

SAFA/VODACOM LEAGUE

RULES & REGULATIONS

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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 the South African Football Association Vodacom Promotion League (hereinafter referred to as "The League") shall be bound by the Rules and Regulations contained hereunder.

1.2 The League is made up of teams registered to participate in The League and it comprises of nine (9) streams with each geo-political province having a single stream of sixteen (16) teams.

2. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

2.1 The winners of The League shall be awarded winners' medals and trophies, which they shall retain permanently after the National Play-offs.

2.2 Winning teams shall also receive prize money, as determined by the South African Football Association ("SAFA") at the beginning of each season.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

3.1 The League shall be played in streams, as determined by SAFA, and as per the technical rules set out hereunder, with each geo-political province having a single stream.

4. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY

4.1 Promotion Divisions

4.1.1 Each stream of The League shall consist of a maximum of sixteen (16) teams during each season.

4.1.2 The relegation and promotion of teams at the conclusion of a season of The League shall take place as outlined hereunder:

4.1.2.1 Two (2) teams at the bottom positions of each stream shall be relegated to the lower league-Regional League, except where a team has been promoted to the senior league in the respective stream.

4.1.2.2 Two teams from the immediate lower leagues in each geo-political province shall be promoted to their respective streams of The League; (from Regional leagues) after the Provincial 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 First Division to each geo-political province, and The League shall reciprocate with the same number of teams to be relegated as the number that needs to be accommodated from the First Division.

4.1.3 The Competitions Committee shall determine the format to be used in determining the teams to be promoted from the lower leagues to each stream of The League.

4.1.4 Teams shall submit the prescribed entry and information documents together with the prescribed entry fee on or before the specified deadline date, which, unless stated otherwise, shall be the 1st of July in each year.

4.1.5 On entering any competition administered by The League, teams undertake to:

4.1.5.1 Observe these Regulations;

4.1.5.2 Accept that all administrative, disciplinary and refereeing matters connected with any competition administered by The League shall be dealt with in terms of these Rules and Regulations, and where all of the above are silent, by the decisions of the Competitions Committee in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of SAFA.

4.1.6 Should a promoted team withdraw or be withdrawn from The League before the commencement of a season, the Competitions Committee may allow the next best finishing team of the lower leagues in the geo-political province to be promoted to its respective stream.

4.2 Participation in Competitions

4.2.1 It shall be compulsory for all Teams affiliated to The League to participate in all competitions administered by The League.

4.3 Sale of Franchise and Relocation

4.3.1 No team shall be allowed to sell its franchise and relocate its home base unless such a transaction is sanctioned by SAFA, on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee, which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

4.3.2 In the event of a club being sold and relocate, it shall be relegated to its original Province or Region.

4.3.3 No team shall be allowed to change its name without the prior approval of SAFA, on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Such changes shall not take effect after the kick-off.

4.3.4 Mvela League (National First Division) teams that are relegated shall revert to their original province. (Province before sale and or promotion)

4.4 Local District Affiliation

4.4.1 All Clubs with teams in The League, including newly purchased franchises, shall be affiliated to the SAFA Local Football Association in which their home base is situated.

4.5 All teams who qualify for the play-offs for promotion into the First Division shall be bound by Rules and Regulations approved by the Competitions Committee.

4.5.1 It is noted that it is part of SAFA's Mission Statement to promote and facilitate the development of football through sustainable infrastructures and training initiatives, hence the formation of The League.

4.5.2 In pursuit of the previously mentioned Mission Statement and in ensuring that high-level football is evenly distributed throughout the country, the national play-offs shall be conducted in two streams, i.e. Inland and Coastal, and the winners of the two Streams shall be automatically promoted to the First Division.

4.6 Development or Reserve Sides

4.6.1 A Club is entitled to have a team in The League, the SAFA Regional League and all other lower leagues within the SAFA structures.

4.6.2 Should a Club have a team in The League, the Regional League and any other lower leagues within the SAFA structures, the following shall apply?

4.6.2.1 The team participating in the SAFA Regional League is not entitled for promotion to This League;

4.6.2.2 Should a team be relegated from The League to the SAFA SAB Regional League and the Club had another team in the SAFA SAB Regional League, then the team in the SAFA SAB Regional League shall automatically be relegated to the immediate lower league, irrespective of its log position;

4.6.2.3 Should a team be promoted from the SAB Regional League and the Club had another team in The League, then the next best finishing team shall be promoted.

4.6.3 No Club within the structures of SAFA shall have more than one (1) team in the same league.

4.6.4 Should a Club have a team in the Premier Soccer League or the First Division of the National Soccer League, its team in The League shall not be eligible for promotion and participation in the national play-offs.

5. DATES AND VENUES OF MATCHES

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

5.2 Should a team wish to change a fixture such notice shall reach the office at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date. Clubs shall be notified of fixture changes in writing, at least 72 hours prior to the match.

5.3 Fixtures may only be amended in extreme circumstances, at the discretion of the Director Competitions who may delegate his powers in writing to the Provincial Co-ordinator.

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 The onus of securing a venue shall be on the home team and its failure to secure a venue shall constitute misconduct, such team shall forfeit the match point; read with 27.3.

5.6 In its application to the League for affiliation, a team shall name its home ground as well as its alternative home ground. The League shall have a right to fixture a match at an alternative home ground at its absolute discretion.

5.7 If, for any reason, a team is unable to play its home fixture at its main 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 The League.

5.8 In the event of a request for a neutral venue, all costs inclusive of ground rental and security shall be borne by the original home team. Such costs shall 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 neutral venue exceeds five (5) kilometers.

6. MATCHES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

6.1 All matches shall 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 shall be so registered with The League in terms of the team's registration, shall be allowed to be seated on the team bench. The officials shall include the coach, assistant coach, medical doctor and/or masseur, and who shall 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 such card, alternatively, being in excess of the number referred to, they shall immediately be removed from the field and the team may be charged with misconduct.

7. DURATION OF MATCHES

7.1 All matches shall be played in terms of Rule 7 of FIFA Laws of the Game, and as such, the match shall 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.

8. FIELD OF PLAY

8.1 The League shall inspect the fields of play and all teams shall ensure that their fields of play comply with the Laws of the Game and the directives of FIFA.

8.2 Each team shall register its home ground/s with The League and no team shall relocate to another ground without prior written consent of the Director Competitions, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

8.3 In the event of a home ground comprising of more than one field of play, the home team shall specify the field that it registers as compliant to Rules 8.4 and 8.5.

8.4 The minimum illumination necessary for night matches shall be 200 lux.

8.5 The dimensions of the fields of play shall be as follows:

8.5.1 Maximum length 120 meters; minimum length of 100 meters;

8.5.2 Maximum width 75 meters; minimum width of 68 meters.

8.6 Teams must register their pitch dimensions with The League prior to the start of each season and it shall 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 Director Competitions or any such delegated person.

8.7 The Competitions Committee may at any time, call for a team to submit a report from a qualified independent source certifying pitch dimensions or compliance with any other FIFA requirements.

8.8 Each team shall take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch in good order and The League may require a team to take such steps, as the Director Competitions shall specify if The League is not satisfied that an adequate standard of pitch is maintained.

8.9 Each team shall provide separate areas adjacent to the pitch for the sole use of team officials, medical staff and substitutes. Such designated areas shall be clearly marked "home" and "visitors", have direct access to the pitch, and be located equidistant from the halfway line and be capable of seating not less than eight (8) persons from each team.

8.10 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.

8.11 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.

8.12 The match-balls shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game, and shall be FIFA approved balls. The home team shall 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.

8.13 A fixture may be played partly or wholly under floodlights.

8.14 In normal circumstances, the referee shall be the sole judge as to whether or not a pitch is fit for a fixture. However, in circumstances considered extra-ordinary by the Director Competitions or his duly appointed representative for this purpose, he may order a postponement of any game(s) provided such announcement is made before noon (12h00) on the date of the match.

8.15 If a fixture is postponed through weather inclination, or the state of the pitch because of the weather, The League shall set another date on which the game shall be played.

8.16. Players selected for representative matches:

Should three (3) or more players be eligible for selection to a SAFA Regional team, SAFA Provincial team or SAFA National team be selected from the same team and be required to participate in a representative match arranged by or through SAFA or The League, then any fixture of the team affected due to take place within forty-eight (48) hours of the representative match shall be postponed, provided that the affected team has applied in writing for a postponement of such fixture and has been granted written permission by The League for such postponement.

8.17 A player shall not be allowed to play for his team forty-eight (48) hours before a representative fixture in which he is due to play.

8.18 SAFA shall 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.

9. TEAM SHEETS

9.1 Teams shall submit duly completed team sheets to the referee at least forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of play. Such list to include:

9.1.1 The full names (family and first) of the eleven (11) players (as well as their registration numbers) starting the game;

9.1.2 The full names (family and first) of the seven (7) substitutes (as well as their registration numbers) which may be utilized during the game;

9.1.3 The full names of the team officials positioned in the technical areas for the game.

9.2 If a player's name appears on the team sheet he/she shall be deemed, for the purposes of these Regulations, 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 Rules and Regulations relating to the use of any player who is allegedly unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, in which case the said substituted player shall not be deemed to have participated in the match.

10. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

10.1 Every player shall be properly registered according to the procedures for registrations and transfers contained in Regulation 15 before he/she may play or be named on the team sheet in any match of the League, subject to Rule 4.6.5.

10.2 Identity cards shall always be available for inspection by the referee prior to the match. No player shall be allowed to participate without a valid card. The referee shall 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.

10.2.1 It shall 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 shall forfeit any points earned in such game.

10.2.2 Should an entire team be unable to produce a valid player identity card for each player due to unforeseen circumstances, the team must furnish affidavits attesting to the identities of the said players. The said affidavit shall only be acceptable to the League if accompanied by a photograph of each player.

10.3 It shall be an offence to submit any false information when registering a player. The onus shall be on the player's team to ensure that the information submitted is accurate in every respect, and that all requirements are adhered to. The issuing of a card or the furnishing of an affidavit (as per 11.2.2) does not absolve the team of this responsibility.

10.4 It shall be an offence to field an unregistered or improperly registered player. The term "field" shall include the situation where a player is a named substitute but does not actually take the field.

11. FOREIGN PLAYERS

11.1 A foreign player is any player who is not eligible to represent South Africa in terms of the Statutes of FIFA, is a foreign national and has not acquired South African nationality.

11.2 No team may sign or register more than three (3) foreign players during the course of any particular season, even if previously registered foreign players are de-registered during the course of the season.

11.3 Clubs or teams are allowed to field the three (3) registered players in a match.

12. STATUS OF PLAYERS

12.1 Players affiliated to The League shall only be amateur players (non-contract players), unless specific permission to change their status has been obtained in writing from the SAFA.

12.2 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 shall be regarded as amateurs.

12.3 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.

12.4 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 shall be regarded as a professional unless he/she has reacquired amateur status.

12.5 The registration of an amateur player shall be valid only for the season in which the registration form is signed

12.6 An amateur player's registration shall 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 latter. After this date, the player shall be free to sign for another team for the following season, after having obtained a clearance certificate from his existing team. In the event of his existing club failing to furnish the player with such clearance, then the player may apply to the Director Competitions to be declared a free agent, provided that:

12.6.1 the player shall notify his club in writing of his intention to apply for the clearance;

12.6.2 Any team/club in the semi or professional league that acquires or registers a player from the SAFA Leagues will be required to compensate the club/team for the development of such player at a fee to be agreed upon by the parties. (an amount not exceeding R100000) ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND RAND

12.7 Any dispute regarding the status of a player involved in a transfer within the Republic of South Africa shall be settled by the appropriate/relevant Association structure in terms of these Rules and Regulations.

12.8 The League shall keep official registers of all players under its jurisdiction.

13. REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

13.1 Only a player who is currently registered by the League shall be permitted to participate in official matches of The League.

13.2 Players may only be registered between 01 July and 28 February of each season.

13.3 Eligibility to play shall only be granted to a player who fulfils any of the following conditions:

13.3.1 If the player in question has never previously been registered with a team playing under the jurisdiction of SAFA;

13.3.2 If the player in question has been previously registered with the same team under SAFA jurisdiction;

13.3.3 If the player in question is transferred from one team to another team, playing under the jurisdiction of SAFA in accordance with these regulations and holds a valid transfer certificate;

13.3.4 If the player in question is transferred from a club in a foreign national association to a team in The League and SAFA holds a valid international transfer certificate issued by the national association releasing the player.

13.4 The foregoing provisions are subject to the terms applicable under paragraph 16 below and to cases in which temporary eligibility is provided for by the rules of the Association.

13.5 The following must be submitted when a registration is applied for;

13.5.1 The applicable registration form;

13.5.2 A certified copy of the player's passport or identity document;

13.5.3 The player's transfer certificate/loan clearance certificate;

13.5.4 A duly completed medical report;

13.5.5 Three recent, colour passport-sized photographs of the player.

13.6 All forms must be submitted within five days of signature of the player.

13.7 Teams may only submit documents for the registration of players to the offices of the League 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. TRANSFERS, CLEARANCES AND REGISTRATION

14.1 By agreement between Clubs, players may be transferred from one Club to another.

14.2 A player shall not:

14.2.1 Play for more than three (3) Clubs or be registered more than twice by the same team in The League in a single season;

14.2.2 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.

14.3 The transfer of a player from one Club to another shall be in writing, signed by a recognized official of the transferring Club as contained in the records of The League. It shall 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.

14.4 Should a player be granted a free transfer by a Club, and the player accepts the said transfer in writing, it shall be necessary for the Club to furnish a clearance and for his new Club to register him.

14.5 Clubs transferring players in terms of these Rules amongst themselves with the consent of the player shall furnish to The League and the player a signed clearance confirming that the player in question is in good standing with the Club.

15. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

15.1 An amateur player registered with a Club within a foreign national association may not be registered with a Club having a team within the League unless SAFA has received an international transfer certificate issued by the national association that the player wishes to leave.

15.2 Only SAFA shall 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.

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

16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

16.1 There shall be four (4) processes of dispute resolution available to the teams within The League, which are:

16.1.1 Protests;

16.1.2 Complaints;

16.1.3 Disputes; and

16.1.4 Appeals.

16.2 The aforementioned processes are preceded by administrative processes that are monitored and enforced by the Director Competitions or his representative and whose decisions in terms thereof are final, which administrative processes are dealt with hereunder.

16.3 SAFA and each of its Provincial Members shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee in terms of Document 1, Articles 12.2.4

(c) (ii) and 12.5.6 of the SAFA Constitution, read with Document 4, Chapter 5, Rule 3.1 of the SAFA Rules to deal with judicial processes referred to in Rules 17.1.1 and 17.1.2.

16.4 SAFA and each of its Provincial Members shall appoint a Dispute Resolution Committee in terms of Document 1, Articles

12.2.4 (c) (iii) and 12.5.6 of the SAFA Constitution, read with Rule 20 hereof to deal with judicial processes referred to in Rule

17. PROTESTS

17.1 Any team directly involved in a game may lodge a protest with The League in respect of any game played under the auspices of The League, if the protesting club participated in the same game;

17.2 Where the protest relates;

17.2.1 The use of a player reflected on the opposing team sheet who is allegedly unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, the protesting team shall, 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

17.2.2 any other contravention of the SAFA Constitution and/or these Rules and Regulations by a team, team official, player or match official (offending party) who participated in the said match, 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.

17.3 A written protest, accompanied by a protest fee of R2 500, 00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred Rand) must be lodged with the Director Competitions or the Finance Department of the Association within 48 (Forty-Eight) hours of the game, which are administrative processes referred to in Rule 17.2 herein.

17.4 The written protest, referred to in 17.3 above, 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.

17.5 A protest shall not be made against the referee's and/or assistant referee's decision connected with play, such decisions are considered final.

17.6 The onus is on the protesting team to ensure that the provisions of Rule 17.2 above are fully complied with. Should the protest not comply with the said provisions, the protest fee shall be returned to the protesting team. However, should the Disciplinary Committee be of the opinion that the alleged misconduct violates the principle of "fair play", and then it may recommend that the matter be pursued otherwise; as a complaint?

17.7 Upon receipt of a protest, the Director Competitions (or his representative) shall:

17.7.1 Call for any further written information and documentation from the protesting team; and

17.7.2 Forward to the offending party the documentation received from the protesting team and advises the offending party, of the nature of the protest and requests such party for a written explanation, but warning such party, that such explanation may be later used in evidence against the said party.

17.8 Upon receipt of the replies asked for, or if no replies are received within five (5) days of the Director Competitions (or his representative) making the requests, the matter shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

17.9 Any charge(s) instituted by The League in terms of Rule 17.6 shall be heard by the SAFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations.

17.10 The protesting team shall have the right to be present at, or give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge(s) against the offending party. The League may subpoena the protesting team to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in the hearing.

17.11 Should the Disciplinary Committee be of the opinion that:

17.11.1 The protest is frivolous or vexatious; or

17.11.2 the evidence placed before it discloses no prima facie evidence of an offence or act of misconduct on the part of the offending party; the protest fee shall be forfeited to The League and an order of costs against the protesting team may be made.

18. COMPLAINTS

18.1 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 the League, in respect of any act of misconduct/offence allegedly committed.

18.2 The complaint must be lodged in writing within seven (7) days of the incident, and accompanied by a complaint fee of R1000,00 (One Thousand Rand), which are administrative processes referred to in Rule 18.2 herein.

18.3 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.

18.4 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 the Director Competitions and/or the SAFA Disciplinary Committee.

18.5 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.

18.6 The onus is on the complainant to ensure that the provisions of Rules 18.2, 18.3, 18.4 and 18.5 above are complied with. Should the complaint not comply with the said provision, the complaint fee shall be returned to the complainant.

18.7 Upon receipt of a complaint, the Director Competitions or his representative shall:

18.7.1 Call for any further written information and documentation from the complainant; and

18.7.2 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.

18.8 Upon receipt of the replies asked for, or if no replies be received within 5 (five) days of the Director Competitions (or his representative) making the requests in terms of Rule 18.3 above, the matter shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

18.9 Any charge(s) instituted by The League in terms of Rule 18.9 shall be heard by the SAFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the SAFA Constitution and these Rules and Regulations.

18.10 The complainant shall have a right to be present at, present, or give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge(s) against the offending party. The League may subpoena the complainant to present or give evidence or produce any book, paper or document at the hearing.

18.11 The hearing of any charge(s) instituted by The League in terms of Rule 18.9 shall be heard by the SAFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the SAFA Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, except that any sentence imposed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be limited to the following sentences or combination of sentences:

18.11.1 The imposition of a monetary fine not exceeding R20 000, 00 (Twenty Thousand Rand);

18.11.2 The censure of the offending party concerned;

18.11.3 The closure of a ground for a stated period;

18.11.4 Ordering the offending party to pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter;

18.11.5 Suspension of individual players or officials;

18.11.6 Recommend to the Competitions Committee the cancellation/expulsion or suspension of a team from The League for any period. In this case, all results involving the expelled team will be expunged from The League as if the team had never played any matches;

18.11.7 The barring of the offending party from entering the Competition in the following season;

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

18.11.9 The SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall be advised, prior to passing sentence, that the offending party have been charged pursuant to a complaint.

18.11.10 should the Disciplinary Committee be of the opinion that:

The complaint is frivolous or vexatious; or
The evidence placed before it discloses no prima facie evidence of an offence or act of misconduct on the part of the offending party;
The complaint fee shall be forfeited to The League and an order of costs against the complainant may be made.

19. DISPUTES

19.1 Any dispute or difference, not otherwise expressly provided for in the SAFA Constitution or these Rules and Regulations between a club or clubs and any player in respect of the player's registration, transfer or contract of service shall be adjudicated by the SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee.

19.2 A party to the dispute shall lodge with the Director Competitions, or his provincial representative, a written notice of dispute accompanied by a dispute fee of R500.00 (Five Hundred Rand), which are administrative processes referred to in Rule 19.1 herein.

19.3 Thereafter the League shall summon all the parties to the dispute, to appear before the SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee.

19.4 In hearing the dispute, the SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee shall adopt such procedures or formalities as it, in its sole discretion deems appropriate, save where otherwise provided in the SAFA Constitution and these Rules and Regulations.

19.5 Any party to the dispute may appeal against any decision of the SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee. No other person or body shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee taken in terms of this Rule. The appeal shall be lodged in terms of The League Rules and Regulations.

20. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

20.1 The League's Disciplinary Committee shall act in conformity with and apply the provisions of these Rules and Regulations and the SAFA Constitution.

20.2 The SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall have the powers and follow the procedures laid down in these Rules and Regulations, as well as the SAFA Constitution.

20.3 All parties summoned or called as witnesses in a disciplinary matter shall be informed of the time and place of the hearing within 72 hours prior to the hearing, and shall be entitled to be

personally present at the hearing, at their own costs, and thereafter claim in terms of the Association procedures.

21. PROCEDURE AT ANY HEARING BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

21.1 The Chief Executive Officer or his nominee, shall 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 The League, in particular to prosecute all acts of misconduct/offenses at the instance of The League, or pursuant to any protest or complaint referred by the Director Competitions or his representative, to the Disciplinary Committee.

21.2 All parties, other than The League, involved in a disciplinary matter shall be summoned by The League and informed of the time and place of the hearing by midday of the third working day prior to the hearing, and shall be entitled to be , personally present at the hearing at their own costs read with 20.3.

21.3 In the case where a party has been charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence, such summons shall set out concisely the charge(s) preferred against such party.

21.4 The parties acknowledge that no summonses in respect of any hearing before the Disciplinary Committee may be regarded as exculpable and in the event of such summons The League's representative, thus enabling the matter to immediately proceed, shall amend being in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee exculpable, then such summons orally at the hearing.

21.5 Should any party have been properly summoned, but fails to be present at the hearing, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to continue with the hearing in the absence of such party and have the power to summarily suspend such party until such party appears before it.

21.6 No party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the Disciplinary Committee of The League shall be entitled to legal representation or other assistance (other than that of a translator), unless:

21.6.1 in the case of a team being summoned, such person is a registered official or player of the club concerned;

21.6.2 in the case of a player or official being summoned or called as a witness, such person is a registered official or player of the club with whom such player or official is registered; and such person has been so registered with the club for a period of at least 6 (six) months.

21.7 No other party, other than a party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, or any League official, shall be entitled to attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee.

21.8 The League or the Disciplinary Committee may, at any stage, subpoena any person or body bound by the SAFA Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in a hearing before a Disciplinary Committee.

21.9 The League shall furthermore issue a subpoena in terms of Rule 21.8 above, at the request of a party summoned by the League, provided a sum of money to cover the costs thereby entailed is deposited with The League prior to the issue of such a subpoena.

21.10 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, shall be guilty of an offence.

21.11 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, shall 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 Constitution and these Rules and Regulations.

22. HEARINGS BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN CASES OF ALLEGED MISCONDUCT IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE LEAGUE HAS INSTITUTED A

CHARGE

22.1 The authority to institute and conduct a prosecution before a Disciplinary Committee in respect of any act of misconduct/offence pursuant to a complaint or at the instance of the Chief Executive Officer or his nominee, shall vest in The League.

22.2 The onus of proving the charge shall lie with The League, which must prove the charge on a balance of probabilities.

22.3 The pro-forma prosecutor conducting a prosecution may:

22.3.1 Before the accused pleads to a charge, withdraw that charge, in which event the accused shall not be entitled to a verdict of acquittal in respect of that charge;

22.3.2 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 shall acquit the accused in respect of that charge.

22.4 The pro-forma prosecutor shall read out the summons addressed to the accused and the accused shall then be asked by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee 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".

22.5 Where the accused pleads "guilty" to the charge/s, the Disciplinary Committee shall, 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 shall prevent the pro-forma prosecutor from presenting evidence on any aspect of the charge, for the purposes of determining an appropriate sentence.

22.6 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 defence. 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.

The Disciplinary Committee may in its discretion, put any question to the accused to clarify any matter raised under this provision, and shall 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 shall be recorded and shall be sufficient proof of such fact.

22.7 There shall if applicable, read out the reports of the various match officials. The accused shall be asked if its/he/she admits the allegations in the report. If the accused admits the reports, the pro-forma prosecutor shall at his/her discretion, decide whether its/she/he wishes to call the said match officials to amplify or qualify their reports. If the accused disputes the allegations in the report(s), the pro-forma prosecutor shall call the match officials to give evidence.

22.8 The accused shall be afforded the right/ be allowed to question a match official giving evidence on behalf of The League, provided such questions are relevant to the matters at issue. At any time, the Disciplinary Committee members may question officials giving evidence on behalf of The League.

22.9 The pro-forma prosecutor may then call other witnesses in support of the charge(s). The accused shall 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.

22.10 At the conclusion of such evidence the pro-forma prosecutor's case may be closed.

22.11 The accused may then give evidence on its/his/her own behalf and in such event it/she/ he may be questioned by the pro-forma prosecutor and the Disciplinary Committee.

22.12 The accused may then call witnesses to whom questions may be put by the accused, in which event the pro-forma prosecutor and the Disciplinary Committee members may question them.

22.13 At the conclusion of such evidence, the accused's case shall be closed.

22.14 The Disciplinary Committee may, if it deems desirable, or on request by The League or the accused, allow further evidence to be led by either the pro-forma prosecutor or the accused, or by both, after their cases are already closed.

22.15 Save where otherwise provided for in the Constitution / Rules and Regulations of The League, documentary evidence shall be admitted in terms of the "hearsay" evidence rule, below, unless the author thereof is present or the contents are not in dispute.

22.16 "Hearsay" evidence shall not be allowed, and all extraneous matters in the evidence shall be ruled "out of order", save that television and video recordings may be used by any party to the proceedings (although this evidence shall not have effect on any decision of fact taken by the match officials).

22.17 No evidence on any previous misconduct of the accused shall be admitted, unless the accused shall have put his character in issue.

22.18 After the conclusion of the evidence called or produced by the accused, the pro-forma prosecutor and the accused in turn may make closing submissions. The pro-forma prosecutor may reply on any question, which the accused has raised in his address.

22.19 Upon the conclusion of the case, the Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate thereon in camera.

22.20 Once a decision has been reached, the parties shall be recalled and the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall announce the verdict.

22.21 If the accused is found "not guilty", the session will be declared closed.

22.22 If the accused is found "guilty", or the accused has pleaded "guilty", the pro-forma prosecutor shall be entitled to make presentations regarding a suitable sentence to be imposed and the accused shall be entitled to address the Disciplinary Committee in mitigation of sentence.

22.23 Thereupon, the Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate in camera upon the sentence to be imposed.

22.24 Once a decision has been reached, the parties shall be recalled and the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall announce the sentence.

22.25 Save where the hearing took place pursuant to a complaint, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to sentence the accused to the following sentences or combinations of sentences:

22.26.1 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;

22.26.2 Impose a monetary fine on the person or team concerned an amount not exceeding R20, 000, 00 (Twenty Thousand Rand);

22.26.3 Censure the person or team concerned;

22.26.4 Order a person or team to pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter;

22.26.5 Order a match to be replayed on such conditions as it may determine, or award a match to a team;

22.26.6 Impose a fine of a stated number of league points;

22.26.7 Close a ground for a stated period;

22.26.8 Recommend to the Competitions Committee the expulsion or suspension of a team from The League for any period. In this case, all results involving the expelled team will be expunged from The League as if the team had never played any matches;

22.26.9 The barring of the offending party from entering the Competition in the following season;

22.26.10 rules that a score in a match that was abandoned by the referee be declared the result of the match;

22.26.11 takes any other action as specifically provided for in these Rules and Regulations;

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

22.27 The League or an accused party charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. No other party shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The appeal by The League or the accused party shall be lodged in terms of the SAFA Constitution and the Rules of the Association.

23. ACTS OF MISCONDUCT/OFFENCES

23.1 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 The League, or member of any sub-Committee as the case may be.

23.2 On the part of a team where:

23.2.1 It fails to provide adequate security at its venue:

23.2.1.1 It shall 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 behaviour.

23.2.1.2 It shall not be a defence to the previously mentioned charge that a larger crowd than anticipated attended or attempted to attend the game.

23.2.2 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;

23.2.3 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 The League, or in connection with the affairs of The League, give, offer or promise, whether directly or indirectly, any inducement, reward or bribe of whatsoever nature, to anybody whatsoever.

23.2.4 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.

23.2.5 It fails to comply with or contravenes any provision of these Rules and Regulations, the SAFA Constitution and Rules of Association, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes, and as well as the Laws of the Game; and

23.2.5.1 Should the provisions of these Rules and Regulations be in conflict with the Statutes of the various bodies above, then the provisions of the SAFA Constitution shall apply;

23.2.6 It fields an unregistered, suspended, banned, fraudulently or improperly registered, or in any other way disqualified or prohibited person;

23.2.7 It fails to fulfill a fixture for which a date and a venue has been fixed by The League.

23.2.8 It fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the Disciplinary Committee, an official of The League, and/or match officials.

23.2.9 It fails to comply with or contravenes any order, resolution or code of conduct made or passed by the Competitions Committee;

23.2.10 It knowingly furnishes incorrect information of whatsoever nature to The League;

23.2.11 Its players, officials, servants or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives or supporters commit an offence in terms of Rule 24.2.12 hereunder.

23.2.11.1 In this regard when an offence in terms of the provisions of the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations has been committed, whether by the performance of any act or by the failure to perform of any act, by a player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, such an offence shall also be deemed to have been committed (and with the same intent, if any) by such a team, and such a team shall be convicted of the same offence jointly with the player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of such a team, and such a team shall also be liable to punishment therefore;

23.2.12 Its supporters misbehave 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 misbehaviour on the part of supporters, the following are specifically declared acts of misbehaviour:

23.2.12.1 Invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play, save for reasons of crowd safety;

23.2.12.2 Causing the abandonment or attempting to cause the abandonment of a match;

23.2.12.3 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;

23.2.12.4 Fireworks and rockets being let off;

23.2.12.5 Acts of violence or attempted acts of violence against anyone at the game;

23.2.12.6 Failing to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion;

23.2.12.7 Insulting or assaulting players, team officials, match officials or any other person present at the game;

23.2.12.8 Maliciously damaging or attempting to damage any property at the ground;

23.2.12.9 Other acts of unsporting behaviour;

23.2.13 notwithstanding any provision of these Rules and Regulations, where a team is charged with any offence in terms of

Rule 24.2.12, or any other offence relating to the misbehaviour of spectators, such a team shall be guilty of such offence if The League shows that there was misbehaviour on the part of any

spectators at the ground, unless such team satisfies the Disciplinary Committee that the misbehaving spectators were not its supporters;

23.2.14 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;

23.2.15 its players refuse to continue a match or abandon the field of play without permission by the referee, or cause the abandonment of a match;

23.2.16 its officials cause the abandonment of a match;

23.2.17 it fails to immediately report any act of alleged misconduct within its knowledge, to The League;

23.2.18 It fails to immediately report all decisions of suspension of its officials or players where the period of suspension is 6 (six) months or longer, to the Director Competitions within 14 (fourteen) days of the said suspension. In this regard all other teams shall be advised by the League of the said suspension, within 14 (fourteen) days of the said notification having been received by the Director Competitions. No person suspended in terms of this Rule shall have his sentence reduced or remitted without the consent of The League;

23.2.19 It incites, permits or assists any person or body in the contravention of the Laws of the Game, the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, the SAFA Constitution and Rules of Association, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes, as well as the Laws of the Game.

23.2.20 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 behaviour, or likely to bring the game, sponsors, any member, the League, SAFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute;

23.2.21 It fails to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing to which it was summoned or subpoenaed;

23.2.22 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 The League, public, press or media, or any other person, before, during or after any match.

23.3 On the part of a player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, official of The League, members of any sub-committee as the case may be, who:

23.3.1 Directly or indirectly interrupts, obstructs or disturbs the normal proceedings of a game, before, during or after the match;

23.3.2 for any corrupt, dishonest or unlawful purpose in connection with a game played under the auspices of The League, or in connection with the affairs of The League, gives, offers or promises, whether directly or indirectly, any inducement, reward or bribe of whatsoever nature, to anybody whomsoever;

23.3.3 accepts any inducement, reward or bribe referred to in Rule 24.2.3 above;

23.3.4 fails to comply with or contravenes any provision of the Constitution, and these Rules and Regulations, the SAFA Constitution and Rules of Association, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes, as well as the Laws of the Game;

23.3.5 fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the Disciplinary Committee and/or match officials;

23.3.6 fails to comply with or contravenes any order, resolution or code of conduct passed by the Competitions Board;

23.3.7 Fails to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing to which (s)he was summoned or subpoenaed;

23.3.8 Knowingly furnishes incorrect information, of whatsoever nature, to The League;

23.3.9 assaults, threatens, intimidates, coerces, interferes, misleads or insults a match official, player, official of The League, public, press or media, or any other person, before, during or after any match;

23.3.10 engages in any conduct causing a situation dangerous to the public safety, before, during or after a match;

23.3.11 fails to protect match officials against acts or attempted acts of violence or any other form of abuse before, during or after a match;

23.3.12 fails to immediately report any act of alleged misconduct within its/his/her knowledge, to The League;

23.3.13 permits or assists any person or body in the contravention of the Laws of the game, the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, the SAFA Constitution and Rules of Association, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes;

23.3.14 uses obscene or other objectionable language in connection with the affairs of The League;

23.3.15 is employed directly or indirectly by the media, which shall 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 shall not be unreasonably withheld;

23.3.16 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 behaviour, or likely to bring the game, sponsors, any member, The League, SAFA, CAF or FIFA into disrepute.

23.4 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.

23.5 On the part of an official, where the said official causes the abandonment of a match.

23.6 Any team or person who has been found guilty of committing an offence by the Disciplinary Committee shall be liable to such penalties or combination of penalties as the Disciplinary Committee may impose in terms of the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations.

23.7 Any club, player, official, servant or duly authorized (express or implied) representative of a team, member of the Competitions Board or of a sub-committee who:

23.7.1 attempts to commit any offence in terms of the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to the same penalties as are competent for a contravention of the Constitution or Rules;

23.7.2 is convicted of any criminal offence in relation to all matters and questions relating to football in the Republic of South Africa, shall be deemed to have committed an offence in terms of the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations and, after a hearing, shall be liable to such

penalties as the Disciplinary Committee may impose. In this regard, in any disciplinary hearing, a certified copy of the judgement of the convicting court shall be proof of such conviction.

23.8 Officials, players, servants, or duly authorized (express or implied) representatives of a team may attend matches under the auspices of The League, only on condition that they observe the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and Laws of the game.

23.9 Where any statement made by an official, player of a team which is considered ungentlemanly or improper and/or is likely to bring The League, its sponsors, or any other member into disrepute, is reported in the press or media, the Director Competitions shall 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 shall reply within 5 (five) days of receiving the said notification. Failure to respond shall entitle the Director Competitions, or his representative, to invoke Regulation 38.1.

23.10.1 Where such a person admits the said statement, disciplinary action may be taken by The League.

23.10.2 Where such a person denies having made the said statement, the said person shall:

23.10.2.1 Furnish the League with an Affidavit, denying having made that statement within 5 (five) days of receiving notification from the Director Competitions or his representative; and

23.10.2.2 Publicly deny and refute such statement at a press conference called by The League on a date stipulated by The League.

23.10.3 Where such a person fails to reply to the notification by the Director Competitions (or his provincial representative), or having denied making the statement, fails to comply with Rule 24.10.2 above, the said statement shall be irrefutably presumed to have been made by such person, and correctly reported by the press or media, and The League may institute disciplinary action against the person concerned.

23.10.3.1 It shall not be a defence against any charge instituted by The League, 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 The League, prior to the statement having been made to the press or media.

24. APPEALS

24.1 Save where the right of appeal is restricted in terms of the SAFA Constitution and these Rules and Regulations, any party directly affected by any decision made or penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee, shall have the right to appeal to an Appeals Committee constituted by SAFA in terms of its Constitution and Rules. Such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of SAFA.

24.2 The notice of such appeal inclusive of the reasons for such appeal, shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of R2 500,00 (two thousand five hundred rand), shall be delivered to the Director Competitions or his provincial representative, which are Administrative processes referred to in Rule 17.2 herein.

24.3 Further relief may be obtained by arbitration, in terms of the SAFA Constitution and Rules and Regulations; and

24.4 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 shall 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 shall be limited to a finding that does not unduly affect the progress or satisfactory completion of the Competition. This power shall only be exercised in extreme cases where the League is likely to be brought into disrepute by the prolonging of appeal measures.

25. SENDING OFF

25.1 Any player "red carded" (sent off the field of play by the referee) is automatically suspended from participation for the next three games to be played in any official Competition under the auspices of The League.

25.2 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 The League.

25.3 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.

25.4 The League shall keep records of all players and club officials "red carded" and "ordered off", respectively, but The League shall 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.

25.5 For the purposes of this Rule, "Official Competition" shall mean League fixtures as well as National Play-offs inclusive of National, Provincial and Regional Representative games.

26. CAUTIONS

26.1 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 The League, except during the Play-offs or representative games.

26.2 The League shall keep records of all players cautioned, but The League shall 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.

26.3 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 shall not be carried to the next following season.

27. TEAMS ARRIVING LATE

27.1 It shall 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, or for the team not to have taken the field at least five minutes prior to the kick-off time.

27.2 No grace period will be allowed for teams arriving late. Referees shall not change the rule except where the kick-off is delayed by a game in progress, sanctioned by SAFA, and the office (Head Office) is aware of.

27.3 Where a match is not played because of the late or non-arrival of a team, the offending club shall 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, shall not be a defence to this charge. The offending team shall forfeit the match points and may be charged for bringing the League, SAFA and Sponsors into disrepute.

27.4 A team conceding two (2) walkovers in a season will have its membership/ affiliation/ participation terminated from The League.

27.5 Should a team conceding a walkover fail to submit a report within 48 hours of the termination of a game, may be charged as at 27.3 herein.

28. COLOURS AND NUMBERS OF TEAM OUTFITS

28.1 Each team shall wear its official colours as declared on the registration form, which form shall clearly state the team's home and away colours.

28.2 In addition to the official team outfit, each team shall be in possession of a spare outfit (in colours contrasting with those of the official outfit), which shall also be taken to every match. The visiting team shall 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 shall forfeit the match point.

28.3 If in the opinion of the referee the colours of the two opposing teams might lead to confusion, they shall 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 shall change.

28.4 The outfits of the two goalkeepers shall be in contrasting colours.

28.5 Teams shall be obliged to wear the following advertising on their playing jerseys:

28.5.1 The sponsor's name on the front of their jersey;

28.5.2 The technical sponsor and the club crest on the left and right breast of the front of the jersey;

28.5.3 The League logo and League sponsor's logo on the right and left arm sleeve respectively;

28.6 The above shall not exceed the accepted advertising standards as laid down by FIFA and the official broadcaster where necessary.

28.7 Teams may wear the advertising of their club sponsor subject to the following conditions:

28.7.1 Such sponsor shall not be in conflict with The League;

28.7.2 Such sponsor's advertising shall not be considered to bring The League or its sponsors into disrepute or to be classed as being against public morals.

28.7.3 Permission to use such advertising shall be obtained in writing from the Competitions Committee of SAFA.

28.8 The player's jerseys shall be clearly numbered, and the numbers shall correspond with those shown on the team sheet and players registration form.

28.9 Any advertising that appears on the player's shorts or socks shall also require The League's written approval.

29. MATCH COMMISSIONERS

29.1 The Chief Executive Officer or his nominee may appoint Match Commissioners (who shall not be connected directly or indirectly to any member), from a list to be approved by the Referees Committee from time to time for specific games, which commissioners shall be obliged to submit full and detailed reports on each game to the Chief Executive Officer (or his nominee), such commissioners are to be accorded the utmost courtesy and assistance whilst performing their duties for and on behalf of The League.

30. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

30.1 Match officials shall be appointed to each match, namely a referee, two assistant referees and, where circumstances permit, a fourth official.

30.2 The referees and assistant referees shall be appointed from the Provincial panel by the Referees Appointments Committee as constituted under SAFA. All provincial match officials shall be in possession of official appointment cards at matches that confirm their appointment for the match.

30.3 The following procedure shall apply if the officially appointed referee has not arrived by fifteen minutes before the starting time of the fixture:

30.3.1 The referee's department (Head Office) area allotted person shall be contacted or informed to ensure replacement/s.

30.4 Substitute referees shall enjoy the same powers and status as if they were officially appointed as referee by Head Office referees Department. No protest because a Head Office substitute referee was used shall be entertained.

30.5 If one of the appointed assistant referees does not arrive, the same principle shall be followed as at 30.3.1 and 30.3.2 herein.

30.5 Referees at the National Play-offs shall be appointed and approved by the NRC of the Association.

31. TECHNICAL RULES

31.1 The League shall be run on a home and away basis, with three points allocated for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss.

31.2 Where two or more teams have equal points, goal difference (i.e. goals scored FOR minus goals scored AGAINST) shall be used to determine relative positions.

31.3 Where teams have equal goal difference, the number of goals scored FOR shall be used to determine relevant positions.

31.4 Where teams have equal number of goals scored FOR, the aggregate of the direct results between the tied teams shall be used to determine relative positions.

31.5 Where the aggregate of direct results between the tied teams is a draw, the results of the two teams concerned shall be considered before a play-off at a neutral venue is determined.

31.6 After the Provincial winners have been declared on the final League log no correspondence shall be entered into.

32. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

32.1 Prize money shall be awarded in accordance to the schedule of prize monies, which schedule shall be distributed by The League prior to the Competition each year.

32.2 Travel subsidies shall be paid as determined by the SAFA Competitions Committee in each year.

33. INSURANCE

33.1 SAFA shall be responsible for insuring players whilst on official duty.

34. CONTACT WITH SPONSORS

34.1 Teams, officials or players shall not make direct contact with the sponsor without the prior written permission of the Chief Executive Officer having been obtained.

35. FRIENDLIES

35.1 No team affiliated to The League or players registered with The League may play in any match other than official matches under the auspices of The League unless prior written permission is granted to them by The League.

35.2 Official fixtures shall not be postponed for friendly matches. It is recorded that official fixtures cannot be changed to be a friendly; such match results shall be official and final.

36. CLUB NAMES

36.1 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 SAFA National Executive Committee.

37. UNDERTAKING BY CLUBS, OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

37.1 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 The League before discussing with any media representatives the policies and principles of SAFA, which discussions may result in bringing The League and/or SAFA into disrepute. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure

that the official or player in such a way as to bring The League, its sponsors, does not use any permission so granted or its teams into disrepute.

38. ASSOCIATION WITH CLUBS

38.1 No Club, Director, Official or player of any club in The League may either directly or indirectly:

38.1.1 Hold or deal in the securities or shares of another Club participating in The League; or

38.1.2 Be a member of another Club participating in The League; or

38.1.3 Be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management administration or coaching of another Club participating in The League; or

38.1.4 have any power whatsoever to influence the management, administration or coaching staff and players of another Club participating in The League; or

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

39. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND CHANGES TO THESE RULES

39.1 Matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be dealt with in terms of the Constitution of SAFA, and where silent, the Rules and Regulations of CAF and thereafter the Rules and Regulations of FIFA, as the case may be.

39.2 The Competitions Committee shall be empowered to amend, alter and add to these Rules and Regulations at any time during any one season. Such amendments, alterations and additions to these Rules and Regulations shall be operative with immediate effect.

39.3 The Competitions Committee shall be empowered to institute and authorize a Commission of Enquiry into any matter, which they may, in their sole and absolute discretion, deem necessary.

39.4 Any documentation of whatsoever nature, which is required to be served on a team, team official or player of The League, shall be served on such party at the fax as supplied to The League by the team at the time of its annual registration with the league. (Forms to be supplied by Head Office)

39.5 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 the Association.