



MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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# Reputational Risk Management Policy

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Millennium Stand (Floor 2),  
National Stadium,  
Ta' Qali, ATD 4000

Registered with SportMalta (SM/F003)  
Member of: Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)  
Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA)

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### **Preamble**

The Malta Football Association, being the largest and most followed sports organisation in Malta, acknowledges its responsibilities in particular in promoting and ensuring good governance.

The MFA is working on multiple fronts with the principal aim of embracing good conduct, good governance, and good ethical behaviour standards which are well regarded both locally and internationally. This Policy defines the procedure to be undertaken with regards to ensuring that any member affiliated and/or registered in any way with the MFA, does not jeopardize the reputation of any Member Club or the MFA itself.

## Definitions

**“Committee”** shall mean the MFA Committee of Ethics and Compliance.

**“EXBO”** shall mean the MFA Executive Board

**“MFA or Association”** shall mean the Malta Football Association.

**“Registered Club” or “Registered Member Association”** shall mean those Football Clubs and Member Associations which are affiliated to and/or registered with the MFA.

**“Registered Members”** shall mean all persons in any role, who are officially registered with the MFA.

**“Reputational Risk”** shall mean potential for negative publicity, public perception or uncontrollable events to have an adverse impact on a Registered Member, Registered Club or on the MFA reputation, thereby affecting his or its standing in society.

## **1. JURISDICTION AND TRANSITION**

- 1.1** This Policy shall have jurisdiction over all the Registered Members with the MFA.
- 1.2** With regards to the application of article 2, this policy shall apply to criminal proceedings instituted and/or in *sub-judice* status after the bringing into force of the same policy.

## **2. CRIMINAL OFFENCES**

- 2.1** If criminal proceedings including charges carrying a maximum punishment of not less than five (5) years imprisonment are instituted against a Registered Member in any Court of criminal jurisdiction in Malta or overseas, this shall constitute a Reputational Risk to the Registered Member, the Registered Club with whom such Registered Member is registered and to the MFA.
- 2.2** The Registered Member subject to criminal proceedings as stated in the last preceding article shall so inform within ten (10) working days from the day after the commencement of such proceedings the Registered Club with whom the Registered Member is registered. The Registered Club being informed by the Registered Member, shall within ten (10) working days from the day the same club is informed, inform the General Secretary of the MFA with all the details known to it about the same criminal proceedings.
- 2.3** Whenever information related to article 2.1 above comes to the notice of the General Secretary of the MFA, whether such information is received through the procedure outlined in the last preceding article or in any other manner, the General Secretary shall forthwith report the facts to the Ethics and Compliance Committee, which in turn shall draw a recommendation to the Executive Board.
- 2.4** The Executive Board, after going through all the circumstances known and the recommendation of the Ethics and Compliance Committee, shall take a decision giving reasons as to whether the Registered Member should or should not be suspended for precautionary purposes from all football activities.
- 2.5** Where the Executive Board decides that the Registered Member should be suspended for precautionary purposes, it may suspend the Registered Member from all football activities pending the decision of the Court reaching a definitive judgment upon such criminal proceedings.
- 2.6** If a Registered Member who is suspended for precautionary purposes as defined in article 2.4 above is acquitted of a criminal charge in any Court, the findings of the Court on such case shall be referred by the General Secretary of the MFA to the the Ethics and Compliance Committee, which in turn shall draw up a

recommendation to the Executive Board. The Board, after going through all the circumstances known, including the recommendation by the Ethics and Compliance Committee, shall take a decision giving reasons as to whether the Registered Member should or should not be suspended further from all football activities on a permanent nature or have the precautionary suspension lifted and reinstate such Registered Member.

**2.7** If a Registered Member has been found guilty in criminal proceedings defined in article 2.1 above, the findings of the Court on such case shall be referred by the General Secretary of the MFA to the Ethics and Compliance Committee, which in turn shall draw up a recommendation to the Executive Board. The Board, after going through all the circumstances known including the recommendation by the Committee, shall take a decision giving reasons as to whether the Registered Member should or should not be suspended further from all football activities on a permanent nature or for an established term.

Provided that if the Executive Board considers that the appropriate suspension following conviction on a criminal charge shall be a permanent suspension or a suspension for an established term, the General Secretary of the MFA shall inform the Registered Member of his right to make written representations to the MFA Appeals Board within a period of fourteen (14) working days from such notification. The MFA Appeals Board shall consider such representations and may give the Registered Member the opportunity of an oral hearing before deciding on the matter in a definitive manner. The appeal procedure shall be regulated under Article 61 of the Statute.

### **3. REGISTERED CLUBS OBLIGATION**

**3.1** Registered Clubs/Associations shall preclude from attending within any of their premises any Registered Member who is under a term of precautionary suspension or any other form of suspension from all football activities under this procedure or any other MFA regulation or statute.

### **4. OTHER BREACHES**

**4.1** Without prejudice to the foregoing Article 2, the General Secretary may refer the registration of any Member or Registered Club/Association to the Ethics and Compliance Committee where there are circumstances which could be deemed as potentially damaging for the reputation of the Association. In such cases, the Ethics and Compliance Committee shall give its recommendation to the Executive Board as provided in Article 2. The Executive Board, after going through all the

circumstances known including the recommendation by the Ethics and Compliance Committee, shall take a decision giving reasons as to whether the Registered Member should or should not be suspended further from all football activities on a permanent nature or for an established term.

Provided that in such circumstance, the General Secretary of the Malta FA shall inform the Registered Member or Registered Club/Association of his/her/its right to make written representations to the Appeals Board within a period of fourteen (14) working days from such notification. The MFA Appeals Board shall consider such representations and may give the Registered Member the opportunity of an oral hearing before deciding on the matter in a definitive manner. The appeal procedure shall be regulated under Article 61 of the Statute.