



SAFA COMPETITIONS UNIFORM RULES

1. COMPOSITION

- 1.1 All clubs affiliated (inclusive of their officials, servants, or duly authorized {express or implied} representatives) together with all amateur players registered for the purposes of participating in all the South African Football Association ("SAFA") amateur Leagues {Men's Provincial League, Men's Regional League, Women's Provincial League, Women's Regional League and the SAFA Junior Football (SJF) Leagues - U13 & U15 Boys & Girls} will be bound by the Rules contained hereunder and the Regulations hereof ("the Uniform Rules"), regulating each of the aforementioned SAFA Competitions.
- 1.2 Each SAFA League Competition is made up of teams affiliated to SAFA Local Football Associations registered to participate in them and comprises of streams with each geo-political Province ("Province"), SAFA Region and SAFA Local Football Association ("LFA").

2. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- 2.1 The trophies, medals and prize money will be determined by SAFA at the beginning of each season.
- 2.2 The winners of each SAFA Competition will be awarded winners' medals, which they will retain permanently after the respective Play-offs (i.e. National, Provincial and Regional), and trophies.
- 2.3 Winning teams will also receive prize money within thirty (30) days of the completion of each SAFA Competition.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE SAFA COMPETITIONS

- 3.1 The SAFA Competitions will be played in streams, as determined by SAFA, and set out in the technical rules set out hereunder. Each Competition will have a sponsor, whose name will prefix the name of the Competition.
- 3.2 Each Province will have a single stream of the SAFA Men's Promotional League and a single stream of SAFA Women's Provincial League. Each stream will comprise of a maximum of 16 teams.
- 3.3 Each SAFA Region will have a single stream of the SAFA Men's Regional League and a single stream of the SAFA Women's Regional League. Each stream will comprise of a maximum of 16 teams, except where the area is vast to the detriment of the participating teams, in which case there may be additional streams, provided that there will be a single stream within one hundred and fifty (150) kilometer radius. The SAFA Competitions Committee ("the Competitions

Committee”) will determine the demarcations and if there is dispute about the demarcations, such disputes will be referred to the SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee (“the Dispute Resolution Committee”).

4. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

4.1 Relegation and Promotion

- 4.1.1 Each stream of the SAFA Competitions will consist of a maximum of sixteen (16) teams who will play in the relevant competition during the SAFA season which will be from August to May {Men’s Football} or February to November {Women’s Football} in the following year.
- 4.1.2 The relegation and promotion of teams at the conclusion of a season of the SAFA Competitions will take place as provided for in the Regulations and as outlined hereunder (This Rule does not apply to the SAFA Junior Football Leagues):
 - 4.1.2.1 Two (2) teams at the bottom positions of each stream will be relegated to the immediate lower league, except where a team has been promoted to the higher league in the respective stream;
 - 4.1.2.2 Two teams from the immediate lower leagues in each Province, SAFA Region and SAFA LFA, respectively, will be promoted to the respective streams of the SAFA Competitions; after the respective Play-offs;
 - 4.1.2.3 Subject to 4.1.2.1, the number of relegated teams may be more than two (2) in each stream, depending on the number of teams relegated from the National First Division to each Province, which may have a knock on effect, resulting in the Competitions Committee reciprocating by relegating the same number of teams as the number that needs to be accommodated from the National First Division, in case of the SAFA Men’s Competitions.
- 4.1.3 Teams will submit the prescribed entry and information documents together with the prescribed entry fee on or before the specified deadline date, which, unless stated otherwise, will be the 1st of August in each year.
- 4.1.4 On entering any competition administered by SAFA, teams undertake to:
 - 4.1.4.1 Observe these Uniform Rules and all SAFA prescripts;
 - 4.1.4.2 Accept that all administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with any competition administered by SAFA will be dealt with in terms of these Uniform Rules, and where all of the above are silent, by the decisions of the Competitions Committee in accordance with the prescripts of SAFA.
- 4.1.5 Should a promoted team withdraw or be withdrawn from the SAFA Competitions before the commencement of a season, the Competitions Committee may allow the next best

finishing team of the lower leagues in the Province, SAFA Region and SAFA LFA, respectively, to be promoted to the respective stream.

- 4.1.6 The National Play-offs, involving the SAFA Men's Promotional League teams will be conducted in two streams, i.e. Inland and Coastal, and the winners of the two streams will be automatically promoted to the National First Division.
- 4.1.7 All teams who qualify for the play-offs for promotion into the higher leagues will be bound by these Uniform Rules, subject to the provisions of and specific regulations applicable to play-offs or promoted Clubs.
- 4.1.8 The Competitions Committee will verify and confirm all promotions and relegations of the various leagues in each province and where applicable in any other instance within thirty (30) of the completion of each SAFA Competition.

4.2 Participation in Competitions

- 4.2.1 It will be peremptory for all teams affiliated to SAFA to participate in all competitions and/or activities administered by SAFA.

4.3 Sale of Franchise and Relocation

- 4.3.1 No team will be allowed to sell its franchise and relocate its home base unless such a transaction is sanctioned by the SAFA National Executive Committee ("the NEC") on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee, which permission will not be unreasonably withheld. It must be noted that a Club's entitlement to participate in a league championship will depend principally on sporting merit. The sale of a franchise which is to the detriment of a league championship and results in changing headquarters, changing the name and/or stakeholders, and furthermore is to the detriment of the integrity of sports competition, must be prohibited. A decision to decline the sanctioning of the sale can be appealed against to the SAFA Appeals Board ("the Appeals Board").
- 4.3.2 In the event of a Club being sold and relocating, it will be relegated to its current Province or SAFA Region or SAFA LFA, except where the Competitions Committee decides otherwise after considering a properly motivated application to that effect.
- 4.3.3 No team will be allowed to change its name without the prior approval of SAFA, on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee, which will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 4.3.4 National First Division teams that are relegated, alternatively demoted through other processes, will revert to their current Provinces, subject to recommendation of the Competitions Committee which may decide otherwise after considering a properly motivated application to that effect.

4.4 Local Football Association (“LFA”) Affiliation

- 4.4.1 All Clubs with teams in the SAFA Competitions, including newly purchased franchises will be affiliated to the SAFA LFA’s in which their home bases are situated, and the Region be duly notified.
- 4.4.2 Any teams failing to comply with this rule will be guilty of misconduct and liable to any sanction in terms of these rules (or the SAFA Statute and/or SAFA Disciplinary Code) imposed by the SAFA Disciplinary Committee (“the Disciplinary Committee”).

4.5 Development or Reserve Sides

- 4.5.1 A Club may have a team in each of the SAFA Competitions and all other lower leagues within the SAFA structures.
- 4.5.2 Should a Club have a team in any of the SAFA Competitions and any other lower leagues within the SAFA structures, the following will apply:
 - 4.5.2.1 A team participating in the lower of the SAFA Competitions is not entitled for promotion to a higher SAFA Competition, in which the same Club has another team;
 - 4.5.2.2 Should a team be eligible for promotion from the lower SAFA Competitions and the Club has another team in a higher SAFA Competition, then the next best finishing team will be eligible for promotion;
 - 4.5.2.3 Should a team be relegated from a higher SAFA Competition to a lower SAFA Official Competition and the Club had another team in the lower SAFA Competition, then the team in the lower SAFA Competition will automatically be relegated to the immediate lower league, irrespective of its log position.
- 4.5.3 No Club within the structures of SAFA will have more than one (1) team in the same league.
- 4.5.4 Should a Club have a team in the Premier Division or the National First Division of the National Soccer League, its reserve team in the SAFA Second Division League will not be eligible for promotion and participation in the Play-offs for promotions, as well as not eligible to participate in the Nedbank Cup SAFA Level.
- 4.5.5 Should a Club have a team in the SAFA Second Division League, its reserve team in the SAB Regional League will not be eligible for promotion and participation in the Play-offs for promotions, as well as not eligible to participate in the Nedbank Cup - SAFA Level.

5. DATES AND VENUES OF MATCHES

- 5.1 The dates and venues of matches will be set by SAFA.

- 5.2 Should a team wish to change a fixture such notice will reach the SAFA offices in writing at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date subject to the case of emergencies or where it is impractical, the days of such notice may be less. Clubs will be notified of fixture changes, in writing at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the match.
- 5.3 Fixtures may only be amended in extreme circumstances, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer of SAFA ("the CEO") or Designated SAFA Officials.
- 5.4 Save where permission to change a fixture has been given in terms of Rule 5.3, no fixture may be changed in any manner whatsoever.
- 5.5 In the case of teams affiliated to the SAFA Competitions:
- 5.5.1 The onus of securing a venue will be on the home team and its failure to secure a venue will constitute misconduct, such team will forfeit the match points if the Team is found guilty by the Disciplinary Committee;
- 5.5.2 Should a match be abandoned by the Referee due to power failure in a match under floodlights, then the match SAFA will be rescheduled to another date, time and venue to be confirmed by the Association;
- 5.5.3 In its application to SAFA for affiliation, a team will name its home ground as well as its alternative home ground. In the event of neither venue being suitable, SAFA will have a right to fixture a match at an alternative ground at its absolute discretion;
- 5.5.4 If, for any reason, a team is unable to play its home fixture at its home ground, it may apply, subject to Rules 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4, to play its fixtures at a ground selected as an alternative home ground or at a neutral venue to be determined by SAFA;
- 5.5.5 In the event of a request for a neutral venue, all costs inclusive of ground rental and security will be borne by the original home team. Such costs will also be inclusive of the traveling costs of the away team from the original home ground to the alternative neutral venue if the distance between the original home ground and the alternative and/or neutral venue exceeds five (5) kilometers;
- 5.5.6 Each team will register its home ground/s with SAFA and no team will relocate to another ground without prior written consent of the Designated SAFA Officials, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld;
- 5.5.7 In the event of a home ground comprising of more than one field of play, the home team will specify the field that it registers as compliant to Rules 8.2 and 8.3;
- 5.5.8 Teams must register their pitch dimensions with SAFA prior to the start of each season and it will be deemed misconduct for a club to alter its pitch dimensions

during a season unless it is done with the prior written consent of the Designated SAFA Official;

5.5.9 The Designated SAFA Official may at any time, call for a team to submit a report from a qualified independent expert certifying pitch dimensions or compliance with any other FIFA requirements;

5.5.10 Each team will take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch in good order and SAFA may require a team to take such steps, as the Designated SAFA Official will specify if SAFA is not satisfied that an adequate standard of pitch is maintained;

5.5.11 Each team will provide separate areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of team officials, medical staff and substitutes. Such designated areas will be clearly marked "home" and "visitors", have direct access to the pitch, be located equidistant from the halfway line and be capable of seating not more than twelve (12) persons from each team.

5.6 Each team will be entitled to have a maximum of seven (7) substitutes on the bench.

5.7 It is the responsibility of a home team to inform the nearest public health institution of their home game for the institution to be on stand-by and, where possible, to have a medical practitioner or physiotherapist in attendance throughout a match.

6. MATCHES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

6.1 All matches will be played according to the Laws of the Game authorized by the International Football Board and published by FIFA.

6.2 No more than five (5) team officials, who will be so registered with SAFA, in terms of the team's registration, will be allowed to be seated on the team bench. The officials will include the coach, assistant coach, medical doctor and/or masseur, and who will be obliged to produce their official cards should they be called upon to do so by the referee.

6.3 In the event of the persons referred to in 6.2 not being in possession of a SAFA registration card, alternatively, being in excess of the number referred to, they will immediately be removed from the field and the team may be charged with misconduct.

7. DURATION OF MATCHES

7.1 All matches will be played in terms of Rule 7 of FIFA Laws of the Game, and as such, the match will be for the duration of two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes, the referee's optional time or injury time being at the absolute discretion of the referee.

7.2 Players are entitled to an interval at half time, which must not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

7.3 The duration of the interval will be 15 minutes for the SAFA Official Competitions matches and this period may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

8. FIELD OF PLAY

- 8.1 SAFA will inspect the fields of play and all teams will ensure that their fields of play comply with the Laws of the Game and the directives of FIFA, prior to the commencement of a season.
- 8.2 The minimum illumination necessary for night matches will be 200 lux.
- 8.3 The dimensions of the fields of play will be as follows:
 - 8.3.1 Maximum length 120 meters; minimum length of 100 meters;
 - 8.3.2 Maximum width 75 meters; minimum width of 68 meters.
- 8.4 The referee is the sole judge of whether or not a match should be postponed or abandoned due to the unsuitability of a ground caused by inclement weather or any other factor.
- 8.5 Match-balls will be in accordance with the Laws of the Game, and will be FIFA approved balls. The home team will supply the match ball; however, the referee may accept a ball from the away team if the home team is unable to provide a ball of suitable quality.
- 8.6 A fixture may be played partly or wholly under floodlights.
- 8.7 In normal circumstances, the referee will be the sole judge as to whether or not a pitch is fit for a fixture. However, in circumstances considered extra-ordinary by the Designated SAFA Official, he may order a postponement of any game(s) provided such announcement is made before noon (12h00) on the day of the match.
- 8.9 If a fixture is postponed through weather inclination, or the state of the pitch because of the weather, SAFA will set another date on which the game will be played.

9. PLAYERS SELECTED FOR REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

- 9.1 Should three (3) or more players selected for a representative team be selected from the same team and be required to participate in a representative match arranged by or through SAFA, then any fixture of the team affected due to take place within forty-eight (48) hours of the representative match will be postponed, provided that the affected team applies, in writing, for a postponement of such fixture and has been granted written permission by SAFA for such postponement.
- 9.2 A player will not be allowed to play for his team forty-eight (48) hours before a representative fixture in which he is due to play.
- 9.3 SAFA will have discretion whether or not to grant permission to play in a team match to a player who has been selected or is in training with a representative team.

10. TEAM SHEETS

- 10.1 Teams will submit duly completed team sheets to the referee at least forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of play. Such list to include:
- 10.1.1 The full names (family and first) of the eleven (11) players (as well as their registration numbers) who are starting the game;
 - 10.1.2 The full names (family and first) of the seven (7) substitutes (as well as their registration numbers) which may be utilized during the game;
 - 10.1.3 The full names of the team officials positioned in the technical areas for the game.
- 10.2 If a player's name appears on the team sheet he/she will be deemed, for the purposes of these Uniform Rules, to have participated in the match, save that a team may at any time before kick-off, amend its team sheet by substituting any player, if its opponents have lodged a protest in terms of these Uniform Rules relating to the use of any player who is allegedly unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, in which case the said substituted player will not be deemed to have participated in the match.

11. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 11.1 Every player will be properly registered according to the procedures for registrations and transfers contained in Rule 14 before he/she may play or be named on the team sheet in any match of the SAFA Official Competitions.
- 11.2 Registration cards will always be available for inspection by the referee 1 hour (one hour) prior to the match. No player will be allowed to participate without a valid card. The referee will demand to see all players' cards in the presence of both teams' representatives and in the presence of the respective players, prior to the commencement of the match.
- 11.3 It will be misconduct for a team to field a player without a player's registration card, alternatively failing to make a valid player's registration card available for inspection prior to the match. A team found guilty of this offence will forfeit any points earned in such game.
- 11.4 The principle of "no card, no play" will apply without exception in all SAFA Competitions.
- 11.5 It will be an offence to submit any false information when registering a player. The onus will be on the player's team to reasonably ensure that the information submitted is accurate in every respect, and that all requirements are adhered to. The issuing of a card does not absolve the team of this responsibility.
- 11.6 It will be an offence to field an unregistered or improperly registered player. The term "field" will include the situation where a player is a named substitute but does not actually take the field.

12. FOREIGN PLAYERS

“Foreign Player” is a footballer (male or female) who is neither a South African citizen nor a foreign-born national who acquired permanent residence status in terms of section 25 of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act 13 of 2002).

- 12.1 A foreign player is a player as defined above, and in addition, such foreign player will not be eligible to represent South Africa in any of its representatives teams, including National level, unless such foreign national has acquired permanent residence status in terms of section 25 of the Immigration Act, 2002, and otherwise complies with the statutes of FIFA in relation to eligibility.
- 12.2 Any number of players may be registered to participate in a team participating at Local Football Association (LFA) level provided that such a team will not be eligible for promotion to any of the Promotional, Inter-regional, or Provincial or National Leagues or Competitions.
- 12.3 Teams participating in any of the Regional, Inter-Region/Provincial or National Leagues or Competitions may not register more than (three) 3 foreign players provided these players comply with the rules for the eligibility of players as prescribed in Uniform Rule 11, and this Rule.
- 12.4 In order to be eligible for registration and participation, foreign players must comply with Rule 11 above, and in addition, produce a valid passport document, and if the foreign player is a refugee, a valid asylum seekers permit as provided for in the Refugee’s Act, 130 of 1998, a valid work or study permit, or any permit provided for in sections 11-23 of the Immigration Act 2002, and an international clearance certificate in the event that the foreign player was registered and participated, in a foreign country as a footballer.
- 12.5 The Foreign Players Rules does not apply in the SAFA Junior Football Leagues.

13. STATUS OF PLAYERS

- 13.1 Players affiliated to the SAFA Official Competitions will only be amateur {unless otherwise as defined by Uniform Rule 13.4 here below} players as defined in the provisions relating to the regulations on the status and transfer of players in the SAFA Statute and prescripts, unless there is a contract stating otherwise, and in such an event the contract must be lodged with SAFA.
- 13.2 Players who have never received any remuneration other than for the actual expenses incurred during the course of their participation in or for any activity connected with association football will be regarded as amateurs.
- 13.3 Travel and hotel expenses incurred through involvement in a match and the costs of players' equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed without jeopardizing a player's amateur status.

- 13.4 Any player who has ever received remuneration in excess of the amount stated under paragraph 13.3 in respect of participation in or an activity connected with association football will be regarded as a professional unless he/she has reacquired amateur status or has lodged a contract with SAFA which provides for his professional or semi-professional status.
- 13.5 The registration of an amateur player will be valid only for the season in which the registration form is signed where after such a player will be deemed to be a free agent subject to these Uniform Rules and compliance with Uniform Rule 13.6.
- 13.6 An amateur player's registration will expire at the end of the season for which he is registered, which for the purposes of this Rule, will be deemed to be the 31st May, or within four (4) days of the team's last match of the season, whichever is the later. After this date, the player will be free to sign for another team for the following season, after having obtained a clearance certificate from his existing team.
- 13.7 A player may apply to SAFA, to be declared a free agent within thirty (30) days of any of the following occurring:
- 13.7.1 His club has ceased to exist as a club falling under the jurisdiction of SAFA;
- 13.7.2 His club refuses or fails to issue a clearance certificate to which the player is entitled; and
- 13.7.3 It is in the interest of fairness and equity.
- 13.8 Any team/club in the semi or professional league that acquires or registers a player from the SAFA Official Competitions will be required to compensate the club/team for the development of such player at a fee to be agreed upon by the parties, guided by the principles of the FIFA development compensation regime.
- 13.9 Any dispute regarding the status of a player involved in a transfer within the Republic of South Africa will be settled by the Dispute Resolution Committee structure in terms of these Uniform Rules and other relevant SAFA prescripts.
- 13.10 SAFA will keep official registers of all players under its jurisdiction.

14. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 14.1 Only a player who is currently registered by SAFA will be permitted to participate in official matches of the SAFA Official Competitions.
- 14.2 Players may only be registered during these dates endorsed by SAFA;
- I. for the Men's Football Registration i.e.(September and October) and the Window Period (February);

- II. for the Women's Football Registration i.e. (February and March) and the Window Period (July and August);
 - III. the SAFA Junior Football League will register players from February to October.
- 14.3 Eligibility to play will only be granted to a player who fulfils any of the following conditions:
- 14.3.1 If the player in question has never previously been registered with a team playing the jurisdiction of SAFA;
 - 14.3.2 If the player in question was not registered with a team playing association football in the preceding season;
 - 14.3.3 If the player in question has been previously registered with the same team under SAFA jurisdiction;
 - 14.3.4 If the player in question is transferred from one team to another team, playing under the jurisdiction of SAFA in accordance with these Uniform Rules and holds a valid transfer certificate;
 - 14.3.5 If the player in question is transferred from a club in a foreign national association to a team in the SAFA Official Competitions and SAFA holds a valid international transfer certificate issued by the national association releasing the player.
- 14.4 The foregoing provisions are subject to the terms applicable under paragraph 15 below and to cases in which temporary eligibility is provided for by the prescripts of SAFA.
- 14.5 The following must be submitted when a registration is applied for:
- 14.5.1 The applicable registration form from the registration book allocated to that team;
 - 14.5.2 An original player's passport or identity document (certified copy of the ID);
 - 14.5.3 The player's transfer certificate/clearance certificate;
 - 14.5.4 A duly completed medical report;
 - 14.5.5 Three recent, colour passport-sized photographs of the player.
- 14.6 All forms must be submitted within five days of signature of the player.
- 14.7 Teams may only submit documents for the registration of players to the offices of SAFA during working hours. The registration card will only be issued on the fifth working day after the documents were submitted, i.e. a registration submitted on a Thursday will only be issued on the following Thursday.
- 14.8 Any contract signed by a club and a player where such exists.

- 14.9 Each Team will be allowed to register a maximum of thirty (40) Players per Season per Team i.e. payment for the first twenty-two (22) is included in the Entry Fee and the remaining eight (8) must be paid for before being the processed.

15. TRANSFERS OF PLAYERS

- 15.1 By agreement between Clubs, players may be transferred from one Club to another subject to the provisions of these rules.
- 15.2 A player will not:
- 15.2.1 Play for more than three (3) Clubs or be registered more than twice by the same team in the SAFA League Competitions in a single season;
 - 15.2.2 Revert to the team with which he started the season or the team he may officially have left during the season before a period of thirty (30) days has elapsed.
- 15.3 The transfer of a player from one Club to another will be in writing, signed by a designated official of the transferring Club as contained in the records of SAFA. It will be necessary for the Club from which he/she is being transferred to provide an official clearance and for the player's new Club to register him officially.
- 15.4 Should a player be granted a transfer by a Club, and the player accepts the said transfer, in writing, it will be necessary for the Club to furnish a clearance and for his new Club to register him. (the status of the player must be stated in the clearance letter i.e. amateur or professional).
- 15.5 Clubs transferring players in terms of these Rules amongst themselves with the consent of the player will furnish to SAFA and the player a signed clearance confirming that the player in question is in good standing with the Club.
- 15.6 When a player who is currently registered in any of the SAFA Leagues is being transferred during the middle of the season / registration window period, the transferring Club will immediately surrender the players' registration card upon signing of the transfer certificate. Failure to surrender the card will be treated as an act of misconduct on the part of the transferring Club.

16. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

- 16.1 An amateur player registered with a Club outside South Africa may not be registered with a Club having a team within the SAFA League Competitions unless SAFA has received an international transfer certificate issued by the national association outside South Africa.
- 16.2 Only SAFA will be entitled to request an international transfer certificate, after first having been requested to do so in writing by a Club intending to register a foreign player.

- 16.3 Any clause or reference to any particular team contained in or appended to the international transfer certificate will be considered null and void.

17. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESSES

- 17.1 Subject to the applicable schedule of fees, as approved by the SAFA Congress, there will be five (5) processes of dispute resolution available to the teams within the SAFA Official Competitions, which are:
- 17.1.1 **Protests:** - Men and Women's Regional Leagues and SAFA Junior Football Leagues R 5 000.00
Men and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 10 000.00
- 17.1.2 **Complaints:-** Men and Women's Regional Leagues and SAFA JFL R 2 000.00
Men and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 5 000.00
- 17.1.3 **Dispute Resolution:** Men and Women's Regional Leagues and SJF Leagues R 3 500.00
Men and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 10 000.00
- 17.1.4 **Appeals:** Men and Women's Regional Leagues and SJF Leagues - R 5 000.00
Men and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 15 000.00
- 17.1.5 **Arbitrations:** Men and Women's Regional Leagues and SJF Leagues - R 10 000.00
Men and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 30 000.00
- 17.2 The aforementioned processes are preceded by administrative processes that are monitored and enforced by the Designated SAFA Official(s) and whose decisions in terms thereof are final, which administrative processes are dealt with hereunder.
- 17.3 SAFA and each of its Members, at Provincial, Regional and Local levels will appoint a Disciplinary Committee in terms of the SAFA Statute to deal with judicial processes that are of a disciplinary or misconduct nature in accordance with the SAFA Statute and the SAFA Disciplinary Code as amended by these Uniform Rules.
- 17.4 SAFA and each of its Provincial Members will appoint a Dispute Resolution Committee in terms of the SAFA Statute to deal with judicial processes that are of not of a disciplinary or misconduct nature in accordance and to do so in accordance with the SAFA Statute read with these Uniform Rules and/or other relevant SAFA prescripts.

18. PROTESTS

- 18.1 Any team directly involved in a game may lodge a protest with SAFA in respect of any game played under the auspices of SAFA, if the protesting club participated in the same game.
- 18.2 Where the protest relates:
- 18.2.1 The use of a player reflected on the opposing team sheet who is allegedly unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, the protesting team must, at any time prior to the kick-off of the match, object in writing on the team sheet to the use of the said player (setting out the reasons for the objection) by furnishing the referee in the presence of the senior assistant referee, with such objection and the objection is counter-signed by the opposing captain, and endorsed by the referee in his report and/or the report of the Match Commissioner; or
- 18.2.2 Any other contravention of the SAFA Statute and/or these Uniform Rules by a team, team official, player or match official (offending party) who participated in the said match, the protesting team must ensure that the exact nature and cause of the protest is furnished in writing to the referee in the presence of the senior assistant referee, and is counter-signed by the opposing captain, immediately prior to the kick-off of the match, or on the field of play at any time before the final whistle.
- 18.3 A written protest, accompanied by a protest fee, as determined in these Uniform Rules and/or SAFA Schedules, must be lodged with the Designated SAFA offices within forty-eight (48) hours (these hours apply to working days and will not run on weekends or public holidays) after the game, which are administrative processes referred to in Rule 17.2 herein.
- 18.4 The written protest, referred to in 18.3 above, must set out the full facts on which it is based and must refer to the Article and/or Rule and Regulation allegedly contravened by the offending party.
- 18.5 A protest will not be made against the referee's and/or assistant referee's decision connected within the field of play, such decisions are considered final.
- 18.6 Upon receipt of a protest, the Designated SAFA Official may:
- 18.6.1 Forward to the offending party the documentation received from the protesting team, advise the offending party, of the nature of the protest and request such party for a written explanation, but warning such party, that such explanation may be later used in evidence against the said party.
- 18.7 If no replies have been sought, or if they have, upon receipt of the replies asked for, or if no replies are received within five (5) days of the Designated SAFA Official making the requests, the matter will be referred by SAFA to the Disciplinary Committee.

- 18.8 Any charge(s) referred by SAFA in terms of Rule 18.6 will be heard by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules and will deal with the matters raised by the protesting party in its written protest. The onus is on the protesting party to ensure that the provisions of Rules 18.2, 18.3, and 18.4 above are complied with. Should the protest not comply with these provisions, the protest will be dismissed.
- 18.9 The protesting team will take responsibility for preparing and presenting its case and conduct the proceedings in the same way SAFA would in the case of misconduct proceedings at the instance of the Association. The protesting team will consequently have the right to be present at, or give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge(s) against the alleged offending party. SAFA may subpoena the witnesses to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in the hearing at the specific and timeous request of the protesting party or the alleged offending party. The Party requesting witnesses shall be responsible for the traveling costs of the witnesses.

19. COMPLAINTS

- 19.1 Any team, affiliate, official, player, staff member, or any other person or body in membership of SAFA or its affiliates, inclusive of a Club that has not lodged a protest in respect of a game in which it participated, may lodge a complaint with SAFA, in respect of any act of misconduct/offence allegedly committed.
- 19.2 The complaint must be lodged in writing within seven (7) days of the incident, and accompanied by a complaint fee, as determined in these Uniform Rules and/or SAFA Schedules.
- 19.3 The written complaint must set out the full facts on which it is based and refer to the Article and/or Rule and Regulation allegedly contravened by the offending party.
- 19.4 The complaint must not be in respect of a protest based on facts substantially similar to a grievance that has been complained of and has been entertained by SAFA and/or the Disciplinary Committee.
- 19.5 The complaint must not be made against the referee's and/or assistant referee's decisions connected with play in any game, except if the complaint contains an allegation of corruption.
- 19.6 The onus is on the complainant to ensure that the provisions of Rules 19.2, 19.3, 19.4 and 19.5 above are complied with. Should the complaint not comply with these provisions, the complaint will be dismissed.
- 19.7 Upon receipt of a complaint, the Designated SAFA Official may:
- 19.7.1 Call for any further written information and documentation from the complainant;
and

- 19.7.2 Forward to the alleged offending party the documentation received from the complainant and advises the alleged offending party of the nature of the complaint and asks such party for a written explanation, but warning such party, that such explanation may be later used in evidence against the said party.
- 19.8 If no reply has been sought, or upon receipt of the replies asked for, or if no replies are received within 5 (five) days of the Designated SAFA Official making these requests, the matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 19.9 Any charge(s) referred by SAFA in terms of Rule 19.8 will be heard by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules and will deal with the matters raised by the complainant in its written complaint.
- 19.10 The complainant will take responsibility for preparing and presenting its case and conduct the proceedings in the same way SAFA would in the case of misconduct proceedings at the instance of the Association. The complainant will consequently have the right to be present at, or give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge(s) against the alleged offending party. SAFA may subpoena witnesses to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in the hearing at the specific and timeous request of the complainant or the alleged offending party. The complainant will prepare the documents and prosecute his case and the alleged offending party will defend its case and present its evidence, the Association shall only prosecute cases where they have charged clubs for misconduct.
- 19.11 The sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee that hears a matter as a result of a complaint will be limited to the following sentences or combination of sentences:
- 19.11.1 The imposition of a monetary fine not exceeding R20 000, 00 (Twenty Thousand Rand);
- 19.11.2 The censure of the offending party concerned;
- 19.11.3 The closure of a ground for a stated period;
- 19.11.4 Ordering the offending party to pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter;
- 19.11.5 Suspension of individual players or officials;
- 19.11.6 Recommend to the Competitions Committee the cancellation/expulsion or suspension of a team from the SAFA League Competitions for any period. In this case, all results involving the expelled team will be expunged from the SAFA League Competitions as if the team had never played any matches;
- 19.11.7 The barring of the offending party from entering the relevant SAFA League Competition in the following season;

- 19.11.8 Forfeiture of points without awarding them to the complainant or any other team directly or indirectly affected by the misconduct.

20. DISPUTES

- 20.1 Any dispute or difference, not otherwise expressly provided for in the SAFA Statute or these Uniform Rules between a club or clubs and any player in respect of the player's registration, transfer or contract of service will be adjudicated by the Dispute Resolution Committee provided that the dispute does not fall under the jurisdiction of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber or the Player Status Committee.
- 20.2 A party to the dispute will lodge with the relevant SAFA Official, a written notice of dispute accompanied by a dispute fee as determined in the Uniform Rules and/or SAFA Schedules.
- 20.3 Thereafter SAFA will summon all the parties to the dispute, to appear before the Dispute Resolution Committee.
- 20.4 In hearing the dispute, the Dispute Resolution Committee will adopt such procedures or formalities as it, in its sole discretion deems appropriate, save where otherwise provided in the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules.
- 20.5 Any party to the dispute may appeal against any decision of the Dispute Resolution Committee. No other person or body will have the right to appeal against any decision of the Dispute Resolution Committee taken in terms of this Rule. The appeal will be lodged in terms of relevant SAFA prescripts.

21. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 21.1 The panelists who will comprise the Disciplinary Committee will be approved from time to time by the NEC and will act in conformity with and apply the provisions of these Uniform Rules, the SAFA Statute and where applicable any other relevant SAFA prescripts. The panel to hear a particular dispute will be selected from the list of Disciplinary Committee panelists approved by the NEC. It shall be permissible for the chairperson of a Disciplinary Committee panel to hear and determine any matter alone.
- 21.2 The Disciplinary Committee will act in accordance with the procedures laid down in these Uniform Rules and will have the powers set out in these Rules and as the SAFA Statute and relevant SAFA prescripts.
- 21.3 All parties summoned or called as witnesses in a disciplinary matter will be informed by SAFA of the time and place of the hearing at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the hearing, and will be entitled to be personally present at the hearing, at their own cost.
- 21.4 All parties involved in a disciplinary hearing are obliged to collaborate to establish the facts and in particular to admit facts that are not in dispute at the earliest opportunity and to treat

each other and the Disciplinary Committee with respect and with a view to ensuring expeditious and fair resolution of disputes.

- 21.5 It will be the responsibility of the parties to ensure the indexed and paginated bundles of documents are prepared before the hearing and exchanged between them and made available to the Disciplinary Committee at the hearing of the matter.
- 21.6 The Disciplinary Committee will have absolute discretion regarding proof and will, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings and especially the manner in which the parties co-operate in establishing the facts in accordance with these Uniform Rules.

22. PROCEDURE AT ANY HEARING BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 22.1 The CEO or the Designated SAFA Official, will have the power to appoint a pro-forma prosecutor to present the charge to the Disciplinary Committee and to call evidence and make submissions in support of the charge on behalf of SAFA, in particular to prosecute all acts of misconduct/offenses at the instance of SAFA. A protesting or complaining party will present the charge, call evidence, and make submissions where the matter has been referred by the Designated SAFA Official, to the Disciplinary Committee as result of a protest or complaint.
- 22.2 All parties, other than SAFA, involved in a disciplinary matter will be summoned by SAFA and informed of the time and place of the hearing at least seventy-two (72) prior to the hearing, and will be entitled to be personally present at the hearing at their own cost.
- 22.3 In the case where a party has been charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence, by SAFA such summons will:
 - 22.3.1 set out concisely the charge(s) preferred against such party. In the case of a protest or complaint the charges will be those set out in the written protest or complaint and it will be the responsibility of the protestor or complainant to ensure that the charges are properly set out and particularized;
 - 22.3.2 be accompanied by a list of the documents that are relevant and will be relied upon at the hearing and copies of the documents will be supplied to the accused party on the date the summons is served. In the case of a protest or complaint it will be the responsibility of the protestor or complainant to ensure that SAFA is provided with the list and relevant documents and to ensure that these are served on the accused party.
- 22.4 No summonses in respect of any hearing before the Disciplinary Committee may be regarded as excipiable and in the event of such summons, in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee being excipiable, the summons may be amended orally at the hearing, thus enabling the matter to immediately proceed. The Disciplinary Committee will not, save in exceptional circumstances, allow proceedings to be delayed, and will seek to ensure that matters are dealt with as expeditiously as possible in every instance.

- 22.5 Should any party have been properly summoned, but fails to be present at the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee will have the right and obligation save if exceptional circumstances exist to continue with the hearing in the absence of such party and will summarily suspend such party until such party appears before it.
- 22.6 Parties to proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee will be entitled to legal representation or other assistance at their cost and it will be their responsibility to ensure that they arrange such representation and that the engagement of a representative does not cause delay in the proceedings.
- 22.7 No other party, other than a party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, or any SAFA official, will be entitled to attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 22.8 SAFA or the Disciplinary Committee may, at any stage, subpoena any person or body bound by the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules, to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in a hearing before the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 22.9 SAFA will furthermore issue a subpoena in terms of Rule 22.8 above, at the request of a party summoned by SAFA, provided a sum of money to cover the costs thereby entailed is deposited with SAFA prior to the issue of such a subpoena.
- 22.10 A witness subpoenaed to attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee, who fails to attend or remain in attendance at such a hearing until excused by the Disciplinary Committee, will be guilty of an offence.
- 22.11 If any witness present at a hearing is required to give evidence at such a hearing, and refuses to answer any question put to him, or refuses or fails to produce any book, paper or document required to be produced by him, the Disciplinary Committee may in a summary manner, enquire into such refusal or failure, and unless the person refusing or failing has a valid excuse for his refusal or failure, will sentence such a person to a fine of not more than R5 000,00 (Five Thousand Rand) over and above any other sentence it deems appropriate and provided for in the SAFA Statute, these Uniform Rules, or other relevant SAFA prescripts.

23. HEARINGS BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN CASES OF ALLEGED MISCONDUCT IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE ASSOCIATION HAS INSTITUTED A CHARGE

- 23.1 The authority to institute and conduct a prosecution before a Disciplinary Committee in respect of any act of misconduct/offence whether as a result of a protest or complaint or at the instance of the CEO or the relevant SAFA Official, will vest in SAFA.
- 23.2 The onus of proving the charge will lie with SAFA (or in the case of a protest or complaint upon the protestor or complainant) which must prove the charge on a balance of probabilities.

- 23.3 The pro-forma prosecutor (or protestor or complainant) conducting a prosecution may:
- 23.3.1 Before the accused pleads to a charge, withdraw that charge, in which event the accused will not be entitled to a verdict of acquittal in respect of that charge;
 - 23.3.2 At any time after an accused has pleaded to a charge, but before conviction, stop the prosecution in respect of that charge, in which event the Disciplinary Committee hearing the matter will acquit the accused in respect of that charge.
- 23.4 The pro-forma prosecutor (or protestor or complainant where applicable) will read out the summons addressed to the accused and the accused will then be asked by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee panel to plead "guilty" or "not guilty" to the charge(s). A plea by the accused that it/(s) he has already been convicted or acquitted of the offence with which it/(s) he is being charged may be pleaded together with a plea of "not guilty".
- 23.5 Where the accused pleads "guilty" to the charge/s, the Disciplinary Committee will, if satisfied that the accused is guilty of the offence to which it/he has pleaded "guilty", convict the accused on the plea of "guilt". Nothing in this Rule will prevent the pro-forma prosecutor (or protestor or complainant where applicable) from presenting evidence on any aspect of the charge, for the purposes of determining an appropriate sentence.
- 23.6 Where the accused pleads "not guilty", the Disciplinary Committee may, in its discretion, ask the accused whether he/she wishes to make a statement indicating the basis of its/his/her defense. Where the accused does not make a statement or does so, and it is not clear from the statement to what extent the accused denies or admits the issues raised by the plea, the Disciplinary Committee may question the accused in order to establish which allegations in the charge are in dispute.
- 23.7 The Disciplinary Committee may in its discretion, put any question to the accused to clarify any matter raised, in terms of Rule 23.6, and will enquire from the accused whether an allegation which is not placed in issue by the plea of "not guilty" may be recorded as an admission by the accused of that allegation, and if the accused so consents, such admission will be recorded and will be sufficient proof of such fact.
- 23.8 There will, if applicable, read out the reports of the various match officials. The fact contained in the match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate. However, proof of inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.
- 23.9 The pro-forma prosecutor (or protestor or complainant where applicable) may then call other witnesses in support of the charge(s). The accused will have the right to ask/ questions of such other witnesses as he/she has had to ask questions the match officials. The members of the Disciplinary Committee may also question such other witnesses.
- 23.10 At the conclusion of such evidence the prosecution case may be closed.

- 23.11 The accused may then give evidence on its/his/her own behalf and in such event its/she/ he may be questioned by the prosecution and the Disciplinary Committee.
- 23.12 The accused may then call witnesses to who questions may be put by the accused, in which event the prosecution and the Disciplinary Committee members may question them.
- 23.13 At the conclusion of such evidence, the accused's case will be closed.
- 23.14 The Disciplinary Committee may, if it deems desirable, or on request by a party, allow further evidence to be led by either the prosecution or the accused, or by both, after their cases are already closed.
- 23.15 Save where otherwise provided for in the SAFA Statute, these Uniform Rules, or other relevant SAFA prescripts, documentary evidence will not be admitted in terms of the "hearsay" evidence rule, below, unless the author thereof is present or the contents are not in dispute.
- 23.16 Save where otherwise provided for in the SAFA Statute, these Uniform Rules, or other relevant SAFA prescripts, "Hearsay" evidence will not be allowed, and all extraneous matters in the evidence will be ruled "out of order", save that television and video recordings may be used by any party to the proceedings (although this evidence will not have an effect on any decision of fact taken by the match officials).
- 23.17 No evidence on any previous misconduct of the accused will be admitted, unless the accused will have put his character in issue.
- 23.18 After the conclusion of the evidence called or produced by the accused, the prosecution and the accused in turn may make closing submissions. The prosecution may reply on any question, which the accused has raised in his address.
- 23.19 Upon the conclusion of the case, the Disciplinary Committee will deliberate thereon in camera and if unable to reach a decision there and then will indicate to the parties that a decision will be arrived at and provided to the parties, through the offices of SAFA, in writing.
- 23.20 If a decision is reached at the hearing, the parties will be recalled and the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee panel will announce the verdict.
- 23.21 If the accused is found "not guilty", the session will be declared closed.
- 23.22 If the accused is found "guilty", or the accused has pleaded "guilty", or the Disciplinary Committee has not been able to arrive at a decision there and then the Disciplinary Committee will call upon the prosecution to make representations regarding a suitable sentence to be imposed (if no decision has been reached on guilt or innocence this will be on the basis that these representations will only be take into account should a guilty finding be arrived at) and the accused will be entitled to address the Disciplinary Committee panel in mitigation of sentence (if no decision has been reached on guilt or innocence the

address will be on the basis that the panel will only have regard to it if a finding of guilt is arrived at).

- 23.23 In the event that a guilty finding has been arrived at the Disciplinary Committee will deliberate in camera upon the sentence to be imposed.
- 23.24 Once a decision has been reached, the parties will be recalled and the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee panel will announce the sentence. In the event that the Disciplinary Committee panel is not able to hand down a decision and sanction there and then it will deliver a written decision which will be provided by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee panel to SAFA so that the decision can be provided to the parties.
- 23.25 Save where the hearing took place pursuant to a complaint, the Disciplinary Committee panel will have the power to sentence the accused to the following sentences or combinations of sentences:
 - 23.25.1 Suspend the person or team from all or any specific football activities, either permanently or for a stated period of time or number of matches;
 - 23.25.2 Impose a monetary fine on the person or team concerned an amount not exceeding Twenty Thousand Rand (R20, 000, 00);
 - 23.25.3 Censure the person or team concerned;
 - 23.25.4 Order a person or team to pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter;
 - 23.25.5 Order a match to be replayed on such conditions as it may determine, or award a match to a team;
 - 23.25.6 Impose a fine of a stated number of league points;
 - 23.25.7 Close a ground for a stated period;
 - 23.25.8 Recommend to the Competitions Committee the expulsion or suspension of a team from the SAFA Official Competitions for any period. In this case, all results involving the expelled team will be expunged from the relevant SAFA Official Competition as if the team had never played any matches;
 - 23.25.9 The barring of the offending party from entering the relevant competition in the following season;
 - 23.25.10 Rule that a score in a match that was abandoned by the referee be declared the result of the match;
 - 23.25.11 Take any other action as specifically provided for in the SAFA Statute or these Uniform Rules;

23.25.12 Take any other disciplinary action, as the Disciplinary Committee may deem reasonable and appropriate in the particular circumstances of the matter in question.

23.26 SAFA or an accused party charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence will have the right to appeal against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. No other party will have the right to appeal against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The appeal by SAFA or the accused party will be lodged in terms of the SAFA Statute and/or these Uniform Rules read with the relevant procedural appeal rules.

24. ACTS OF MISCONDUCT/OFFENCES

24.1 Without derogating from the generality of what constitutes an act of misconduct/offence, the following are specifically declared to be acts of misconduct/offences on the part of a player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, official of SAFA, or member of any sub-Committee as the case may be.

24.2 On the part of a team where:

24.2.1 It fails to provide adequate security at its venue:

24.2.1.1 It will be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that a club has failed to provide adequate security at its venue where the spectators at such venue, irrespective of their affiliation, committed acts, or were responsible for conduct that is considered improper behavior;

24.2.1.2 It will not be a defense to the previously mentioned charge that a larger crowd than anticipated attended or attempted to attend the game;

24.2.2 Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives or supporters directly or indirectly interrupt, obstruct or disturb the normal proceedings of a game before, during or after the match;

24.2.3 Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (expressed or implied) representatives, for any corrupt, dishonest or unlawful purpose in connection with a game played under the auspices of SAFA, or in connection with the affairs of the SAFA Official Competitions, give, offer or promise, whether directly or indirectly, any inducement, reward or bribe of whatsoever nature, to anybody whatsoever;

24.2.4 Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives accept any inducement, reward or bribe referred to in Rule 24.2.3 above;

- 24.2.5 It fails to comply with or contravenes any provision of these Uniform Rules, the SAFA Statute, and/or any other relevant SAFA prescripts, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes, and as well as the Laws of the Game;
- 24.2.6 It fields an unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, or in any other way disqualified or prohibited person;
- 24.2.7 It fails to fulfill a fixture for which a date and a venue have been fixed by SAFA;
- 24.2.8 It fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the Disciplinary Committee, an official of SAFA, and/or match officials;
- 24.2.9 It fails to comply with or contravenes any order, resolution or code of conduct made or passed by the Competitions Committee;
- 24.2.10 It knowingly furnishes incorrect information of whatsoever nature to SAFA;
- 24.2.11 It's players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives or supporters commit an offence in terms of Rule 24.2.12 hereunder;
- 24.2.12 Persons referred to Rule 24.2.11 above, who behave in any manner whatsoever, inside or outside a ground before, during or after a match, no matter on which ground the match is played. Without derogating from the generality of what constitutes misbehavior on the part of supporters, the following are specifically declared acts of misbehavior:
 - 24.2.12.1 Invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play, save for reasons of crowd safety;
 - 24.2.12.2 Causing the abandonment or attempting to cause the abandonment of a match;
 - 24.2.12.3 Throwing or attempting to throw missiles, bottles and other objects, whether potentially harmful or dangerous or not, on to the pitch, or at any person;
 - 24.2.12.4 Fireworks and rockets being let off;
 - 24.2.12.5 Acts of violence or attempted acts of violence against anyone at the game;
 - 24.2.12.6 Failing to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion;
 - 24.2.12.7 Insulting or assaulting players, team officials, match officials or any other person present at the game;

- 24.2.12.8 Maliciously damaging or attempting to damage any property at the ground;
- 24.2.12.9 Other acts of unsporting behavior;
- 24.2.13 It fails to protect match officials against acts or attempted acts of violence or any other form of abuse before, during or after a match;
- 24.2.14 It's players refuse to continue a match or abandon the field of play without permission by the referee, or cause the abandonment of a match;
- 24.2.15 It's officials cause the abandonment of a match;
- 24.2.16 It fails to immediately report any act of alleged misconduct, within its knowledge, to SAFA;
- 24.2.17 It incites, permits or assists any person or body in the contravention of the Laws of the Game, the Statute of SAFA, these Uniform Rules, and any other relevant SAFA prescript, the CAF Statutes or the FIFA Statutes, as well as the Laws of the Game;
- 24.2.18 It, inclusive of its officials, players, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives, or supporters commits any act or makes any statement, either orally or in writing, or has been responsible for conduct which is considered ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behavior, or likely to bring the game, sponsors, any member, the SAFA League Competitions, SAFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute;
- 24.2.19 It fails to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing to which it was summoned or subpoenaed;
- 24.2.20 Its officials, players, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives assault, threaten, intimidate, coerce, interfere, mislead or insult a match official, player, official of SAFA, public, press or media, or any other person, before, during or after any match.
- 24.3 Notwithstanding any provision of these Uniform Rules, where a team is charged with any offence in terms of Rule 24.2.12, or any other offence relating to the misbehavior of spectators, such a team will be guilty of such offence if SAFA shows that there was misbehavior on the part of any spectators at the ground, unless such team satisfies the Disciplinary Committee that the misbehaving spectators were not its supporters.
- 24.4 On the part of a player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, official of SAFA, members of any sub-committee as the case may be, who:

- 24.4.1 Directly or indirectly interrupts, obstructs or disturbs the normal proceedings of a game, before, during or after the match;
- 24.4.2 For any corrupt, dishonest or unlawful purpose in connection with a game played under the auspices of SAFA, or in connection with the affairs of the Official Competitions, gives, offers or promises, whether directly or indirectly, any inducement, reward or bribe of whatsoever nature, to anybody whomsoever;
- 24.4.3 Accepts any inducement, reward or bribe referred to in Rule 24.4.2 above;
- 24.4.4 Fails to comply with or contravenes any provision of the SAFA Statute, and these Uniform Rules, any relevant SAFA prescript, the CAF Statutes or the FIFA Statutes, as well as the Laws of the Game;
- 24.4.5 Fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the Disciplinary Committee and/or match officials;
- 24.4.6 Fails to comply with or contravenes any order, resolution or code of conduct passed by the Competitions Committee;
- 24.4.7 Fails to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing to which (s) he was summoned or subpoenaed;
- 24.4.8 Knowingly furnishes incorrect information, of whatsoever nature, to SAFA;
- 24.4.9 Assaults, threatens, intimidates, coerces, interferes, misleads or insults a match official, player, official of SAFA, public, press or media, or any other person, before, during or after any match;
- 24.4.10 Engages in any conduct causing a situation dangerous to the public safety, before, during or after a match;
- 24.4.11 Fails to protect match officials against acts or attempted acts of violence or any other form of abuse before, during or after a match;
- 24.4.12 Fails to immediately report any act of alleged misconduct within its/his/her knowledge, to SAFA;
- 24.4.13 Permits or assists any person or body in the contravention of the Laws of the game, the SAFA Statute, these Uniform Rules, and applicable SAFA prescript, the CAF Statutes or the FIFA Statutes;
- 24.4.14 Uses obscene or other objectionable language in connection with the affairs of the SAFA Official Competitions;
- 24.4.15 Is employed directly or indirectly by the media, which will include employment by a newspaper, television or radio station, or contributes items or information to any

newspaper, television or radio station, without the prior written approval of the chairperson of the Competitions Committee, which permission will not be unreasonably withheld;

- 24.4.16 Commits any act or makes any statement, either orally or in writing, or has been responsible for conduct which is considered ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behavior, or likely to bring the game, sponsors, any member, the SAFA Official Competitions, SAFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute.
- 24.5 On the part of any player, where (s) he refuses to continue a match, or abandons the field of play without permission by the referee, or causes the abandonment of a match.
- 24.6 On the part of an official, where the said official causes the abandonment of a match.
- 24.7 Any team or person who has been found guilty of committing an offence by the Disciplinary Committee will be liable to such penalties or combination of penalties as the Disciplinary Committee may impose in terms of the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules.
- 24.8 Any club, player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, member of the SAFA Competitions Committee or of a sub-committee who:
 - 24.8.1 Attempts to commit any offence in terms of the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules will be guilty of an offence and will be liable, on conviction, to the same penalties as are competent for a contravention of the Statute or Uniform Rules;
 - 24.8.2 Is convicted of any criminal offence in relation to all matters and questions relating to football in the Republic of South Africa, will be deemed to have committed an offence in terms of the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules and, after a hearing, will be liable to such sanctions and penalties as the Disciplinary Committee may impose. In this regard, in any disciplinary hearing, a certified copy of the judgment of the convicting court will be proof of such conviction.
- 24.9 Officials, players, servants, or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives of a team may attend matches under the auspices of SAFA, only on condition that they observe the SAFA Statute, these Uniform Rules and any relevant SAFA prescripts as well as the Laws of the Game.
- 24.10 Where any statement made by an official, player of a team which is considered ungentlemanly or improper and/or is likely to bring SAFA, its sponsors, or any other member into disrepute, is reported in the press or media, the relevant SAFA Official will notify the said official or player of the said reported statement and enquire from the said player or official whether (s)he denies or admits having made the said statement, to which the said person will reply within 5 (five) days of receiving the said notification. Failure to respond will entitle the relevant SAFA Official, or his representative, to invoke Regulation 38.1.

- 24.10.1 Where such a person admits the said statement, disciplinary action may be taken by SAFA.
- 24.10.2 Where such a person denies having made the said statement, the said person will:
 - 24.10.2.1 Furnish SAFA with an affidavit, denying having made that statement within 5 (five) days of receiving notification from the relevant SAFA Official; and
 - 24.10.2.2 Publicly deny and refute such statement at a press conference called by SAFA on a date stipulated by SAFA.
- 24.10.3 Where such a person fails to reply to the notification by the relevant SAFA Official, or having denied making the statement, fails to comply with Rule 24.11.2 above, the said statement will be irrefutably presumed to have been made by such person, and correctly reported by the press or media, and SAFA may institute disciplinary action against the person concerned.
 - 24.10.3.1 It will not be a defense against any charge instituted by SAFA, to show that the statements were true and in the public interest unless the statement was based on a grievance by the person concerned which was raised and discussed at a Competitions Committee meeting, or at any other appropriate forum of SAFA, prior to the statement having been made to the press or media.

25. APPEALS

- 25.1 Save where the right of appeal is restricted in terms of the SAFA Statute and these Uniform Rules, any party directly affected by any decision made or penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee, employee or official of SAFA and any SAFA Committee will have the right to appeal to the Appeals Board constituted by SAFA in terms of its Statute. Such appeal will be heard in accordance with the SAFA Statute and the applicable procedural rules.

Procedures for lodging an Appeal

- a. lodged within 72 hours of receipt of the written disciplinary hearing decision.
 - b. The Appellant must lodge all relevant documents including grounds for appeal with the prescribed fee within the 72 hours.
 - c. It is the duty of the Appellant to serve all parties with the relevant documentation.
 - d. It is the duty of the Appellant to ensure that the transcript or the minutes of the disciplinary hearing are available before the matter is set down.
 - e. The Appellant is liable for the costs of the transcript.
- 25.2 The notice of such appeal inclusive of the reasons for such appeal, will be accompanied by an appeal fee, as determined in these Uniform Rules and/or SAFA Schedules, will be

delivered to the relevant SAFA Official, in accordance with the SAFA Statute and applicable procedural rules.

- 25.3 Further relief may be obtained by arbitration, in terms of the SAFA Statute and applicable procedural rules; and
- 25.4 Should the implementation of various levels of relief give rise to a situation where the progress of the Competition is deemed likely to be seriously affected then the Competitions Committee will have the power to order that the Competition proceed. In such a case, the outcome of the disciplinary matter and any ruling or punishment arising there from will be limited to a finding that does not unduly affect the progress or satisfactory completion of the Competition. This power will only be exercised in extreme cases where the SAFA Official Competitions are likely to be brought into disrepute by the prolonging of appeal measures.
- 25.5 All disputes with the decisions of the Appeal Board will be submitted to a Designated SAFA Official for arbitration within seventy-two (72) hours of the decision being known to the parties in writing.

26. SENDING OFF

- 26.1 Any player "red carded" (sent off the field of play by the referee) is automatically suspended from participation for the next two (2) games to be played in any official Competition under the auspices of SAFA.
- 26.2 Any club official "ordered off" the confines of the field of play, including the technical area, by the referee, is automatically suspended from the confines of the field of play, including the technical area, for the next three games to be played in any official Competition under the auspices of SAFA.
- 26.3 Any period of suspension or part thereof that remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the following season.
- 26.4 SAFA will keep records of all players and club officials "red carded" and "ordered off", respectively, but SAFA will not be obliged to advise the player's team or official's team, the player or the team official of any "red cards" or "ordering off" offences received by the player or team official, respectively, or to advise the player's team or team official's team, the player or team official of the automatic suspension or the period of suspension set out above, the onus being on the player's team or official's team, the player and team official to keep their own accurate records of "red card" and "ordered off" offences and to ensure that the player or team official immediately serves the periods of suspension set out above.
- 26.5 For the purposes of this Rule, "Official Competition" will mean SAFA Official Competitions' fixtures as well as relevant Play-offs inclusive of National, Provincial and Regional Representative games.

27. CAUTIONS

- 27.1 Once a player has received four (4) cautions ("yellow cards") he is automatically suspended for the next 2 (two) matches to be played in any official Competition under the auspices of SAFA, except during the Play-offs or representative games.
- 27.2 SAFA will keep records of all players cautioned, but SAFA will not be obliged to advise the player's team or the player of any cautions received by the player, or to advise the player's team or the player of the automatic suspension, or the period of suspension set out above, the onus being on the player's team and the player to keep their own accurate records of cautions received, and to ensure that the player immediately serves the periods of suspension set out above.
- 27.3 Any period of suspension or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the end of a season, must be served at the commencement of the next following season. Any cautions accumulated during a season will not be carried to the next following season.

28. TEAMS ARRIVING LATE

- 28.1 It will be an offence for a team not to be present in/at the change-rooms at the match venue by at least sixty minutes before the scheduled kick-off time, and for the team and each of its players to be available at least thirty (30) minutes before kick-off for inspection of the players cards, or for the team not to have taken the field at least five (5) minutes prior to the kick-off time.
- 28.2 No grace period will be allowed for teams arriving late. Referees will not change the rule except where the kick-off is delayed by a game in progress, sanctioned by SAFA, and the relevant SAFA office is aware of.
- 28.3 Where a match is not played because of the late or non-arrival of a team, the offending club will forfeit the match points and may be charged with misconduct. In this regard it is recorded that impossibility of performance as the result of a vehicle breakdown, or that the offending team were unable to locate the match venue, will not be a defense to this charge. The offending team will forfeit the match points and may be charged for bringing the relevant SAFA League Competition, SAFA and Sponsors into disrepute.
- 28.4 The report of the referee will constitute conclusive proof of misconduct, contemplated in Rule 24.2.6 hereof, in the absence of a report from a team conceding a walk-over, contemplated in Rule 28.6 below. For the first offence in a season the powers of the Disciplinary Committee are delegated to a Designation SAFA Official to effect a sanction of awarding the match and two (2) goals to the opposing team and furnish the Disciplinary Committee with a record of his/her decision and sanction.
- 28.5 A team conceding three (3) walkovers in a SAFA League with a stream with ten (10) or more teams and or a team conceding two (2) walkovers in a SAFA League with a stream with eight (8) / nine (9) more teams in a season will have its participation terminated from SAFA, subject to the prescribed disciplinary procedures and a recommendation to that effect to the SAFA Competitions Committee.

- 28.6 Should a team conceding a walkover fail to submit a report within 48 hours of the termination of a game, it may be charged, subject to Rule 28.4 hereof.
- 28.7 A team with a conceded and confirmed walkover by the Disciplinary Committee will forfeit 10% of their annual travel subsidy to the Association. This Rule is only applicable to those Teams that are entitled to receive travel subsidy from the Association.

29. COLOURS AND NUMBERS OF TEAM OUTFITS

- 29.1 Each team will wear its official colours as declared on the registration form, which form will clearly state the team's home and away colours.
- 29.2 In addition to the official team outfit, each team will be in possession of a spare outfit (in colours contrasting with those of the official outfit), which will also be taken to every match. The visiting team will change in the event of there being a clash of colours. If a visiting team has no alternative resulting in a match being abandoned, the offending team will forfeit the match point.
- 29.3 If in the opinion of the referee the colours of the two opposing teams might lead to confusion, they will be changed, using either the entire spare outfit or a combination of both. The home team will be entitled to wear the outfit of their choice and the visiting team will change.
- 29.4 The outfits of the two goalkeepers will be in contrasting colours.
- 29.5 Teams will be obliged to wear the following advertising on their playing jerseys:
- 29.5.1 The sponsor's name on the front of their jersey, excluding tobacco and alcohol companies;
 - 29.5.2 The technical sponsor and the club crest on the left and right breast of the front of the jersey.
 - 29.5.3 Where applicable, the relevant SAFA Official Competition logo and the relevant SAFA League Competition sponsor's logo on the right and left arm sleeve respectively;
- 29.6 The above will not exceed the accepted advertising standards as laid down by FIFA and the official broadcaster, where necessary.
- 29.7 Teams may wear the advertising of their club sponsor subject to the following conditions:
- 29.7.1 Such sponsor will not be in conflict with relevant SAFA Official Competition;

- 29.7.2 Such sponsor's advertising will not be considered to bring SAFA or its sponsors into disrepute or to be classed as being against public morals.
- 29.7.3 Permission to use such advertising will be obtained in writing from the Competitions Committee of SAFA.
- 29.8 The player's jerseys will be clearly numbered, and the numbers will correspond with those shown on the team sheet and players registration form.
- 29.9 Any advertising that appears on the player's shorts or socks will also require SAFA's written approval.

30. MATCH COMMISSIONERS

- 30.1 The Chief Executive Officer or the Designated SAFA Official will appoint Match Commissioners (who will not be connected directly or indirectly to any participating team), from a list to be approved by the relevant Referees Committee from time to time for specific games.
- 30.2 Participating teams will attend a pre-match meeting before each match under the supervision of the Match Commissioner at least sixty minutes before kick-off. The Match Commissioner will thereafter have an oversight role in respect of compliance with these Uniform Rules and in particular Rule 28.
- 30.3 Match Commissioners will be obliged to submit full and detailed reports on each game to the CEO or the Designated SAFA Official, within forty eight hours of the match.
- 30.4 Match Commissioners are to be accorded the utmost courtesy and assistance whilst performing their duties for and on behalf of SAFA by all parties.

31. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

- 31.1 Match officials will be appointed to each match, namely a referee, two assistant referees and, where circumstances permit, a fourth official. All referees and assistant referees will have a registration cards issued by SAFA.
- 31.2 The referees and assistant referees will be appointed from the relevant panels by the relevant Referees Appointments Committee as constituted under SAFA. All match officials will be in possession of official appointment cards/sms at matches that confirm their appointment for the match and registration cards to confirm their identities.
- 31.3 If the officially appointed referee has not arrived by fifteen minutes before the starting time of the fixture, the two teams will appoint another SAFA accredited referee by mutual consent. If the teams fail to reach consent over the referee, the match will not proceed and disciplinary steps may be taken against the concerned match official(s).
- 31.4 Substitute referees will enjoy the same powers and status as if they were officially appointed as referee by the relevant referees' department.

- 31.5 Referees will be obliged to submit full and detailed reports on each game to the CEO or the Designated SAFA Official within 48 (forty eight) hours of the match.

32. TECHNICAL RULES

- 32.1 The SAFA Official Competitions will be run on a home and away basis, with three (3) points allocated for a win, one (1) for a draw and none (0) for a loss.
- 32.2 Where two or more teams have equal points, goal difference (i.e. goals scored FOR minus goals scored AGAINST) will be used to determine relative positions.
- 32.3 Where teams have equal goal difference, the number of goals scored FOR will be used to determine relevant positions.
- 32.4 Where teams have equal number of goals scored FOR, the aggregate of the direct results between the tied teams will be used to determine relative positions.
- 32.5 Where the aggregate of direct results between the tied teams is a draw, the results of the two teams concerned will be considered before a play-off at a neutral venue is determined.
- 32.6 After the relevant SAFA Official Competition winners have been declared on the final logs no correspondence will be entered into.
- 32.7 In the event the Province has two streams league, the winners of the streams shall play home and away knockout play-offs to determine the Provincial League winner. (A public draw shall be conducted by the relevant PEC to determine which team shall host the 1st leg and the 2nd leg respectively)
- 32.8 If the score is level after the duration of the second match, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner in accordance with the procedure described in the FIFA Laws of the Game (there shall be extra-time played)

33. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 33.1 Prize money will be awarded in accordance to the schedule of prize monies, which schedule will be distributed by SAFA prior to the SAFA Official Competitions each year.
- 33.2 Travel subsidies will be paid as determined by the Competitions Committee in each year, where applicable.

34. INSURANCE

- 34.1 SAFA will be responsible for insuring players and registered officials whilst on official assignments.

35. CONTACT WITH SPONSORS

- 35.1 Teams, officials or players will not make direct contact with the sponsor without the prior written permission of the CEO having been obtained.

36. FRIENDLIES

- 36.1 No team affiliated to or players registered with SAFA may play in any match other than official matches under the auspices of SAFA unless prior written permission is granted to them by SAFA.
- 36.2 Official fixtures will not be postponed for friendly matches. It is recorded that official fixtures cannot be changed to be a friendly; such match results will be official and final.

37. CLUB NAMES

- 37.1 No team may change its registered name except with the written consent of the Competitions Committee and which change must be ratified and approved by the NEC.

38. UNDERTAKING BY CLUBS, OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

- 38.1 All teams must incorporate in any agreement with their officials and players an undertaking on the part of such officials and players to seek the permission of SAFA before discussing with any media representatives the policies and principles of SAFA, which discussions may result in bringing the SAFA Official Competitions and/or SAFA into disrepute. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure that the officials or players do not behave themselves in a way that may bring SAFA and its sponsors.

39. ASSOCIATION WITH CLUBS

- 39.1 No Club, Director, Official or player of any club in the SAFA League Competitions may either directly or indirectly:
- 39.1.1 Hold or deal in the securities or shares of another Club participating in the SAFA League Competitions; or
 - 39.1.2 Be a member of another Club participating in the SAFA League Competitions; or
 - 39.1.3 Be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management administration or coaching of another Club participating in the SAFA League Competitions; or
 - 39.1.4 Have any power whatsoever to influence the management, administration or coaching staff and players of another Club participating in the SAFA League Competitions; or

- 39.1.5 Be employed on either a full time or part time basis with SAFA or any of its members

40. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND CHANGES TO THESE RULES

- 40.1 Matters not provided for in these Uniform Rules will be dealt with in terms of the SAFA Statute, other relevant SAFA prescripts, and where silent, the Rules and Regulations of CAF and thereafter the Rules and Regulations of FIFA, as the case may be, including the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 40.2 The Competitions Committee will be empowered to amend, alter and add to these Uniform Rules at any time during any one season, subject to its recommendation and ratification of the Legal & Constitutional Committee and/or the Management Committee and/or the NEC. Such amendments, alterations and additions to these Uniform Rules will be operative with immediate effect.
- 40.3 The Competitions Committee will be empowered to institute and authorize a Commission of Enquiry into any matter, which they may, in their sole and absolute discretion, deem necessary.
- 40.4 Any documentation of whatsoever nature, which is required to be served on a team, team official or player of the SAFA League Competitions, will be served on such party at the fax or email as supplied to SAFA by the team at the time of its annual registration with the league.
- 40.5 Officials that are not reflected or mentioned/named on the Team Annual / Renewal Registration form will not be allowed to represent the respective team at any hearing or activities of SAFA.
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