled to play shall require the permission of the Board. This permission may only be granted if the transfer request has been submitted at the office of the A.V.B. no later than August 25 of the current competition year at five o'clock in the afternoon. If the date of August 25 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or on a day considered equivalent to a Sunday, the next workday shall be considered the final date for submitting written transfer requests.

In case both clubs have no objections, the transfer request can still be submitted after August 25. This request shall be submitted at the office of the A.V.B. 2 x 24 hours before the start of the competition.

In case both clubs have no objections, a transfer may still take place during the season. This request shall be submitted to the A.V.B. after the last official match of the year and 2 x 24 hours before the first official match of the year.

All this with due observance of the following provisions:

- a) a statement showing that he has complied with his financial obligations towards the club he wishes to leave;
- b) a statement showing that he has been accepted as a member of the club for which he wishes to play;
- c) a statement of approval issued by the foreign association in question if he has last participated in matches of a foreign club affiliated to the FIFA.

- 2) Until the date on which the transfer takes effect, the person making the request shall remain entitled to participate in matches for the club he wishes to leave. If a player, who has requested a transfer, plays for the club for which he has requested permission, in matches organized or approved by the A.V.B. on a date prior to the day on which he would be entitled to play the request shall be revoked.
- 3) A transfer may also be approved for a player:
 - a) who has only participated in binding matches abroad;
 - b) who has not participated in binding matches for a club in the last competition;
 - c) whose club:
 - 1) has been dissolved;
 - 2) no longer participates in matches;
 - 3) forms a new club with another admitted club or otherwise enters into a merger.
- 4) If a suspended player is given permission to be transferred, he shall not be entitled to play until the end of his suspension.

Article 53 - Registration of Players

- 1) To be able to participate in the competition, the clubs shall register their players with the Board.
- 3) Players who are not registered with the Board cannot participate in any competition of the A.V.B.

Article 54 - Transfers of Players

- 1) Clubs wishing the transfer of players from another club shall submit a written request to the Board of the A.V.B.
- 2) This request shall be accompanied by the statements in accordance with Article 52, paragraph 1, [*of which the person concerned was last a member.../the sentence in the original text is not correct/translator*], that there are no objections to the transfer.
- 3) If the club of which the person concerned was last a member has objections, the person concerned and the Board of the A.V.B. shall be notified thereof in writing within 14 days after receipt of the request for dismissal, on pain of nullity. The objections mentioned in this Article may concern matters of a financial and a substantive nature.

- 4) If no objections are made known within the period of 14 days, the transfer shall be allowed.
- 5) In each case, the Board shall decide on the merits of the objections within 14 days.
- 6) When transferring a player, the amounts mentioned below shall apply, which shall be paid to the club whose player is requesting the transfer:

- if it concerns a player who has reached the age of 17 or older before August 1 of the current competition year:

transfer to club from the Premier League:

a maximum of Afl. 1,050,00 (of which Afl. 150.00 for the A.V.B.);

transfer to a club from the First Division:

a maximum of Afl. 650.00 (of which Afl. 70.00 for the A.V.B.);

transfer to a club from the Second Division or a lower division:

a maximum of Afl. 650.00 (of which Afl. 70.00 for the A.V.B.).

In addition, the club whose player is requesting the transfer can claim the following amounts:

Overdue membership fee: a maximum of Afl. 120.00

- if the player concerned has not yet reached the age of 17 on August 1 of the current year but has reached the age of 14 on August 1 of the current competition year:

transfer:

a maximum Afl. 350.00 (of which Afl. 70.00 for the A.V.B.)

In addition, the club whose player is requesting the transfer can claim the following amounts:

Overdue membership fee: a maximum of Afl. 120.00

- if the player concerned has not yet reached the age of 14 on August 1 of the current year but has reached the age of 10 on August 1 of the current competition year:

transfer:

a maximum Afl. 200.00 (of which Afl. 40.00 for the A.V.B.)

In addition, the club whose player is requesting the transfer can claim the following amounts:

Overdue membership fee: a maximum of Afl. 120.00

- if the player concerned has not yet reached the age of 10 on August 1 of the current competition year:

transfer:

a maximum of Afl. 150.00 (of which Afl. 30.00 for the A.V.B.)

In addition, the club whose player is requesting the transfer can claim the following amounts:

Overdue membership fee: a maximum of Afl. 60.00

- if the player concerned plays in the women's competition:

transfer:

a maximum Afl. 250.00 (of which Afl. 50.00 for the A.V.B.)

In addition, the club whose player is requesting the transfer can claim the following amounts:

Overdue membership fee: a maximum of Afl.120.00

Article 55 - Free Access

- 1) The clubs and cooperating organizations shall be obligated to grant free access to matches organized and approved by the A.V.B. to all who are in possession of an admission ticket issued by the Board, stating the position held by the person concerned with the A.V.B.
- 2) The members of the Board shall be given access to the fields and the facilities belonging thereto on request and on presentation of an identity card.

Article 56 - Public Order Measures

- 1) The Board may prescribe rules for each club for maintaining order at matches and designate persons responsible for supervising compliance with these rules.

- 2) Each club shall be obligated to maintain order; it shall be responsible for this before, during and after the match, as well as during half-time, and it shall also be responsible for the personal safety of players and officials.
- 3) Should a match not continue or be abandoned as a result of the actions of a club, the provisions of Article 4 of the Competition Matches Regulations shall apply to the responsible club.
- 4) If, in the opinion of the Board, order is not sufficiently maintained, no competition matches shall be organized on the fields of the club in question.
- 5) The Board may determine that a club shall not admit any persons to annual matches other than those approved by the Board.

Article 57 - General

- 1) The Board shall impose sanctions, either conditionally or not, in accordance with the regulations adopted by the General Meeting of Members.
- 2) The club shall be liable for its members and shall be sanctioned as such unless the sanction is explicitly declared applicable to one or more members. In that case, the club shall be liable for compliance by its members with the obligations arising from the sanction imposed.
- 3) If the regulations do not prescribe the severity of the sanctions, this shall be determined by the Board.
- 4) The Board shall notify the person(s) concerned in writing of sanctions imposed within four workdays after the decision has been made.

Article 58

- 1) An appeal may be lodged with the Appeals Committee or the General Meeting of Members both by the person concerned and by the club of which he is a member; in the latter case, the person concerned shall give the club written authorization to do so.
- 2) This authorization shall be submitted when lodging the appeal.
- 3) The defending party shall have the right to substantiate his claims by means of documents and witnesses.

- 4) If witnesses are summoned by or on behalf of the Board, the costs incurred by them shall be reimbursed.

VII. Cooperation

Article 59 - Cooperation with other Football Organizations

- 1) The Board may grant a football organization, to the exclusion of all others, the right to organize any form of football, such as indoor football and women's football.
- 2) For such cooperation, special provisions shall be established by the Board, and the relationship with the A.V.B. shall be separately provided for.

VIII. Referees

Article 60 - Referees and Linesmen

- 1) Referees shall be appointed by the Board.
- 2) The appointment may be revoked by the Board at any time.
- 3) Referees may receive a remuneration for their services to be determined by the Board.
- 4) Only one referees' association shall be recognized by the A.V.B.; such recognition shall be granted by the General Meeting of Members. Referees can become members of the referees' association recognized by the A.V.B.
- 5) This referees' association shall ensure the appointment of referees and linesmen for the matches organized by the Board and for which an agreement shall be entered into between the Board and the referees' association.
- 6) The referees' association shall also promote the acquisition of knowledge of the rules of the game by its members, under the supervision of the Referees' Committee of the A.V.B.

IX. Articles of Association and Regulations

Article 61 - Implementation

- 1) Each club or cooperating organization shall be expected to be familiar with the Articles of Association and Regulations, as well as the Board resolutions and official announcements that have been published.

- 2) The Board shall be responsible for interpreting and ensuring compliance with the Articles of Association, Regulations and resolutions of the General Meeting of Members.
- 3) The Board shall decide in all cases not provided for in the Articles of Association and Regulations.

Article 62 - Amendments

- 1) Proposals to amend the Articles of Association and Regulations shall be submitted in writing to the Board, at least two months before the General Meeting of Members.
- 2) The Board can also submit subsequent proposals to the General Meeting of Members. The proposed amendments shall be stated in the letter of description.
- 3) Amendments to the Bylaws shall require a majority of $2/3$ of the votes validly cast at the General Meeting of Members, representing $2/3$ of the number of affiliated clubs. If the required number of members is not represented, a second General Meeting of Members shall be convened, and the amendments shall be decided by resolution adopted by $2/3$ of the validly cast votes.
- 5) Amendments to the Bylaws shall take effect immediately after approval by the General Meeting of Members.

Article 63 - Final Article

These Bylaws shall enter into force immediately after approval by the General Meeting of Members.