

SECTION XII

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Amendments:

- **Council: 28.06.2012; Council 15.12.2015; Council 14.3.2017; Exbo 4.9.2023**

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MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

REGULATIONS FOR YOUTH FOOTBALL

1. Definition of Youth Football

Youth Football is that sector of association football which comprises the preparation and coaching of players of seventeen (17) years and younger and playing football by such players.

2. Importance to Youth Football

The Association shall give utmost importance to Youth Football by encouraging the establishment of Football Nurseries within Member Clubs, by organising Youth Football Festivals, by organising Fun Football for young players, by encouraging youth football at regional level, by encouraging football in schools, by organising Youth Football Competitions at national level, by organising and taking part in international youth friendly international tournaments, by taking part in youth competitions at international level and by preparing coaches at youth level. The Association shall also do its utmost to be a loyal member of the UEFA Grassroots Convention.

3. Collaboration with the Youth Football Association

- (i) The Association shall work in conjunction with The Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and The Youth Football Association as key stakeholders in the development of youth football.
- (ii) The Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or the Youth Football Association may, where the Association deems fit, be entrusted with the organisation of junior competitions and festivals for players of relevant ages within the scope of these Regulations..

4. Collaboration with State and Private Schools

The Association shall work as much as possible in conjunction with both State and Private Schools in order to encourage boys and girls attending schools to play football.

5. The Youth and Grassroots Committee

- (i) The Association shall have a Youth and Grassroots Committee which shall be nominated by the Executive Board.
- (ii) The Committee shall be composed of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, the MFA Technical Director, at least four (4) members nominated by the Executive Board, and one member each nominated by the Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and the Youth Football Association and a Secretary of the Board. In choosing such members, the Executive Board shall endeavour to nominate representatives hailing from the coaching, grassroots, refereeing and sports medicine sectors of the Association.

(iii) The Youth and Grassroots Committee shall have the following duties:

- (a) to formulate policies for youth football and its development for the consideration of the Executive Board of the Association and to implement those policies which are approved by the Executive Board;
- (b) to oversee the work done within Football Nurseries;
- (c) to ensure that the obligations of the Association under the UEFA Grassroots Charter of which the Association is a member are duly fulfilled by the Association.

(iv) In order to achieve its objectives the Youth Committee shall have the full cooperation of and shall collaborate with the different departments within the Association, with the Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and the Youth Football Association.

6. Youth Football Festivals, Tournaments and Fun Football

- (i) The MFA Technical Director shall formulate regulations and directives for the organisation of Youth Football Festivals, Youth Tournaments and Fun Football for youth players. These regulations shall prohibit the participation of male and female players who are over the age which would make them eligible to participate in Under 15 competitions, from participating in the same team and/or in the same competition.
- (ii) The regulations formulated by the MFA Technical Director shall require the approval of the Executive Board of the Association.

*Amended:
15-12-2015*

7. Report of Activities

At the end of each football season, the Youth and Grassroots Committee together with the MFA Technical Director shall prepare a report about its activities for the consideration of the Executive Board of the Association.

REGULATIONS FOR THE LICENSING OF FOOTBALL NURSERIES

1. Preamble

With the aim of promoting and improving the administrative, legal, sporting and technical standards at district Football Nurseries and with the aim of encouraging such Football Nurseries to increase their focus on the training and care of young football players, the Executive Board of the Malta Football Association, pursuant to the objectives established in the MFA Statute, has decided to enact the following regulations providing for the establishment of a Licensing System under which Football Nurseries will be required to operate and may thus take advantage of those benefits which in accordance with rules, bye-laws, regulations and decisions of the MFA, Football Nurseries may be entitled to.

2. Licensing of Football Nurseries

- (i) In order that a Football Nursery may be recognised by the MFA, it must obtain a licence from the MFA. Only nurseries of Member Clubs may obtain a licence, irrespective of the form of incorporation thereof. Where a nursery is autonomously incorporated, the application for obtaining a licence must be endorsed by the Member Club in question. In all cases, the Member Club concerned shall be jointly and severally liable with its Football Nursery towards the MFA for the obligations of the Football Nursery and of those performing a duty on behalf of the Football Nursery.
- (ii) The licence shall be issued by the Youth and Grassroots Committee on the recommendation of the MFA Licensing Manager.
- (iii) The licence shall be valid for one football season. However, the licence may, for a just cause, be suspended or revoked by the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee.
 - (a) The application for obtaining a licence shall be filed with the MFA up to the fifteenth (15th) of September on the official application form established by the MFA Licensing Manager after consulting the Technical Director. No fee shall be payable to file such an application provided that the application is made by the fifteenth (15th) of September. However, if an application is filed after the fifteenth (15th) of September, such an application will only be accepted if it is accompanied by a fee of five hundred Euro (€500). Such later application will not effect the obligations of a Member Club in so far as the issuing of a Club Licence is concerned.
 - (b) The applications received will be processed by the MFA Licensing Manager and the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee shall inform the applicants of the decisions taken with regards to such applications.

3. Recognition of Licensed Football Nurseries by The Youth Football Association

- (i) The Youth Football Association shall only admit as full members those Football Nurseries which have been awarded a licence by the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee. If a licensed Football Nursery is refused admittance as a full member of The Youth Football Association it shall have a right to appeal such decision to the MFA Appeals Board. Appeals shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the MFA Appeals Board established in the MFA Statute. The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding on both the appellant and The Youth Football Association.
- (ii) However, The Youth Football Association may give an associate membership to other Youth Clubs and/or Football Nurseries on those terms and conditions which it may deem fit and proper.

4. Three Categories of Licences

- i) Licences issued to Football Nurseries shall be of three categories, namely Category A, Category B and Category C. However, in the case of a category A License, a distinction shall be made between those Football Nurseries whose parent Club has been granted a Club UEFA Licence for the coming football season and the rest.
- ii) A Football Nursery shall decide which type of licence it will apply for.
- iii) Notwithstanding the type of licence applied for, the MFA Technical Centre and the Youth and Grassroots Committee may award a licence in a category, which is lower than the one applied for, and may even refuse to issue a licence. In doing so, the Committee shall take into consideration, among others, the Nursery's adherence to its licence in the previous season, its disciplinary record, observance of competition and festival rules, and participation in festivals or competitions that are not authorised by the MFA Technical Centre and/or IFF.

5. Criteria for the Issuing of a Licence

A. Criteria for the Issue of any Type of Licence

a) Administrative and Legal Criteria

- 1. (i) A Football Nursery must have its own written statute.
 - (ii) The statute of a Football Nursery shall be subject to the approval of the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee.
- 2. (i) In the case of a Football Nursery, which belongs to a Member Club, it has to be administered by a Management Committee, which may be separate from or subsidiary to the Member Club's Management Committee concerned.
 - (ii) (a) A Football Nursery Management Committee must be composed of at least four (4) members.

- (b) A Football Nursery Management Committee must have at least the following three (3) officials: a President or a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. These shall be officially responsible towards the MFA for the good administration and the proper running of their Football Nursery.
- (c) The members of a Football Nursery Management Committee must be persons of irreproachable character. The MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee may object to any member of a Management Committee and refuse such member as forming part of the Football Nursery Management Committee. Any such decision shall be final and binding and the MFA's Youth and Grassroots Committee shall not be obliged to divulge its reason for such refusal.

*Amended:
15-09-2014*

- 3. (i) A Football Nursery must prove that during the past season it has kept:
 - (a) up-dated records, on the Association's online Football Management System, of all the children attending the Football Nursery concerned;
 - (b) a record, on the Association's online Football Management System, of all valid medical examination conducted either by its Medical Officer or by the personal Medical Officer of its registered members;
 - (c) its own accounts in good order and that these were approved in accordance with its own statute.
- (ii) The records and accounts above mentioned may be required to be presented on a standard form established by the Licensing Manager.
- (ii) The MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee shall be entitled to give instructions with regards to the keeping of the above-mentioned records and accounts. Furthermore, during the period covered by the licence, the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee shall have the right to inspect such records and accounts and shall be entitled to give instructions to the Football Nursery concerned with regards to the keeping of such records and accounts.

b) Sporting Criteria

- 1. During the year to which the licence refers but not later than the 31st day of December in the case of those nurseries whose parent clubs intend to apply for a UEFA licence, such nurseries shall adhere to the applicable requisites and obligations emanating from such UEFA licensing process.
- 2. A Football Nursery must collaborate in the most ample manner with all coaches employed by The Inhobb il-Futbol Foundation and the MFA Technical Centre.
- 3. A Football Nursery shall bind itself that it will abide by any regulations applicable to any competition or festival such nursery participates in.

c) Technical Criteria

1. A Football Nursery must prove that it has an adequate place for the football training of its registered members. The MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee may issue directives in this respect. These may be different for different Football Nurseries.
2. A Football Nursery must prove that it has an adequate amount of equipment for training purposes. Such equipment shall include footballs of different sizes, cones, bibs, markers and goalposts.
3. A Football Nursery shall bind itself that it will abide by any syllabus and/or club development guidelines issued by the M.F.A. Technical Centre for the training of young players and must submit, together with the application, a detailed programme showing how it intends to carry out its work during the football season to be covered by the licence.
4. (i) A Football Nursery must have a Head Coach. Such a person is required to be in possession of a valid coaching licence according to the applicable regulations governing the licensing and qualification of football coaches (Section XV – Football Coaches).

(ii) A coach's position shall not remain vacant for more than sixty (60) days.
5. (i) A Football Nursery must, during the football season to be covered by the licence, have also the required minimum number of registered players and coaches who are in possession of a valid coaching licence according to the applicable criteria of the respective license applied for.

(ii) The names and other details of the coaches and assistant coaches as may be specified by the MFA Licensing Manager must be correctly submitted and confirmed on the Association's Online Football Management System and provided together with the application for the licence.

B. Particular Criteria for the Issue of the Different Types of Licence

1. Football Nursery Licence - Category A

- (i) A Football Nursery applying in this category, besides the basic criteria, must satisfy also the following criteria during the football season to be covered by the licence. It must bind itself that it shall:
 - (a) cater for at least one group of a minimum of twenty (20) registered players in each of the following age-categories: Under 17 and Under 15 and must organise at least four (4) weekly training sessions. This has to be included in the weekly schedule to be provided in the license application;

- (b) cater for at least one group of a minimum of twenty (20) enrolled players in each of the Under 13 and Under 11 age-category and must organise at least three (3) weekly training sessions. This has to be included in the weekly schedule to be provided in the license application;
 - (c) cater for at least one group of a minimum of thirty (30) registered players below the age of nine (9), and must organise at least two (2) weekly training sessions. This has to be included in the weekly schedule to be provided in the license application ;
 - (d) participate in the Under-15 and in the Under-17 Junior Leagues and in those Football Tournaments and Festivals organized by The Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or The Youth Football Association for players in the different age-groups, provided that in case that The Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or The Youth Football Association refuses or suspends the participation of a Football Nursery in any such activity organised by it, such Football Nursery shall have the right to appeal such decision to the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on both the appellant and The Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or The Youth Football Association. Such an appeal shall be filed with the MFA General Secretariat within ten (10) working days from the receipt by the Football Nursery of the written decision of The Inħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or The Youth Football Association;
 - (e) organize at least one Football Tournament or Festival in the Under 9, Under 11 and Under 13 age-groups after submitting an application to organise such Tournament or Festival, and obtaining the necessary approval from the MFA Technical Centre;
 - (f) attend at least one mandatory session by all the members of the youth nursery committee and coaching staff on the subject of Safeguarding.
 - (g) Have engaged with it, or as part of its Management Committee, a qualified administrator, as recognised from time to time by the Association.
- (ii) The Head Coach of a Football Nursery applying in this Category shall be at least a UEFA A Elite licensed Coach. The Head Coach may not at the same time occupy the position of Head Coach of the Senior Team of the same Club or any Member Club, including the Member Club to which the Football Nursery belongs.
 - (iii) The Head Coach may not be listed or perform the duties of first team coach of any of the age categories within the same Nursery¹.
 - (iv) A Coach of a Football Nursery applying in this category may be listed and perform the duties of a first team coach with only one (1) age category and may be listed and perform the duties of an assistant coach of not more than one(1) other age category². This restriction shall not apply to Goalkeeper Coaches and Football Fitness Coaches.

¹ Applicable from Season 2024/25.

² Applicable from Season 2024/25.

- (v) A Coach of a Football Nursery applying in this category and who is an active football player registered with the Malta Football Association may not be listed or perform duties of a first team coach or assistant coach with any other Football Nursery, other than that of his playing club.

A Football Nursery applying in this category must also nominate, at the same time of the application, at least two (2) persons of an acceptable physical condition, giving all relevant details of such persons, to act, if so required, as referees or as club assistant referees at competitive matches or Football Tournaments or Football Festivals in which their Football Nursery is taking part. These persons shall be required to attend any courses or lectures organised for them by the MFA Referees Board. The role which such persons will have during matches, tournaments and festivals shall be as decided by the MFA Referees Committee.

Failure by such persons to attend any course or lectures organized for them by the MFA Referees Committee or failure to act in such a role as maybe given during matches, tournaments or festivals shall subject their Football Nursery to sanctions which may include the withdrawal of the license.

- (vi) Besides the above mentioned criteria and conditions, Football Nurseries applying for a licence in this category must also prepare a Youth Development Programme which must be approved by the MFA Technical Centre prior to being granted a licence. Such Programme shall be valid for a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) seasons³.

The Youth Development Programme must include the following:

- (i) Organisation of the Youth Sector
- (ii) Football Education for the different age groups
- (iii) Education programme on the Laws of the Game
- (iv) Education programme on anti-doping
- (v) Education on integrity
- (vi) Medical support for youth players
- (vii) Review process to evaluate the results and achievements of the set objectives
- (viii) Validity of the programme – minimum 3 seasons but a maximum of 7 seasons
- (ix) Commitment and support for mandatory and complimentary school eation.

2. Football Nursery Licence - Category B

(i) A Football Nursery applying in this category, besides the basic criteria, must also satisfy the following criteria during the football season to be covered by the licence. It must bind itself that hall:

- (a) cater for at least one group of a minimum of twenty (20) registered players in each of the following age-categories: Under 17 and Under 15 and must organise at least three (3) weekly

³ Applicable from Season 2024/25.

training sessions. This has to be included in the weekly schedule to be provided with the license application;

- (b) cater for at least one group of a minimum of thirty (30) enrolled players in the Under 13 and Under 11 age-category (jointly) and must organise at least three (3) weekly training sessions. This has to be included in the weekly schedule to be provided with the license application;
 - (c) cater for at least one group of a minimum of thirty (30) registered players in the Under 9 and Under 7 categories (jointly) and must organise at least two (2) weekly training sessions. This has to be included in the weekly schedule to be provided with the license application;
 - (d) participate in the Under-15 and in the Under-17 Junior Leagues and in those Football Tournaments and Festivals organized by The İnħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or The Youth Football Association for players in the different age-groups, provided that in case that The İnħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or The Youth Football Association refuses or suspends the participation of a Football Nursery in any activity organised by it, such Football Nursery shall have the right to appeal such decision to the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee whose decision shall be final and binding on both the appellant and The İnħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or the Youth Football Association. Such an appeal shall be filed with the MFA General Secretariat within ten (10) working days from the receipt by the Football Nursery of the written decision of The İnħobb il-Futbol Foundation and/or the Youth Football Association;~~activity~~
 - (e) attend at least one mandatory session by all the members of the youth nursery committee and coaching staff on the subject of Safeguarding.
- (ii) A Football Nursery applying in this category must also nominate, at the same time of the application, at least two (2) persons of an acceptable physical condition, giving all relevant details of such persons, to act, if so required, as referees or as club assistant referees at competitive matches or Football Tournaments or Football Festivals in which their Football Nursery is taking part. These persons shall be required to attend any courses or lectures organised for them by the MFA Referees Board. The role which such persons will have during matches, tournaments and festivals shall be as decided by the MFA Referees Board Committee.
- Failure by such persons to attend any course or lectures organized for them by the MFA Referees Committee or failure to act in such a role as maybe given during matches, tournaments or festivals shall subject their Football Nursery to sanctions which may include the withdrawal of the license.
- (iii) The Head Coach of a Football Nursery applying in this Category must be at least a UEFA A licenced coach and may at the same time be listed and can perform the duties of first team coach of not more than one (1) age category within the same Nursery. The Head Coach may not at the same time occupy any position with another Member Club.
- (iv) A Coach of a Football Nursery applying in this category may be listed and perform the duties of a first team coach with only one (1) age category and may be listed and perform the duties of an assistant coach of not more than two(2) other age categories. This restriction shall not apply to Goalkeeper Coaches and Football Fitness Coaches

3. Football Nursery Licence - Category C

(i) A Football Nursery applying in this category, besides the basic criteria, must satisfy also the following criteria during the football season to be covered by the licence. It must bind itself that it shall:

- (a) cater for at least one group of a minimum of twenty (20) registered players in any of the following age-categories: Under 11; Under 13; Under 15 and Under 17;
- (b) cater for at least one group of a minimum of ten (10) enrolled players in the Under 9 age-category;
- (c) organise at least two (2) training sessions per week for the registered members in the different age-groups;
- (d) attend at least one mandatory session by all the members of the youth nursery committee and coaching staff on the subject of Safeguarding

(ii) The Head Coach of a Football Nursery applying in this Category shall be at least a UEFA C licensed Coach. The Head Coach may not at the same time occupy any position of in any other Member Club.

6. Monitoring by the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee

- (i) The MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee shall have the right, during the football season covered by the licence, to monitor the licensed Football Nurseries to ensure that the administrative, legal, sporting and the other criteria relative to the type of licence applicable to Licensed Football Nurseries are being observed.
- (ii) The MFA's Youth and Grassroots Committee shall have the right to instruct a Football Nursery to rectify any omission with respect to the above-mentioned criteria applicable to such Football Nursery or downgrade a Football Nursery Licence Category. The Committee shall inform the MFA Licensing Manager with any instructions or downgrades made.
- (iii) In case that a Football Nursery, after due written notice by the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee, fails to rectify its position within the time-limit decided upon by the Committee, the Committee shall have the right to suspend or withdraw its licence.

7. Monitoring by the MFA Technical Centre

- (i) The MFA Technical Centre shall have the right, during the football season covered by the licence, to monitor the licensed Football Nurseries to ensure that the technical criteria applicable to Licensed Football Nurseries are being observed.
- (ii) The MFA Technical Centre shall have the right to instruct a licensed Football Nursery to rectify any omission with respect to the technical criteria applicable to such Football Nursery.
- (iii) In case that a Football Nursery, after due written notice by the MFA Technical Centre, fails to rectify its position within the time-limit decided upon by the MFA Technical Centre, it shall report the Football Nursery concerned to the MFA Youth and Grassroots Committee which shall have the right to downgrade suspend or withdraw its licence. The Committee shall inform the MFA Licensing Manager with any instructions or downgrades made.

8. Disciplinary Proceedings

The MFA shall be entitled to take disciplinary action against a Football Nursery for manifest non-adherence to any of the criteria applicable to the licence it applied for. The Association may also take disciplinary action against any member of the Management Committee of a Licensed Football Nursery and against any other person performing a function on behalf of a Licensed Football Nursery for breach of the MFA Statute and the other rules, bye-laws and regulations of the MFA or for bringing the game of association football or the MFA or any of its Members or any other person performing a function on behalf of the MFA into disrepute, and to punish those found guilty. Disciplinary matters shall be dealt with by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association.

9. Appeals

- (i) In case that a Football Nursery, or a member of the Management Committee of a Licensed Football Nursery or any other person performing a function on behalf of a Licensed Football Nursery feels aggrieved by a decision of the Youth Grassroots Committee or another body of the MFA, except in the case of a refusal to approve of a member of a Licensed Football Nursery's Management Committee, such Football Nursery or person, shall have the right to appeal against such decision to the MFA Appeals Board, whose decision would be final and binding.
- (ii) The filing of the notice of appeal, the filing of the petition of appeal and the hearing of such an appeal shall be in accordance with the relative provisions of the Appeals Board in the MFA Statute.
- (iii) In the case of a Licensed Football Nursery which belongs to a Member Club, the appeal may be filed either by the Licensed Football Nursery alone or by the Member Club to which the Football Nursery belongs alone or jointly by the Licensed Football Nursery and the Member Club to which it belongs.

REGULATIONS ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Approved by the Council on 14th March 2017

The association declares that the wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults is paramount in football. It also recognises its duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults by proactively promoting a positive environment in football as well as taking action against people who harm children or vulnerable adults either by commission or by omission.

Any football participant, in whichever role, under the age of 18 years old age is a child and the association recognises that such participants need extra protection.

The association resolves to promote a positive sporting environment in all aspects of the game. As a result, every football participant who at some point or other is considered to be vulnerable and is at the other end of a temporary or permanent power imbalance with another football participant is to be considered a vulnerable adult.

1. Definitions

1.1 'Suitability' is a process by which the association assesses whether a football participant should be allowed to be in a position of trust.

1.2 A 'person in a position of trust' is defined as a football participant who has a relationship based on an imbalance of power. Roles that imply a position of trust include, but are not limited to, coaches, match officials, club officials, medical staff and administrators.

1.3 A 'football participant' means a player, coach, club official, match official, licensed agent, administrator, committee member, member or employee of a club, an affiliated club, a competition, a member association, an affiliated association, and any other person who are from time to time participates in any activity under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of the association.

1.4 An 'interim order' is a temporary decision taken by the Safeguarding Board on a football participant. This order can only be reviewed or revoked by the Safeguarding Board.

1.5 A 'final order' is a decision taken by the Safeguarding Board for an indefinite period regarding a football participant. Such a decision will be reviewed or revoked only if the participant can prove a change in circumstances in his/her life.

1.6 'Written material' includes audio, photographic, video and/or electronic evidence.

2. Values and principles

2.1 When considering all aspects involving a child participant, the MFA shall give paramount importance to the wellbeing of the child.

2.2 The association shall liaise with authorities within the game as well as statutory agencies, such as the police and Aġenzija Appoġġ, to safeguard the child and any vulnerable adult.

2.3 The association has the power under Regulations 6, 7 or 8 of this document to issue an order where one or more of the following applies:

2.3.1 A person's name is placed on the Register established by the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act 2011 or its equivalent.

2.3.2 A person who has been disqualified from working with children or vulnerable adult by the Courts or by the police.

2.3.3 A person who was restricted to work with children or vulnerable adults by any other recognised body or employer, whether local or overseas.

2.3.4 An individual does not comply with any part of the safeguarding process.

2.3.5 Following a risk assessment, the association is satisfied that an individual poses or may pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults.

2.3.6 Any other situation that the association deems fit to issue an order where a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm.

3. The Safeguarding Process

3.1 Any person who is either currently in a position of trust, or who applies for a position of trust, or any other relevant person in the association's discretion must meet the requirements set out by the association's safeguarding process.

3.2 Such persons include but are not limited to:

3.2.1 A football participant whose duties include coaching, teaching, training, instructing, caring for, supervising or providing guidance on the wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult; or

3.2.2 Persons employed or engaged – whether for a consideration or not - by a football participant to perform a service on a regular basis.

3.3 As part of the requirements of the safeguarding process, any person who is currently in a position of trust or applies for a position of trust will as and when required by the association:

- 3.3.1 submit an updated copy of the Police Conduct;
- 3.3.2 Agree to check their names with the Register established by the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act 2011 or its equivalent;
- 3.3.3 Provide two references to evaluate their suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults in football;
- 3.3.4 Comply with any request made by the association in deciding on suitability, as part of the investigation or risk assessment or any other part of the safeguarding inquiry;
- 3.3.5 Comply with each of the requirements set out in Article 3 within the timescales set out by the association;

3.4 Any person who fails to comply with Article 3 will be subject to an immediate non-compliance suspension from all football activity. The terms and length of time of such a suspension will be determined by the association.

3.5 An immediate non-compliance suspension from all football activity will also apply to persons who withdraw their application during or have their role terminated before the completion of the safeguarding process.

4. The Safeguarding Board

4.1 There shall be a Safeguarding Board which shall consist of four persons and a Chair, each having one vote. They shall also be supported by a legal advisor and a secretary who shall not vote. The Board shall establish its own procedure.

4.2 The Safeguarding Board is responsible for taking decisions related to safeguarding investigations. It shall therefore meet as and when necessary.

4.3 The association shall have a pool of members who may form part of the Safeguarding Board and the Appeals Board. All members of the Board shall act in the best interest of the child or vulnerable adult at all times.

4.4 The Chair of the Board must have at least five years' experience in safeguarding or child protection to be able to give the Board the professional leadership it requires.

4.5 The Board has the authority to take decisions on any interim or final order issued by the association in accordance with Regulation 5. The Chair shall endeavour to find consensus when dealing with cases brought before the Board. In the event that this is not possible, the matter shall be put to a vote. The Chair has the deciding vote in the event that no majority is achieved after a vote.

4.6 All the members of the Board shall be appointed by the MFA Council at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

4.7 There needs to be at least three members including the Chair in order to reach a quorum. In the event that no quorum is reached, the Board shall adjourn to another date.

5. Interim Orders

5.1 The association may issue any order it deems fit in order to safeguard a child or vulnerable adult in accordance with these regulations. An interim order shall be issued by the safeguarding officer.

5.2 The association will inform the person subject to an order in writing specifying the terms of the order, the reasons for the order and the process for appeal. Such terms may include, but are not limited to, an interim suspension from all or any specific football activity.

5.3 The association shall, in its discretion, issue an interim order upon receiving notification of one of the following:

5.3.1 A person is under investigation by the police, Aġenzija Appogg, or any other relevant body.

5.3.2 A person's name is included in the Register established by the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act 2011 or its equivalent.

5.3.3 A person's police conduct includes offences that may require an immediate order subject to a risk assessment.

5.3.4 Any other information that causes the association to reasonably believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult.

5.4 Before issuing an interim order, the safeguarding officer shall consider the following:

5.4.1 Whether a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of harm

5.4.2 Whether the order is necessary to ensure the child or vulnerable adult is safeguarded

5.4.3 Whether the order is desirable to allow the completion of the association's risk assessment or any other investigation by another authority or body

5.5 An interim order may be issued without advance notice by the safeguarding officer having given considerations to Regulation 5.4 and where it is deemed necessary to safeguard a child or vulnerable adult.

5.6 Alternatively, the association may, prior to issuing an interim order, request written representations from the participant asking for reasons why an order should not be issued. The participant

shall be given 10 working days to reply. The association shall then decide whether to issue the interim order after receiving the written response.

5.7 The interim order shall be reviewed by the Safeguarding Board during its next meeting. The Board has the authority to ratify, modify or revoke any interim order as it considers appropriate.

6. Order for a person who is barred from working with children

6.1 The safeguarding officer shall immediately issue an interim suspension from all football activity in the event that a person's name is placed on the Register established by the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act 2011 or its equivalent.

6.2 The association shall request written representations from the participant who shall have 10 working days to give reasons to the Safeguarding Board why the order should not be ratified.

6.3 The interim order will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Board during the next available meeting. The Board has the authority to ratify, modify or revoke any interim order as it considers appropriate.

7. Final Order

7.1 The association will endeavour to conclude a risk assessment in accordance with the association's rules and as soon as reasonably possible.

7.2 A final risk assessment together with all relevant documentation, including the participant's written representations will be presented to the Safeguarding Board. The association will present an action plan with a list of recommendations for the Safeguarding Board to consider in its final decision.

7.3 The Safeguarding Board has the authority to request further information from the participant or from the association. The Board has the authority to ratify, modify or revoke any final order which is being recommended by the association or the participant as it considers appropriate.

8. Right of Appeal

8.1 A participant subject to an interim or any other order may appeal any decision made by the Safeguarding Board under Article 5. The participant may appeal as follows:

8.2 The appeal shall be brought before the association's Appeals Board. Appeals shall be regulated by the rules relative to the Appeals Board established in the Statute.

8.3 Any appeal must be filed by the participant within 14 days of receiving notice of the Safeguarding Board decision. The notice of appeal referred to under Article 66(3) of the Statute shall not apply for appeals from orders issued by the Safeguarding Board.

8.4 The Safeguarding Board shall assist the Appeals Board when and as required by the latter.

8.5 In determining the appeal, the Appeals Board has the power to issue any order it deems necessary to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

9. Final decision

9.1 If a final decision is not appealed within the timescale set out in these Regulations, any final decision taken by the Safeguarding Board will be final and binding.

9.2 In the event of an appeal, the decision of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding.

9.3 Any decision that is final and binding may only be reviewed at the written request of the safeguarding officer. The safeguarding officer shall in such case explain the motivation why a final order should be revoked or modified.