



**SOUTH AFRICAN  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

# **SAFA REGULATIONS**

## **COMPETITIONS UNIFORM RULES**

As Amended by  
the SAFA National Executive Committee  
19 August 2017



## INDEX

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. <u>Composition</u>	<u>3</u>
2. <u>Trophies and Awards</u>	<u>3</u>
3. <u>Structure of the SAFA Competitions</u>	<u>3</u>
4. <u>Participation and Entry</u>	<u>4</u>
5. <u>Dates and Venues of Matches</u>	<u>7</u>
6. <u>Matches in Accordance with the Laws of the Game</u>	<u>9</u>
7. <u>Duration of Matches</u>	<u>9</u>
8. <u>Field of Play</u>	<u>9</u>
9. <u>Players Selected for Representative Matches</u>	<u>10</u>
10. <u>Team Sheets</u>	<u>10</u>
11. <u>Eligibility of Players</u>	<u>11</u>
12. <u>Foreign Players</u>	<u>11</u>
13. <u>Status of Players</u>	<u>12</u>
14. <u>Registration of Players</u>	<u>13</u>
15. <u>Transfer of Players</u>	<u>15</u>
16. <u>International Transfer Certificate</u>	<u>15</u>
17. <u>Dispute Resolution Processes</u>	<u>16</u>
18. <u>Protests</u>	<u>17</u>
19. <u>Complaints</u>	<u>18</u>
20. <u>Disputes</u>	<u>20</u>
21. <u>Disciplinary Committee</u>	<u>20</u>
22. <u>Procedure at Any Hearing Before the Disciplinary Committee</u>	<u>21</u>
23. <u>Hearings Before the Disciplinary Committee in Cases of Alleged Misconduct in Respect of Which the League Has Instituted a Charge</u>	<u>22</u>
24. <u>Acts of Misconduct / Offences</u>	<u>26</u>
25. <u>Appeals</u>	<u>32</u>
26. <u>Sending Off</u>	<u>32</u>
27. <u>Cautions</u>	<u>33</u>
28. <u>Teams Arriving Late</u>	<u>33</u>
29. <u>Colours and Numbers of Team Outfits</u>	<u>34</u>
30. <u>Match Commissioners</u>	<u>35</u>
31. <u>Referees and Assistant Referees</u>	<u>36</u>
32. <u>Technical Rules</u>	<u>36</u>
33. <u>Financial Provisions</u>	<u>37</u>
34. <u>Insurance</u>	<u>38</u>
35. <u>Contact with Sponsors</u>	<u>38</u>
36. <u>Friendly Matches</u>	<u>37</u>
37. <u>Club Names</u>	<u>37</u>
38. <u>Undertaking by Clubs, Officials and Players</u>	<u>37</u>
39. <u>Association with Clubs</u>	<u>38</u>
40. <u>Matters not Provided for and Changes to these Rules</u>	<u>38</u>



# **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} shall be bound by the Rules contained hereunder and the Regulations hereof, 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 shall be determined by SAFA at the beginning of each season.
- 2.2 The winners of each SAFA Competition shall be awarded winners' medals, which they shall retain permanently after the respective Play-offs (i.e. National, Provincial and Regional), and trophies.
- 2.3 Winning teams shall 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 shall be played in streams, as determined by SAFA, and as per the technical rules set out hereunder. Each Competition shall have a sponsor, whose name shall prefix the name of the Competition.
- 3.2 Each Province shall have a single stream of the SAFA Men's Promotional League and a single stream of SAFA Women's Provincial League. Each stream shall comprise of a maximum of 16 teams.
- 3.3 Each SAFA Region shall have a single stream of the SAFA Men's Regional League and a single stream of the SAFA Women's Regional League. Each stream shall 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 shall be a single stream within one hundred and fifty (150) kilometer radius. The SAFA Competitions Committee shall determine the demarcations and if there is dispute about the demarcations, such disputes shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution Committee.

---

#### **4. PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY**

---

##### **4.1 Relegation and Promotion**

4.1.1 The relegation and promotion of teams at the conclusion of a season of the SAFA Competitions shall take place as provided for in the Regulations and as outlined hereunder (This Rule does not apply to the SAFA Junior Football Leagues)

4.1.1.1 Two (2) teams at the bottom positions of each stream shall be relegated to the immediate lower league, except where a team has been promoted to the higher league in the respective stream.

4.1.1.2 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 or where applicable

4.1.1.3 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 SAFA Competitions reciprocating by relegating the same number of teams as the number that needs to be accommodated from the First Division, in case of the SAFA Men's Competitions.

4.1.2 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 August in each year.

4.1.3 On entering any competition administered by SAFA, teams undertake to:

4.1.3.1 Observe these Rules and the Regulations;

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

4.1.4 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.

- 4.1.5 The format of the National play-offs of the SAFA Men's Promotional League teams will be determined by the National draw to be conducted at the end of the season.
- 4.1.6 All teams who qualify for the play-offs for promotion into the higher leagues shall be bound by Rules, subject to the provisions of the Regulations.
- 4.1.7 The Competitions Committee will verify and confirm all promotions and relegations of various leagues in each province and where applicable in any other instance within thirty (30) days of the completion of each SAFA Competition.

## **4.2 Participation in Competition**

- 4.2.1 Each stream of the SAFA Competition will consist of a maximum of sixteen (16) teams which will play in the relevant competition during the SAFA season which will be from August to May for Men's football and February to November for Women's football in the following year.
- 4.2.2 It shall be peremptory for all teams affiliated to SAFA to participate in all competitions and/or activities administered by SAFA.

## **4.3 Sale of Status 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 the SAFA Council on the recommendation of the SAFA Competitions Committee, which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. It must be noted that a club's entitlement to participate in a league championship shall 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 Appeal Board.

- 4.3.2 In the event of a club being sold and relocating, it shall be relegated to its current Province or SAFA Region or SAFA LFA, except where the SAFA Competitions Committee decides otherwise after considering a properly motivated application to that effect.

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.

4.3.4 National First Division teams that are relegated, alternatively demoted through other processes, shall revert to their current Provinces, subject to recommendation of the SAFA 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 shall 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 shall be guilty of misconduct and liable to any sanction in terms of these rules (including SAFA rules) imposed by 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 shall 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 shall 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 shall automatically be relegated to the immediate lower league, irrespective of its log position.

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

4.5.4 Should a Club have a team in the Premier Soccer League or the National First Division of the National Soccer League, its reserve team in the SAFA Second Division League shall 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 shall 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 shall be set by SAFA.

5.2 Should a team wish to change a fixture such notice shall 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 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 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 shall be on the home team and its failure to secure a venue shall constitute misconduct, such team shall 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 shall 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 shall name its home ground as well as its alternative home ground. In the event of neither venue being suitable, SAFA shall 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 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 and/or neutral venue exceeds five (5) kilometers.
- 5.5.6 Each team shall register its home ground/s with SAFA and no team shall relocate to another ground without prior written consent of the Designated SAFA Officials, which consent shall 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 shall 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 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 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 shall 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 shall specify if SAFA is not satisfied that an adequate standard of pitch is maintained.
- 5.5.11 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 located equidistant from the halfway line and are capable of seating not more than twelve (12) persons from each team.
- 5.6 Each team shall be entitled to have a maximum of seven (7) substitutes on the bench.  
**LAW 3 OF FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME STATES THAT THE COMPETITION RULES MUST STATE HOW MANY SUBSTITUTES MAY BE NOMINATED, FROM 3 UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 7.**
- 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 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 SAFA, 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 a SAFA registration 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.
- 7.3 The duration of the interval shall be 15 minutes for the SAFA Official Competitions matches. **LAW 7 OF THE FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME STATES THAT COMPETITION RULES MUST STATE THE DURATION OF THE HALF-TIME INTERVAL AND IT MAY ONLY BE ALTERED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE REFEREE.**

---

## **8. FIELD OF PLAY**

---

- 8.1 SAFA 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, prior to the commencement of a season.
- 8.2 The minimum illumination necessary for night matches shall be 200 lux.
- 8.3 The dimensions of the fields of play shall 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 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.
- 8.6 A fixture may be played partly or wholly under floodlights.
- 8.7 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 Designated SAFA Official, he may order a postponement of any game(s) provided such announcement is made before noon (12h00) on the date of the match.
- 8.9 If a fixture is postponed through weather inclination, or the state of the pitch because of the weather, SAFA shall set another date on which the game shall 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 shall 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 shall 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 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.

---

## **10. TEAM SHEETS**

---

- 10.1 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:
  - 10.1.1 The full names (family and first) of the eleven (11) players (as well as their registration numbers) 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 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.

---

## **11. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

---

11.1 Every player shall 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 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.

11.3 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.

11.4 The principle of "no card, no play" shall apply without exception in all SAFA Competitions.

11.5 It shall be an offence to submit any false information when registering a player. The onus shall 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 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.

---

## **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 shall not be eligible to represent South Africa in any of its representative 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 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, 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 shall only be amateur {unless otherwise as defined by Rules 13.4 here below} players as defined in the provisions relating to the Regulations in the status and transfer of players in the SAFA Statutes and Rules.
- 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 shall 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 shall be regarded as a professional unless he/she has reacquired amateur status.
- 13.5 The registration of an amateur player shall be valid only for the season in which the registration form is signed where after such a player shall be deemed to be a free agent subject to compliance with 13.6.

- 13.6 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 later. 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.
- 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 shall be settled by the appropriate/relevant SAFA structure in terms of these Rules and the Regulations.
- 13.10 SAFA shall keep official registers of all players under its jurisdiction.

---

#### **14. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

---

- 14.1 Only a player who is currently registered by SAFA shall 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:
- 14.2.1 for the Men's Football Registration i.e. (September and October) and the Window Period (February);
  - 14.2.2 for the Women's Football Registration i.e. (February and March) and the Window Period (July and August).
  - 14.2.3 The SAFA Junior Football League shall register players from February to October
- 14.3 Eligibility to play shall 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 under 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 regulations 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 rules 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;
  - 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 shall be allowed to register a maximum of thirty (30) 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 shall 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 shall be in writing, signed by a designated official of the transferring Club as contained in the records of SAFA. 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.

- 15.4 Should a player be granted a 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. (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 shall 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 / Window period, the transferring Club shall immediately surrender the players' registration card upon signing of the transfer certificate. Failure to surrender the card shall 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 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.

16.3 Any clause or reference to any particular team contained in or appended to the international transfer certificate shall 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 shall be five (5) processes of dispute resolution available to the teams within the SAFA Official Competitions, which are:

17.1.1 Protests:

- Men's and Women's Regional Leagues and SAFA Junior Football Leagues - R 5 000.00
- Men's and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 10 000.00

17.1.2 Complaints:

- Men's and Women's Regional Leagues and SAFA JFL - R 500.00
- Men's and Women's Provincial Leagues - R 2 500.00

17.1.3 Dispute Resolutions:

- Men's and Women's Regional Leagues and SJF Leagues - R 750.00
- Men's and Women's Provincial Leagues -R10 000.00

17.1.4 Appeals:

- Men's and Women's Regional Leagues and SJF Leagues - R 5000.00
- Men's and Womens Provincial Leagues -R15 000.00

17.1.5 Arbitrations:

- Men's and Women's Regional Leagues and SJF Leagues -R 20 000.00
- Men's and Women's Provincial Leagues -R30 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 shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee in terms of Document 1, Articles 12.2.4(c)(ii) and 12.5.6 of the SAFA Statutes, 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.

17.4 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 Statutes, read with Rule 19 hereof to deal with judicial processes referred to in Rule 17.1.3.

---

## **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 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
- 18.2.2 Any other contravention of the SAFA Statutes 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.
- 18.3 A written protest, accompanied by a protest fee, as determined in the Competition Rules and/or SAFA Schedules, must be lodged with the Designated SAFA offices within 48 (Forty-Eight) hours of working days 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 refer to the Article and/or Rule and Regulation allegedly contravened by the offending party.
- 18.5 A protest shall not be made against the referee's and/or assistant referee's decision connected with play, such decisions are considered final.
- 18.6 The onus is on the protesting team to ensure that the provisions of Rule 18.2 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.
- 18.7 Upon receipt of a protest, the Designated SAFA Official shall:

- 18.7.1 Call for any further written information and documentation from the protesting team; and
  - 18.7.2 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.
- 18.8 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 shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 18.9 Any charge(s) instituted by SAFA in terms of Rule 18.6 shall be heard by the Designated SAFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Statutes and these Rules and Regulations.
- 18.10 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. SAFA may subpoena the protesting team to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in the hearing.
- 18.11 Should the Disciplinary Committee be of the opinion that:
- 18.11.1 The protest is frivolous or vexatious; or
  - 18.11.2 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 SAFA and an order of costs against the protesting team may be made.

---

## **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 the League, 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 the Competition 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 SAFA 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 the said provision, the complaint fee shall be returned to the complainant.
- 19.7 Upon receipt of a complaint, the Designated SAFA Official shall:
- 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 Upon receipt of the replies asked for, or if no replies be received within 5 (five) days of the Designated SAFA Official making the requests in terms of Rule 19.3 above, the matter shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- 19.9 Any charge(s) instituted by SAFA in terms of Rule 19.8 shall be heard by the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the SAFA Statutes and these Rules and Regulations.
- 19.10 The complainant shall have a right to be present at, or give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee hearing the charge(s) against the offending party. SAFA may subpoena the complainant to present or give evidence or produce any book, paper or document at the hearing.
- 19.11 The hearing of any charge(s) instituted by SAFA in terms of Rule 19.8 shall be heard by the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the SAFA Statutes 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:
- 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 relevant SAFA Statutes 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 relevant SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee.
- 20.2 A party to the dispute shall lodge with the relevant SAFA Official, a written notice of dispute accompanied by a dispute fee as determined in the Competition Rules and/or SAFA Schedules.
- 20.3 Thereafter SAFA shall summon all the parties to the dispute, to appear before the relevant SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee.
- 20.4 In hearing the dispute, the relevant SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee shall adopt such procedures or formalities as it, in its sole discretion deems appropriate, save where otherwise provided in the relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules and the Regulations.
- 20.5 Any party to the dispute may appeal against any decision of the relevant SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee. No other person or body shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the relevant SAFA Dispute Resolution Committee taken in terms of this Rule. The appeal shall be lodged in terms of relevant SAFA Rules and the Regulations.

---

## **21. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

---

- 21.1 The relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall act in conformity with and apply the provisions of these Rules and Regulations and the relevant SAFA Statutes.

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

21.3 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, where applicable, claim in terms of the relevant SAFA procedures.

---

## **22. PROCEDURE AT ANY HEARING BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

---

22.1 The Chief Executive Officer or the Designated SAFA Official, shall have the power to appoint a pro-forma prosecutor to present the charge to the relevant SAFA 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, or pursuant to any protest or complaint referred by the Designated SAFA Official, to the Disciplinary Committee.

22.2 All parties, other than SAFA, involved in a disciplinary matter shall be summoned by SAFA 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.

22.3 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.

22.4 No summonses in respect of any hearing before the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may be regarded as excipiable and in the event of such summons, in the opinion of the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee being excipiable, SAFA's representative shall amend such summons orally at the hearing, thus enabling the matter to immediately proceed.

22.5 Should any party have been properly summoned, but fails to be present at the hearing, the relevant 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.

22.6 No party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to legal representation or other assistance (other than that of a translator), but the Disciplinary Committee will be have the power to consider an application for legal representation in exceptional circumstances. Dispute resolution in football, and misconduct proceedings in particular, are always urgent and any party summoned to appear should attend ready and prepared to proceed it being

the intention that each matter will commence and end expeditiously and without delay. In the following instances parties will be entitled to legal representation or other assistance:

- 22.6.1 In the case of a team being summoned, the representative is a registered official or player of the club concerned;
- 22.6.2 In the case of a player or official being summoned or called as a witness, the representative 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.
- 22.7 No other party, other than a party summoned or called as a witness to appear before the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee, or any SAFA official, shall be entitled to attend a hearing of the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 22.8 SAFA or the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may, at any stage, subpoena any person or body bound by the SAFA Statutes and these Rules and Regulations, to give evidence or produce any book, paper or document in a hearing before the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 22.9 SAFA shall 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 relevant SAFA 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.
- 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 relevant SAFA 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 relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules and Regulations.

---

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

---

- 23.1 The authority to institute and conduct a prosecution before a relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee in respect of any act of misconduct/offence pursuant to a complaint or at the instance of the Chief Executive Officer or the relevant SAFA Official, shall vest in SAFA.

- 23.2 The onus of proving the charge shall lie with SAFA, which must prove the charge on a balance of probabilities. In the case of a doping offence, it is incumbent upon the accused to produce the proof necessary to reduce or cancel a sanction. For sanctions to be reduced, the accused must also prove how the prohibited substance entered his/her body.
- 23.3 The pro-forma prosecutor conducting a prosecution may:
- 23.3.1 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;
  - 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 relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee hearing the matter shall acquit the accused in respect of that charge.
- 23.4 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 relevant SAFA 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".
- 23.5 Where the accused pleads "guilty" to the charge/s, the relevant SAFA 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.
- 23.6 Where the accused pleads "not guilty", the relevant SAFA 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 relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may question the accused in order to establish which allegations in the charge are in dispute.
- 23.7 The relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may in its discretion, put any question to the accused to clarify any matter raised, in terms of Rule 23.6, 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.
- 23.8 There shall, 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 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 relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may also question such other witnesses.
- 23.10 At the conclusion of such evidence the pro-forma prosecutor's 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 pro-forma prosecutor and the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 23.12 The accused may then call witnesses to who questions may be put by the accused, in which event the pro-forma prosecutor and the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee members may question them.
- 23.13 At the conclusion of such evidence, the accused's case shall be closed.
- 23.14 The relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may, if it deems desirable, or on request by SAFA 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.
- 23.15 Save where otherwise provided for in the relevant SAFA Statutes / Rules and Regulations, 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.
- 23.16 "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).
- 23.17 No evidence on any previous misconduct of the accused shall be admitted, unless the accused shall have put his character in issue.
- 23.18 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.
- 23.19 Upon the conclusion of the case, the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate thereon in camera.
- 23.20 Once a decision has been reached, the parties shall be recalled and the Chairperson of the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall 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", 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 relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee in mitigation of sentence.
- 23.23 Thereupon, the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall deliberate in camera upon the sentence to be imposed.
- 23.24 Once a decision has been reached, the parties shall be recalled and the Chairperson of the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall announce the sentence.
- 23.25 Save where the hearing took place pursuant to a complaint, the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to sentence the accused to the following sentences or combinations of sentences:
- 23.26.1 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;
  - 23.26.2 Impose a monetary fine on the person or team concerned an amount not exceeding R20, 000, 00 (Twenty Thousand Rand);
  - 23.26.3 Censure the person or team concerned;
  - 23.26.4 Order a person or team to pay all expenses of and incidental to the consideration of the matter;
  - 23.26.5 Order a match to be replayed on such conditions as it may determine, or award a match to a team;
  - 23.26.6 Impose a fine of a stated number of league points;
  - 23.26.7 Close a ground for a stated period;
  - 23.26.8 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;
  - 23.26.9 The barring of the offending party from entering the Competition in the following season;
  - 23.26.10 Rule that a score in a match that was abandoned by the referee be declared the result of the match;

- 23.26.11 Take any other action as specifically provided for in these Rules and Regulations;
- 23.26.12 Take any other disciplinary action, as the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may deem reasonable and appropriate in the particular circumstances of the matter in question.
- 23.27 SAFA or an accused party charged with committing an act of misconduct/offence shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee.
- 23.28 No other party shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee. The appeal by SAFA or the accused party shall be lodged in terms of the relevant SAFA Statutes and the 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 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 behavior.
- 24.2.1.2 It shall 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 Rules and Regulations, the relevant SAFA Statutes and Rules, 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. (See Rule 28)
- 24.2.8 It fails to comply with any lawful order or instruction made by the relevant SAFA 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 Its 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 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 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 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;
- 24.2.15 Its 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 Statutes and these Rules and Regulations, the relevant SAFA Statutes and Rules, the CAF Statutes and 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 behaviour, 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 relevant SAFA 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 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 SAFA shows that there was misbehaviour on the part of any spectators at the ground, unless such team satisfies the relevant SAFA 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 Statutes, and these Rules and Regulations, the relevant SAFA Statutes and Rules of Association, the CAF Statutes and 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 relevant SAFA 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 relevant SAFA 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 relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules and Regulations, the CAF Statutes and the FIFA Statutes;
  - 24.4.14 Uses obscene or other objectionable language in connection with the affairs of the SAFA League Competitions;
  - 24.4.15 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;
  - 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 behaviour, 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 relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee shall be liable to such penalties or combination of penalties as the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may impose in terms of the relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules and the Regulations.
- 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 relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules and the 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 Statutes or 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, shall be deemed to have committed an offence in terms of the relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules

and Regulations and, after a hearing, shall be liable to such penalties as the relevant SAFA Disciplinary Committee may impose. In this regard, in any disciplinary hearing, a certified copy of the judgment of the convicting court shall 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 relevant SAFA Statutes, Rules and the Regulations and 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 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 relevant SAFA Official, or his representative, to invoke Regulation 38.1.

24.11 Where such a person admits the said statement, disciplinary action may be taken by SAFA.

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

24.11.1.1 Furnish SAFA with an affidavit, denying having made that statement within 5 (five) days of receiving notification from the relevant SAFA Official; and

24.11.1.2 Publicly deny and refute such statement at a press conference called by SAFA on a date stipulated by SAFA.

24.11.1.3 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 24.10.2 above, the said statement shall be irrefutably presumed to have been made by such person, and correctly reported by the press or media, and SAFA may institute disciplinary action against the person concerned.

24.11.1.4 It shall 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 SAFA 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 relevant SAFA Statutes and these Rules and Regulations, any party directly affected by any decision made or penalties imposed by the relevant Disciplinary Committee, employee or official of SAFA and any SAFA Committee shall have the right to appeal to a relevant Appeals Committee constituted by SAFA in terms of its Statutes and Rules. Such appeal shall be heard in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of SAFA.
- 25.2 The notice of such appeal inclusive of the reasons for such appeal, shall be accompanied by an appeal fee, as determined in the Competition Rules and/or SAFA Schedules, shall be delivered to the relevant SAFA Official, as per Rule 7 of the SAFA Statutes.
- 25.3 Further relief may be obtained by arbitration, in terms of the SAFA Statutes and Rules and Regulations; 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 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 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 shall be submitted to a Designated SAFA Official for arbitration within seventy-two (72) hours of the decision being known to the parties in writing, in accordance with Document 4, Chapter 5, and clause 8 of the SAFA Statutes.

---

## **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 shall keep records of all players and club officials "red carded" and "ordered off", respectively, but SAFA 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.

26.5 For the purposes of this Rule, "Official Competition" shall 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 shall keep records of all players cautioned, but SAFA 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.

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 shall not be carried to the next following season.

---

## **28. TEAMS ARRIVING LATE**

---

28.1 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, and for the team and each of its Players to be available at least thirty minutes before kick-off for inspection of the Players Cards, or for the team not to have taken the field at least five minutes prior to the kick-off time.

28.2 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 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 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 defense to this charge. The offending team shall 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 shall 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 League with a stream with ten (10) or more teams and or a team conceding two (2) walkovers in a 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 shall 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 shall wear its official colours as declared on the registration form, which form shall clearly state the team's home and away colours.
- 29.2 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.
- 29.3 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.
- 29.4 The outfits of the two goalkeepers shall be in contrasting colours.
- 29.5 Teams shall 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 shall 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 shall not be in conflict with relevant SAFA Official Competition;
  - 29.7.2 Such sponsor's advertising shall 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 shall be obtained in writing from the Competitions Committee of SAFA.
- 29.8 The player's jerseys shall be clearly numbered, and the numbers shall correspond with those shown on the team sheet and players registration form.
- 29.9 Any advertising that appears on the player's shorts or socks shall 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 shall 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 Rules and in particular Rule 28.
- 30.3 Match Commissioners will be obliged to submit full and detailed reports on each game to the Chief Executive Officer or the Designated SAFA Official within forty-eight hours of the match.

30.3 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 shall be appointed to each match, namely a referee, two assistant referees and, where circumstances permit, a fourth official. All referees and assistant referees shall have a registration cards issued by SAFA.

31.2 The referees and assistant referees shall be appointed from the relevant panels by the relevant Referees Appointments Committee as constituted under SAFA. All match officials shall be in possession of official appointment cards 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 shall appoint another SAFA accredited referee by mutual consent. If the teams fail to reach consent over the referee, the match shall not proceed and disciplinary steps may be taken against the concerned match official(s).

31.4 Substitute referees shall 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 Chief Executive Officer or the Designated SAFA Official within forty eight hours of the match.

31.6 A Referee will be the sole judge to determine whether the match should take place, continue or not in any match sanction by the Association

---

### **32. TECHNICAL RULES**

---

32.1 The SAFA Official Competitions 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.

32.2 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.

32.3 Where teams have equal goal difference, the number of goals scored FOR shall 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 shall 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 shall 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 shall be entered into.

---

### **33. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

---

33.1 Prize money shall be awarded in accordance to the schedule of prize monies, which schedule shall be distributed by SAFA prior to the SAFA Official Competitions each year.

33.2 Travel subsidies shall be paid as determined by the SAFA Competitions Committee in each year, where applicable.

---

### **34. INSURANCE**

---

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

---

### **35. CONTACT WITH SPONSORS**

---

35.1 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.

---

### **36. FRIENDLY MATCHES**

---

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 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.

---

### **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 SAFA Council.

---

### **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 Regulations shall be dealt with in terms of the Statutes of SAFA, 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 Doping Regulations.
- 40.2 The Competitions Committee shall be empowered to amend, alter and add to these Rules and Regulations at any time during any one season, subject to its recommendation and ratification of the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee and/or the Management Board and/or the SAFA Council. Such amendments, alterations and additions to these Rules and Regulations shall be operative with immediate effect.
- 40.3 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.
- 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, shall 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.

---

**SIGNED:**

.....  
**DR DANNY JORDAAN**  
President

.....  
**MR DENNIS A. MUMBLE**  
Chief Executive Officer

.....  
**DATE**