



Regulations on Club Ownership and Registration



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Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA)

**REGULATIONS ON CLUB OWNERSHIP AND
REGISTRATION**

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Table of contents

SECTION A: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS	5
Article 1 Abbreviation	5
Article 2 Definitions	5
SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS	7
Article 3 Scope	7
Article 4 Name of a club	7
Article 5 Change of name	7
Article 6 Club logo and identity	7
Article 7 Ownership	8
Article 8 Types of club ownership	9
Article 9 FUFA Certificate of club ownership	11
Article 10 Withdraw of certificate of club ownership	12
Article 11 Consequences of Non-Compliance	13
Article 12 Change of club ownership	13
SECTION C: FINAL PROVISIONS	15
Article 13 Publication of Club Ownership Details	15
Article 14 Obligation to comply with FUFA Club Licensing Regulations	15
Article 15 Additional considerations	15
Article 16 Amendments	15
Article 17 FUFA circulars and matters not provided for	16
Article 18 Declaration	16

SECTION A: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

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Article 1 Abbreviation

CAF	Confederation of African Football
FCR	FUFA Competition Rules
FIFA	Federation of International Football Associations
FUFA	Federation of Uganda Football Associations
FUFA RULES	Shall mean FUFA Statutes, the CAF/FIFA Statutes, regulations, policies and guidelines as well as decisions communicated through a circular,
FRSC	FUFA Referees Standing Committee
UA(s)	Unit(s) of Accounts. 1 UA is equivalent to 1,000 UGX
COR	Certificate of Registration
NSA	National Sports Act 2023

Article 2 Definitions

1. **Administration:** This shall refer to the state when FUFA opts to take over the management of the club to ensure continuity in completing a competition or a period, or until new owners are found in the event that the current owners abandon the club or submit to FUFA that they have failed to financially sustain the club.
2. **A football club:**(or association football club, alternatively soccer club) is a sports club that acts as an entity through which association football teams organize their sporting activities.
3. **FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership:** The FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership herein these regulations “the certificate” is an official document (Tailor made certificate) that officially identifies a club’s registered name and its owner(s). This certificate is a fundamental requirement for FUFA’s official recognition of the club and its participation in Association football competitions.
4. **Duplicate FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership:** The certificate that shall be re-issued once lost and upon the concerned entity fulfilling provisions of these regulations for a replacement. It shall herein these regulations be called a duplicate certificate.
5. **Ownership:** this shall mean Natural or Legal Persons that own a football Club.

SECTION A: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

6. Statutes: This shall mean a rule or binding document governing a football club
7. Season: This shall mean the period from 1st July to 30th June of the following year
8. Unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) Words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa;
 - (b) Words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa;
 - (c) Words importing any particular gender shall include all other genders;
 - (d) Definitions as carried in FUFA Statutes and FUFA Competition Rules shall have a similar meaning in these regulations;
 - (e) The headings in these Rules are for convenience only and shall not affect their interpretation;
 - (f) These Rules shall remain in force until another set of rules is put in place by the FUFA Executive Committee.

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 3 **Scope**

1. These regulations shall apply to football clubs, beach soccer clubs, and futsal clubs intending to be registered or already registered by FUFA.

Article 4 **Name of a club**

1. The Certificate of Ownership will indicate the official name of the Club and the Club Owners(s).
2. No other Club will be registered using a similar name to an existing Club.
3. FUFA shall not issue a Certificate of Club Ownership to Applicants for club names that are;
 - (a) Confusing with existing clubs' names or existing football brands in Uganda
 - (b) Derogatory and not befitting
 - (c) Partisan
 - (d) Misleading or deceptive about the club's nature, ownership, or affiliation
 - (e) Infringing on trademarks or intellectual property rights
 - (f) Excessively long or impractical for use in official documentation and media

Article 5 **Change of name**

1. Change of the name of a Club shall be approved by the decision of the FUFA Executive Committee upon submission of an official request Six (6) months before the beginning of the next season
2. The new name of a club shall only be effective at the beginning of the subsequent season

Article 6 **Club logo and identity**

1. FUFA shall not approve a club logo that contains pre-existing designed features of slogans.
2. The Logo shall have a meaningful significance to be approved by FUFA.
3. A club may be deregistered by FUFA upon satisfaction that it has not been active in association football for two (2) consecutive years. Thereafter, the club name may only be authorised for use by any other person at least two (2) years after deregistration.

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. Upon FUFA deregistration, communication to other statutory agencies shall be made in line with the National Sports Act 2023.
5. FUFA shall not approve a club logo that infringes on existing trademarks or intellectual property rights.
6. A club shall provide the rationale of a historical, cultural, geographical or any other significance for the elements included in their logo design.
7. Any proposed changes to an existing club logo must be submitted to FUFA for approval at least six months before the start of the season.
8. FUFA reserves the right to request modifications to a proposed logo to ensure compliance with its guidelines and standards.
9. A club may appeal FUFA's decision regarding logo approval or deregistration within 30 days of receiving the decision, through a formal appeal process established by FUFA.

Article 7 Ownership

1. Only a natural or legal person, or a combination of both, shall own a football club.
2. Any natural or legal person that intends to own a football club shall conduct a fit and proper test. Any natural and legal person that fails the fit and proper test above shall not own a football club.
3. A fit and proper test may be failed for the following reasons:
 - (a) Having power or influence over another football league club.
 - (b) Holding significant interest in another Football League club.
 - (c) Prohibited by law from being an owner.
 - (d) Having been in a position of influence of two or more clubs that wound up
 - (e) Having owned or controlled another club in 2 years before application to own another club
 - (f) Under ban by FIFA, CAF or FUFA at the time of application
 - (g) Having been proved guilty of involvement in matters considered as vices to football.
 - a) Any other reason that FUFA may find appropriate. FUFA may not indicate such reasons unless required by the arbitration process provided for by the National Sports Act 2023.
 - b) As under Article 9 subsection 2.
 - c) Failure to disclose relevant information
 - d) Provision of false, incomplete and misleading information during the application process.
 - e) Inability to demonstrate sufficient financial resources to sustainably support the club's operations and development.

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. If FUFA finds that the information relied on, to pass the Fit and Proper Test is incorrect, punitive measures inclusive but not limited to the deduction of points and withdrawal of the certificate of Club ownership Shall be applied

Article 8 Types of club ownership

1. FUFA shall ONLY register ownership of clubs of the following types;

- (a) Natural Person(s) Ownership
- (b) Private Ownership
- (c) Public Ownership
- (d) Private Institution Ownership
- (e) Government Institution Ownership
- (f) Trust
- (g) Community Club Ownership

2. **Natural Person(s) Ownership**

This is a club owned by a shareholding of natural person(s).

3. **Private Ownership**

This is a type of ownership with a shareholding of natural and/or legal persons, that is incorporated either as a company limited by shares or by guarantee, owning a football club. This model is specifically set up for football business purposes

4. **Public Ownership**

This is a type of ownership where by a public company owns a football club.

5. **Private Institution Ownership**

This is a type of ownership where a private institution that deals in other businesses in the community owns a football club. The Private institution shall own a company to specifically own the football club

6. **Government Institutions Ownership**

This is a type of ownership where a government parastatal or a government institution that is created by an act of parliament owns a football club. The government parastatal or government institution shall own a company to specifically own the football club

7. **Trust**

This is a type of ownership where the registered trustees as per the Trustees Act (Cap 164) own a football club

8. **Community Club Ownership**

This is a type of ownership where a membership (Community Club) as per the National Sports Act 2023 owns a football club

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

9. A company limited by shares or guarantee that applies to own a football club shall submit the following:
 - (a) Certified Articles and Memorandum of Associations
 - (b) Company forms 18 & 20
 - (c) Certificate of Incorporation
 - (d) Copy of passport/National ID of the shareholders
 - (e) Club Statutes indicating the independence of decision making of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
 - (f) A registered company resolution of the independence and absolute non-interference of the decisions of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
 - (g) A registered company resolution by the owners to abide by the FIFA, CAF and FUFA Rules
10. A government parastatal or institution that owns a company that applies to own a football club shall submit the following:
 - (a) registered resolution of the independence and absolute non-interference of the decisions of the Club in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
 - (b) registered resolution that it shall abide by the FIFA, CAF and FUFA Rules
11. A Trust that applies to own a football club shall submit the following:
 - (a) Trust Deed
 - (b) Certificate of Registration from Ministry of Lands
 - (c) National ID Cards of the Trustees
 - (d) Club Statutes indicating the independence of decision making of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
 - (e) A registered resolution of the independence and absolute non-interference of the decisions of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations by the Board or decision-making authority at the institution
 - (f) A registered resolution to abide by the FIFA, CAF and FUFA Rules by the Board or decision-making authority at the institution
12. A Community Club that applies to own a football club shall submit the following:
 - (a) Legal Documents of Registration issued in accordance with the National Sports Act 2023
 - (b) Copy of passport/National ID of the leadership
 - (c) Club Statutes indicating the independence of decision making of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
 - (d) A registered declaration of the independence and absolute non-interference of the decisions of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
 - (e) A registered declaration by the owners to abide by the FIFA, CAF and FUFA Rules

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

13. A natural person or a group of natural persons that apply to own a football club shall each person submit the following:

- (a) National ID card
- (b) Bank Account
- (c) Letter of good conduct
- (d) Club Statutes indicating the independence of decision making of the Club they own in matters of FIFA, CAF and FUFA Statutes and Regulations
- (e) registered declaration to abide by the FIFA, CAF and FUFA Rules.

14. A club owned by Natural Person(s) shall not play in the Professional league

15. An applicant for club ownership shall fill the following documents;

- (a) Application for Club Registration Form
- (b) Club Ownership and Registration Form (F201)
- (c) Club Statutes for approval by FUFA
- (d) Certificate of "Fit and Proper Test of each person or entity intending to own the club
- (e) The List of Beneficial Owners of the Club
- (f) FUFA Compliance declaration Form
- (g) Club structure and management Form
- (h) Proof of payment of Club registration fees

Article 9 FUFA Certificate of club ownership

1. FUFA shall issue a certificate of Ownership upon submission and validation of the documents listed in section 8, subsection (a-h).

2. The certificate shall:

- (a) Confirm official club ownership and structure.
- (b) Provide legitimacy for club operations within FUFA's governance framework.
- (c) Ensure compliance with FUFA regulations for club participation in national/FUFA competitions and international competitions.
- (d) Facilitate solution to ownership disputes and protects club owner's interests.

3. Additionally; -

- (a) The club must retain and safeguard this certificate as part of their official records.
- (b) Any changes in ownership or loss of the certificate must be reported to FUFA immediately.
- (c) FUFA shall periodically publish and update the list of club owners as reflected in the FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership.
- (d) It is the obligation of club owners and management to keep themselves updated with FUFA Club Ownership Regulations and ensure continuous compliance.

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. Replacement of a lost Certificate
 - (a) If a club loses its FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership, the following steps must be taken to obtain a replacement:
 - (b) Report the loss at the nearest Police and obtain an official police file reference number and report
 - (c) Gather Required Documents
 - (d) A duplicate copy of the lost certificate (if available).
 - (e) Identification documents for club owners or shareholders, such as a National ID or passport, to confirm ownership.
 - (f) Pay the Replacement Fee by depositing 500UAs into the designated FUFA bank account.
 - (g) Attach the certified bank deposit slip as proof of payment.
 - (h) Submit Documents to FUFA
5. All required documents must be submitted to the FUFA Competitions Department at FUFA House or via official FUFA communication channels that may be confirmed by FUFA Administration.
6. Follow-Up and Verification
 - (a) FUFA shall review and verify the submitted documents before issuing a replacement certificate. And shall be in regular contact with the club for updates until process reaches its conclusion and a new Duplicate certificate is issued.
7. The FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership shall have the following features;
 - (a) Certificate Number
 - (b) Type of Ownership
 - (c) Owners of the club
 - (d) Date of Issuance

Article 10 Withdraw of certificate of club ownership

1. The FUFA may withdraw the Certificate of Club Ownership for the following reasons;
 - (a) Failure to comply with FUFA Rules
 - (b) Failure to participate in Association Football for more than 2 consecutive football seasons
 - (c) If the club goes into administration and no new owners are found to take over the club
2. Any person who leads to the withdraw of the Certificate of Club Ownership shall be barred from owning another club for at least five (5) years after such withdrawal without prejudice to additional sanctions that competent FUFA bodies may impose

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 11 Consequences of Non-Compliance

1. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result into: -
 - (a) Non approval of transfer of club ownership
 - (b) Denial of club recognition by FUFA.
 - (c) Suspension from FUFA competitions.
 - (d) Financial penalties or administrative sanctions.
 - (e) Opening up judicial proceeding over the registered club owners
 - (f) Suspension of the current owners of the club
 - (g) Refusal from any future registration with any recognized club

Article 12 Change of club ownership

1. One, part, or all the owners of a football club may transfer their ownership of the football club.
2. The following shall be submitted for change of Club Ownership:
 - (a) FUFA Club Ownership Transfer Request Form.
 - (b) Payment slips for application fees for Transfer of Club Ownership
 - (c) Payment slips for Transfer fees for Club Ownership
 - (d) Financial Statement of the transferer at the date of application.
3. A transfer from a community club ownership to other type of ownership is prohibited.
4. Unless settled at the point of Transfer, all liabilities inclusive of dues to players and employees at the club shall be considered transferred to the new owner
5. FUFA may set a condition before transfer of club ownership is authorized to include among others, settlement of part or all the outstanding liabilities.
6. It is at FUFA's discretion to approve transfer the ownership of a club
7. Upon satisfaction of compliance with FUFA Rules, FUFA will
 - (a) amend the existing Certificate of Club Ownership by crossing the existing owners to include new owners
 - (b) amend the existing the FUFA Register of Clubs by crossing the existing owners to include new owners
8. Change of Name, Structure, Form and Ownership of the legal or natural person owning a football club shall not be considered as change of Ownership of the Club until the Change of Ownership process detailed in these regulations is completed.
9. Change of Name of the Owner shall not mean change of name of the Club

SECTION B: GENERAL PROVISIONS

10. FUFA or its delegated authority will appoint an interim Ownership for a period of one (1) month in event of a club is being abandoned by its Owners. The interim owners will have only one task of finding a new ownership to the club and in event of failure the club will be wound-up
11. In the event of a change in club ownership, it shall be mandatory; -
 - (a) That the outgoing owners formally transfer the Certificate of Club Ownership and any relevant club documents to the new owners.
 - (b) The new owners submit the updated ownership details to FUFA for approval and registration.
12. Ownership changes that do not follow FUFA procedures shall be considered invalid and may lead to club sanctions, including suspension from FUFA competitions.
13. New owners must meet FUFA's eligibility criteria for club ownership;
14. Clubs operating as companies or legal entities must submit updated shareholder agreements and board-certified resolutions reflecting the new ownership.

SECTION C: FINAL PROVISIONS

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Article 13 Publication of Club Ownership Details

1. To promote transparency and accountability in club management, FUFA shall periodically publish and update the list of club owners as recorded in the FUFA Certificate of Club Ownership.

Article 14 Obligation to comply with FUFA Club Licensing Regulations

1. Club owners and the club chief Executive Officers have the responsibility to FUFA fully comply with FUFA Club Licensing Regulations that are enforce from time to time.
2. Non-compliance with FUFA Club Licensing Regulations shall result in sanctions, including fines, points deductions, or suspension from FUFA competitions

Article 15 Additional considerations

1. FUFA reserves the right to audit clubs for compliance with ownership and registration requirements at any time.
2. No club shall participate in FUFA organized and FUFA authorised competitions without valid ownership documentation.
3. Club disputes regarding ownership shall be resolved in accordance with FUFA's Disciplinary and FUFA club Licensing structures.
4. Third-party influence on club ownership is strictly prohibited as per FIFA and FUFA Rules.

Article 16 Amendments

1. FUFA may amend these regulations in total or part and such amendment shall come into force when signed and released. FUFA may amend these regulations in whole or in part, and such amendments shall come into force upon signing and release.

SECTION C: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 17 FUFA circulars and matters not provided for

1. All matters not provided for in these regulations or content of clarification shall be decided by FUFA in line with the FUFA Rules, such communication may supersede contents in these regulations.

Article 18 Declaration

1. By signing, FUFA declares that these are the regulations that shall govern club ownership and registration. The regulations come into force immediately are signed and released and shall remain into force until amended.

FOR THE FUFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Eng. Moses Magogo Hassim
President



Edgar Watson Suubi
Chief Executive Officer