



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**2023**

## Definitions:

1. **“AIFF”** shall mean the All India Football Federation.
2. **“AIFF CMS”** shall mean the All India Football Federation Competition Management System, under which the League will be managed.
3. **“Academy/ies”** shall mean AIFF accredited teams which have acquired the right to be enrolled as a member of the and participating in Reliance Foundation Development League 2023 (and references in these Rules to a Club shall be deemed to include its squad/team wherever appropriate).
4. **“Operating Partner”** shall mean any State Association, District Association, Club or any other unit, division, association or institution which is an official partner of the League for the 2023 Season
5. **“Club”** shall mean a football club which is a legal entity affiliated to a member association of AIFF or its Affiliated Units and which has acquired the right to be enrolled as a member of the and participating in Reliance Foundation Development League 2023 (and references in these Rules to a Club shall be deemed to include its squad/team wherever appropriate).
6. **“Club Official/s”** shall mean members of the Club that have been registered by the Club for the League for the Season.
7. **“FIFA TMS”** shall mean The FIFA Transfer Matching System.
8. **“Force Majeure”** shall mean, any event which affects the performance of any obligations/provisions under these Rules arising from, or attributable to acts, events, occurrences, omissions or accidents which are beyond the reasonable control of the League or any person subject to these Rules and shall mean and include (without limitation) any rules promulgated by AIFF, AFC or FIFA from time to time, the effect of any elections, abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, subsidence, structural damage, pandemic (including COVID-19), epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies (but only if considered beyond the scope of control of any of the parties associated with the League), war, threat of war, terrorist action, military operations, threat of terrorist action, riot, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action (but not strikes, lock-outs or other industrial action of any participating Club), acts or omissions of public authorities (including without limitation the courts of India), government regulations or advisories against travel, holding events and/or public gatherings and any changes in any law, regulation, directive, ordinance or policy of the government/government authority.
9. **“Forfeit”** shall mean the penalty handed to a defaulter Club in the Match result; either a 3-0 or the standing result of the Match where the infraction was made (whichever is higher).
10. **“FSDL”** shall mean Football Sports Development Limited, the entity that has been granted the exclusive rights by AIFF to organise and operate and commercialise the Indian Super League
11. **“Host Club”** shall mean any Club assigned by the League to deliver Home League Matches.



12. **“Player Identification”** shall mean the name, reputation, nickname, fame, image, shirt/jersey number, signature, voice and any other portrayal or characteristics of any kind of the Player (whether real or virtual and in any format whether in film, by way of a photograph, virtual, electronic, or otherwise and including without limitation the use thereof in electronic games) and all other characteristics of the Player.
13. **“Laws of the Game”** shall mean the laws of the game as determined and published by the International Football Association Board from time to time, including all amendments.
14. **“League”** shall mean the Reliance Foundation Development League in respect of which these Rules are being published for the Season of 2023, and/or by reference, Reliance Foundation.
15. **“League Official”** shall mean any officer of the League or person deployed for, employed, or otherwise contracted by Reliance Foundation in relation to the League.
16. **“League Disciplinary Committee (LDC)”** shall mean the committee appointed by the League to review and decide on incidents that require disciplinary hearings and possible sanctions.
17. **“Match/es”** shall mean any and all football match/es, which takes place as part of the League Season in accordance with the Match schedule/fixture list.
18. **“Match Day”** shall mean each day on which Match(es) are played for the Season.
19. **“Match Day Team”** shall mean the list of registered Players, substitute players and Club Officials listed in the Squad list, selected by the Club to participate on a given Match Day.
20. **“Match Commissioner”** shall mean the Match Official to be appointed by the AIFF, who acts as the AIFF’s and League’s official representative at a Match and is responsible for ensuring the orderly organization of the Match and compliance with the League Rules and Regulations.
21. **“Match Official/s”** shall mean any Referee/s and Assistant Referee/s (including any reserve Official/s and Fourth Official/s), the Match Commissioner and any other person appointed by AIFF to officiate at a Match.
22. **“Regional Qualifiers”** shall mean the qualifying phase of the Season.
23. **“National Group Stage”** shall mean the group stages of the Season.
24. **“National Championship”** shall mean the knockout stages of the Season.
25. **“Off Season”** shall mean the period between the conclusion of the Season and commencement of the succeeding season of the League.
26. **“Person subject to these Rules”** shall mean each Club, Club Official, Player and/or Match Official or any other person who from time to time who is bound by these Rules and falls within its scope pursuant to Article 2.
27. **“Player”** shall mean the U21, and U23 Players registered by the Club to participate in the League.
28. **“Stadium”** shall mean the venue where Matches will be played.



29. **“Season”** shall mean the period starting from the first official Match of the League of 2023 and ending with the last official Match of the League of 2023.
30. **“Squad List”** shall mean the list of Players and Club Officials registered by the Club to participate in the League out of which the Club will select the Match Day Team.
31. **“Technical Area”** shall mean the area which a coach, other Club Officials listed on the Match Day Team list, and substitute Players are allowed to occupy during a Match.
32. **“Team Bench”** shall mean the benches/dugouts placed in the Technical Area to seat Players and Team Officials listed in the Match Day Team.
33. **“U21 Players”** shall mean the Players born on or after 1st January 2002.
34. **“U23 Players”** shall mean the Players born between 1st of January 2000 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2001 (both days inclusive).

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## ARTICLE 1 – The League

This document contains the rules and regulations for the second Season of Reliance Foundation Development League to be organised in 2023. The ethos of the League remains as supporting the development of youth Players in a safe and competitive environment.

The 2023 Season of the League will commence from February 2023 in 3 phases - Regional Qualifiers, National Group Stages, National Finals. The Match schedule will be shared with all stakeholders at a later date.

The Stadium of the Matches will be nominated by respective State Federations. Final Stadium venues and Matches will be determined and communicated by the League.

## ARTICLE 2 – Scope and effect of rules

- i. These Rules shall apply to all persons participating in the League (including the Academies, Clubs, Club Officials, Players) and/or any ancillary activities organized by the League. Any person subject to these Rules shall be bound by and comply with the Laws of the Game.
- ii. These Rules shall become effective upon its publication by the League and shall be applicable from such effective date throughout the Season. The rules will be in place as applicable in the Off Season.



## ARTICLE 3 – Player & Club Officials

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### a. Players

- i. The Club can register between eighteen (18) to forty (40) Players for the League in the AIFF Competition Registration System as part of their Squad List.
- ii. For the Match Day Team, the Club must register a minimum of thirteen (13) Players and a maximum of twenty (20) Players; maximum nine (9) Players on the bench as substitutes.
  1. If a Club is unable to register the minimum number of Players required for the Match Day Team, the Match will be cancelled. The League provides no guarantee regarding rescheduling of fixtures and a Match will be deemed a walkover in favour of the Club that is able to register the minimum number of Players for the Match in the event that a rescheduling is not possible. If both the Clubs cannot register the minimum number of Players for the Match and the Match cannot be rescheduled either, a 0-0 draw will be the final Match score.
- iii. After the Match starting list has been completed and submitted by both the Participating Clubs in CMS after Kick Off time minus ninety (90) minutes, and if the match has not yet kicked off, the following instructions shall apply:
  1. If any of the eleven (11) Participating Players selected to start the Match is/are unable to start for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Match starting list.
  2. The Team Manager for the Participating Club shall immediately submit an updated 'Player Selection List' to the Match Commissioner, who shall produce an updated 'Match starting list'.
  3. There is no limit to the number of replacements
  4. The replaced Participating Player(s) shall no longer be eligible to participate in the Match. The Participating Club may still undertake five (5) substitutions during the Match. The Participating Club shall not be entitled to add any further substitutes; the number of substitutes shall be reduced accordingly.
  5. The replaced Participating Player(s) will be required to be seated in the team dressing room for the duration of the Match. If so, they may be subject to doping control.

### b. Club Officials

- i. The Club can register up to fifteen (15) Club Officials members for the League in the AIFF Competition Management System as part of their Squad List.
- ii. From the Club Officials registered for the League the Club must include:
  1. One (1) physiotherapist
  2. One (1) certified first aid qualified member (this can also be the physiotherapist)
  3. One (1) member as the designated point of contact for the League for communication on medical testing, transportation, and Training Facilities.
- iii. On the Match Day, up to five (5) Club Officials can be registered on the bench. A minimum of two (2) Club Officials are required to be registered.

## ARTICLE 4 – Eligibility Criteria: Club & Player

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**a. Club**

- i. Clubs that have competed in the Indian Super League, I-League and I-League 2 in the last three (3) seasons will be given priority to participate in the Regional Qualifiers.
- ii. A State Federation can nominate Club/Academies through internal selection criteria (applicable for Clubs/Academies that don't fulfil *Article 4.a*)
  1. The League will determine the final Clubs/Academies to be invited for the Season.
  2. The League holds final purview on the progression of the Club/Academies into relevant phases of the Season

**b. Player**

- i. Players born on or after 1st January 2002 are eligible to participate in the League; these Players will be considered as U21 Players.
- ii. Only three (3) U23 Players will be allowed in the playing eleven (11) at all times.
- iii. Maximum of (10) out of the (40) Players can be registered as U23; (3:1 ratio – U21:U23 for League squad)
- iv. No more than two (2) Players with a valid PIO or OCI status can be registered in the Squad, subject to clearance by FIFA TMS
- v. Players without a PIO or OCI will have to provide proof of residence of 36 months in India and also be registered in the AIFF CRS for a period of 12 months preceding from the date of registration for the tournament
- vi. Youngest registered player must be no less than 14 years and 364 days at the time of squad registration for the Season.

## ARTICLE 5 – Club

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**a. Club responsibilities for management of their team**

- i. Submit preliminary Squad List of Player and Club Officials to the League 5 days before the Clubs/Academy's first League Match.
- ii. Ensure the Players and Club Officials are registered with AIFF CMS
  1. Players registered in the AIFF CMS will be final.
  2. If a Player sustains an injury prior or during the Season that prevents him from participating any further in the League, the Club can request the League to replace the injured Player with another Payer Once a Player is replaced, the Player cannot be registered again.
- iii. The Club shall maintain Medical insurance of Player and Club Officials, public liability insurance Personal Accident policy for each Player, Travel and Baggage Insurance for Players and staff, other insurance required by any law.
- iv. Any other risks of any Club (such as loss of revenue due to Match cancellation) must be covered, at their own risk, by means of additional insurance. The League shall be notified of any additional insurance coverage taken by a Club.
- v. Appoint a designated Club Official that will coordinate with the League and Operating Partner on travel schedules, training scheduling, medical testing, and act as a point of contact for the



Zonal head (League Official), other designated Club Official and the League for all communication.

- iv. Respect the training and Match schedule set and communicate in advance if the Club will not be using the Training Facilities on a given day.
- v. Submit the Match Day Team to the League and relevant Operating Partner before the respective Match kick-off time in the time frame requested by the League.
- vi. Open communication with the League Officials regarding any issue that may impact the deliverance of the League.

#### **b. Club responsibilities for playing kit and equipment**

- i. Provision of materials required for training.
- ii. The Club must submit samples of the primary and secondary kits that will be used for the League, 5 days before the Clubs/Academy's first League Match.
- iii. The secondary kit of each Club must differ visibly from and contrast with its primary kit (including the goalkeeper's kits).
- iv. The Club shall ensure that its Match Day Team playing kit is the one authorised for use by the League for that Match.
- v. The Club shall must carry both primary and secondary kits to each Match
- vi. If any part of a Player's kit is damaged during the Match it shall be immediately replaced with an undamaged shall be immediately replaced with an undamaged approved Match Day playing kit.
- vii. Only the numbers 1 to 99 may be allocated to a Player, with number 1 being reserved exclusively for one of the goalkeepers. The numbers must be consistent for a Player throughout the Season
- viii. The captain of each Club appearing in a Match shall wear an armband indicating his status as such. The Club is responsible for providing the captain armbands.

#### **c. Medical**

- i. Every participating Club must submit a medical undertaking signed by a qualified MBBS doctor clearing Players as fit to participate in the League. The League will not be liable for any consequences arising due to incorrect or incomplete information provided by the Player and/or Club in required declarations and disclosures.
- ii. The Player shall make a full and honest disclosure to the Club's doctor of his past and current medical history (including but not limited to all injuries suffered medical conditions and treatments) that could in any way affect his fitness and/or ability to play football.
- iii. Eligible Clubs must ensure all registered players have a valid PCMA before the commencement of National Group Stage.
- iv. Clubs must ensure a basic first aid kit is present during Matches and training sessions.
- v. Host Club shall ensure League mandated medical measures are available on the match venue for all Match Days.

## **ARTICLE 6 – Disciplinary Matters**

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**a. Code of Conduct**

- i.** Any Player or Club Official reported for any indiscipline or unbecoming or unsporting conduct, violence, or overt act of any nature or conduct amounting to misconduct anywhere including but not limited to the FOP, the changing rooms, at the training sites and in the hotels or otherwise reported by the Referee or the Match Commissioner or any League Officials, shall be dealt with by the League Disciplinary Committee (LDC).
- ii.** General conduct: each person subject to these Rules shall:
  1. Maintain punctuality for all Matches and activities relating to the League including but not limited to match coordination meetings, Official Countdown and any official & promotional activities;
  2. Participate in such events and comply with such requests as may reasonably be required by Reliance Foundation to promote the League including in case of a Player, by using the Player Identification;
  3. Respect the decisions of the League and the LDC;
  4. Respect the Laws of the Game;
  5. Display and promote high standards of behaviour;
  6. Promote fair play and sportsmanship on and off the field of play;
  7. Always respect Match Officials' decisions;
  8. Never engage in public criticism of the Match Officials;
  9. Never indulge in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
  10. Never engage in bullying, intimidation, or harassment;
  11. Speak to other Players and Club Officials and Match Officials with respect;
  12. Not make any adverse comment at any time in relation to the opposing team/Club;
  13. Not be involved in any activity that will or is likely to bring the League, Reliance Foundation, and their respective representatives and/or the game of football into disrepute or to cause any loss of damage of any kind to any of them including without limitation as a result of any comment made to the media or via any social/digital media.
- iii.** Conduct Relating to Integrity / Corruption; a person bound by these Rules shall not:
  1. Use, possess or distribute controlled substances and/or illegal drugs (including, but not limited to, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and phencyclidine (PCP)); (ii) use, possess or distribute prescription drugs (including, but not limited to, amphetamines, methadone and steroids) without the proper medical authorization; or (iii) excessively consume alcohol; (iv) physically, verbally, sexually, emotionally or in any other way abuse any other person/officer/ staff connected to the League.
  2. Interact with the media without the express written consent of the League.
  3. Fix or manipulate, or to be a party to any effort to fix or manipulate the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any Match.
  4. Seek or accept or offer or agree to accept any bribe or other reward to fix or to manipulate in any way or otherwise to influence improperly the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any Match.



5. Place, accept, lay or otherwise make a bet by placing a wager on the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect for any gratification, monetary or otherwise.

#### **b. League Disciplinary Committee (LDC)**

The LDC (consisting of League Officials, Match Officials and such legal/technical experts that may be required at the discretion of the League on a case to case basis) shall entertain cases with a disciplinary hearing and shall impose sanctions in cases of:

- i. Any matter reported/placed on record by the Match Commissioner.
- ii. Any other matter not specified under the Regulations which could be deemed a Level 2 or Level 3 offence.
- iii. The LDC shall be the final authority in all such matters, and all relevant parties including the subject of any complaint shall be bound by its directions and orders.
- iv. Except in cases of a Level 3 offence, no person will be expelled from the League for the first instance of Level 1 offence and/or Level 2 offence unless the LDC decides otherwise as per its sole discretion.
- v. In cases of disputes of a personal nature, the LDC will attempt to resolve the situation amicably.

#### **c. Offences leading to Disciplinary Action**

The actions listed below may be interpreted to fall within the purview of “Level 1”, “Level 2” and “Level 3” offences. However, the lists are not to be considered as fully inclusive, exhaustive or covering all possible offences, and in case of any ambiguity of interpretation, the League Disciplinary Committee shall be the final authority on the same and their decision shall be binding. Table 1 below contains minimum sanctions but the LDC can increase/decrease/change them at its discretion, basis the circumstances and gravity of the offence even where a minimum is mentioned.

##### **i. Level 1**

Level 1 is the committing of an offence by a subject considered to be of a minor nature (unless frequently repeated) and will normally incur the minimum sanction. Example of offences that may be considered a Level 1 offence include:

1. Not being punctual for pre-Match activities such as submission of Match Day Team list and arrival to Matches.
2. Discourteous, crude, indecent, inappropriate, abusive, or offensive behaviour.
3. Offensive disregard for equipment or property.
4. Refusal to carry out reasonable instructions issued by League Officials Organising Entity.
5. Any action, which may prejudice the reputation of the League which may result in the detriment of the League or other participants.

##### **ii. Level 2**

Level 2 is the committing of an offence by a subject, of such gravity that in the opinion of the relevant disciplinary authority it warrants a higher sanction than a Level 1 offence. Examples of offences, which may be considered as Level 2 include:

1. Level 1 offences mentioned above if especially grave or repeated.



2. Deliberate or persistent breaches of Level 1 offence.
3. Theft or misappropriation.
4. Use of aggressively threatening or grave abusive behaviour.
5. Continuous inappropriate or indecent behaviour towards any other person.
6. Refusal to play or failure to attend and participate in a scheduled Match.
7. Serious damage to equipment or property.
8. Disregard for one's own or other people's safety.

**Table 1: Disciplinary Actions for Level 1 and Level 2 Offences**

Offence Description	Level 1	Level 2
Serious foul play	1-2 Match Suspension	2-4 Match Suspension
Violent conduct (such as elbowing, punching, kicking etc.)	1-2 Match Suspension	2-4 Match Suspension
Spitting at another person/s at the Stadium	NA	2-4 Match Suspension
Team Misconduct: Several Players and/or Club Officials from the same Team threaten, harass or misbehave with any	0-2 Match Suspension	2-4 Match Suspension  Persistent breach will lead to categorization as Level 3 with
person/s or a Match Official at the Stadium.		further sanctions decided by LDC
Involvement in a brawl	0-2 Match Suspension	2-4 Match Suspension  Persistent breach will lead to categorization as Level 3 with further sanctions decided by LDC
Not being punctual for pre-Match activities such as submission of Team Sheet and start and restart of Matches	First time: Warning	Repeated breach will result in a Forfeit against the defaulter Club
Indulging in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour (including discrimination)	1-2 Match Suspension	2-4 Match Suspension



Engage in intimidation, abuse or harassment of Match Officials, League Officials, Operating Partners.	1-2 Match Suspension	3-4 Match Suspension
Entering the pitch during or after the Match by any Club representative to protest any decision of the Referee	First time: Warning	2-4 Match Suspension
Bringing or allowing unauthorized person (such as Players or Club Officials not part of the Team) in or around the Technical Area	First time: Warning	Repeated breach will result in a Forfeit against the defaulter Club
Disregard for equipment or property	0-2 Match Suspension for individual  Payment of amount equal to the monetary damage charged to the Club (as per invoice)	2-4 Match Suspension for individual  Payment of amount equal to the monetary damage charged to the Club (as per invoice) and a fine as per the discretion of the LDC  If categorized as level 3, LDC will impose further sanctions deemed necessary.
Club arriving later than the communicated time of kick-off (delay caused by the Club)	First time: Warning	Repeated breach will result in a Forfeit against the defaulter Club
Failure to attend and participate in a scheduled Match or refusal to continue a Match after commencement	NA	Forfeit against the defaulter Club  3 consecutive walkovers will lead to disqualification from the League and a 2-year ban from RFDL
An action which brings any one or more of the following into disrepute: League, Match Official, any Club, any Player or the game.	1-2 Match Suspension and or fine as per the discretion of the LDC	2-4 Match Suspension  If categorized as level 3, LDC will impose further sanctions deemed necessary
Theft or misappropriation	NA	3-4 Match Suspension  Return of or compensation for the stolen item



Unruly Behaviour towards Players/Club Officials by any representatives of a team/Club or supporters of a Club.	0-2 Match Suspension	If categorized as level 3, LDC will impose further sanctions deemed necessary
Fielding suspended Player/Club Official	NA	Forfeit against the defaulter Club
Fielding ineligible Player such as an additional U23 Player	NA	Forfeit against the defaulter Club  Level 3 offence which will be decided by LDC

### iii. Level 3

Level 3 is an offence by the subject of such seriousness that it may require the expulsion and/or a disqualification of the Player or Club from the League/future seasons of League. The subject shall have a right to a disciplinary hearing in such case, however, the League Disciplinary Committee, as applicable, may provisionally expel such subject on immediate basis and the subject shall remain provisionally expelled till such time that the disciplinary hearing is conducted and such expulsion is either confirmed or withdrawn. Examples of Level 3 are:

1. Physical violence or assault by a Player or Club Official towards other persons at a Match or League or related activity, including serious threatening, intimidating or forceful behaviour.
2. Severe breach of Code of Conduct by a Player or Club Official.
3. Participating in the Match whilst under the influence of alcohol or banned drugs.
4. Reckless disregard of safety and basic safety rules.
5. Any attempt to achieve gains or advantage over others by unfair or unscrupulous means or partake in Match manipulation.
6. Deliberate or persistent breaches of Level 2 offence (or a Level 1 offence, the persistent breach of which has already categorized it into a Level 2 offence).
7. Providing false information on AIFF CMS system, including Player eligibility, without limitation, any age manipulation.
8. Acts that may bring League into seriously grave disrepute.
9. Other acts that are of an extremely serious nature perpetrated against League, any other participant, or any other party.

### d. Protests

- i. Protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on Matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, accessory Match equipment, eligibility of Players, Stadium installations and footballs.
- ii. Protest forms shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner within 2 hours of the conclusion of the Match in question.
- iii. A full written report including all supporting evidence is also required to be submitted within 24 hours of the conclusion of the said Match, to the League Officials (*email to [developmentleague@rf-sports.com](mailto:developmentleague@rf-sports.com)*)



- iv. No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.
- v. Protest forms will be available at all Stadiums and a digital form will be shared with the Club along with the Rules and Regulations.

## ARTICLE 7 – Match Organisation

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### a. Technical Regulations

All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by IFAB and these Rules laid down by League:

- i. Each Match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of forty-five (45) minutes, with a half time interval of 15 minutes. A two (2) minutes water break will be in place halfway through each half if deemed necessary by the Match Officials.
- ii. Only five (5) substitutes listed on the Match Day Team may take part in the Match.
  - 1. Any Participating Club shall generally be allowed to substitute five (5) players during a Match in a maximum of 3 (three) opportunities (substitutions made at Half Time is not counted as a used opportunity).
- iii. If, at any time, a team is able to only field fewer than seven (7) Players, the Match shall be abandoned. In such case, the team which has more seven (7) Players shall be declared the winner by a score of 3-0 or the score at the time of abandonment, whichever is higher.
- iv. If two or more teams are equal on points at the end of the League, their ranking shall be determined as follows:
  - 1. Greater number of points obtained in the matches between the Clubs concerned;
  - 2. Goal difference resulting from the matches between the Clubs concerned;
  - 3. Greater number of goals scored in the matches between the Clubs concerned;
  - 4. Goal difference in all the matches;
  - 5. Greater number of goals scored in all the matches;
  - 6. Drawing of lots

### b. Condition of Progression

- i. Regional Qualifiers:
  - 1. Winners and runners-up progress to next phase
  - 2. Best 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams will qualify for the next phase; If two or more teams are equal on points at the end of the League, their ranking shall be determined as follows:
    - a. Points obtained in all the matches
    - b. Superior Goal difference in all the matches;
    - c. Greater number of goals scored in all the matches;
    - d. Drawing of lots
  - 3. Up to 20 teams will go through to the next phase





- ii. All Knockout matches that end in a draw after completion of regular playing time, will directly lead to a penalty shootout to determine team progression. No extra time will be played out after the final whistle.

### c. Cautions & Suspensions

- i. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- ii. In the event of a straight red card shown to a Player/coach, they will serve an immediate one (1) game suspension. Reckless behaviour by participating Players and coaches will be dealt by the LDC.
- iii. A Player or Club Official who receives three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in three (3) different League Matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the third caution, unless already serving a suspension, in which case, the pending suspension (basis receiving three (3) cautions as mentioned above) will get carried forward to the next Match. The above process will be repeated after three (3) cautions (yellow cards).
- iv. A Participating Club that causes a delay in the commencement of the first period of the Match and/or the second period of the Match may be sanctioned (*Refer Table 1*) by the LDC.

### d. Matches and Training

- i. Communication of all Matches, training schedules and Stadium to fall under the purview of Operating Partner and they are solely liable for communicating any changes to the same.
- ii. The Club point of contact is to regularly communicate with their respective State Federation's regarding the Season schedule.
- iii. The participating Operating Partners are solely responsible for ensuring that all League mandated match organisation measures are in place for all Match Days

### e. Abandonment/Stoppage of Matches

- i. If a Match is stopped by the Match Officials before the end of normal time or during any injury time because of any Force Majeure or any other field/playing condition related incidents such as, but not limited to, the field is not fit for play, weather conditions, floodlight failure, etc., the League Officials shall decide whether to abandon the Match or order only part of the Match, which has not been completed to be replayed, or whether a replay shall be organized and if the Match result at the time of abandonment is valid, taking sporting and organizational considerations into account.

### f. Medical

- i. Participating Clubs are required to have their own First Aid kit for all matches and training session.
- ii. Appointed qualified medical personnel will be present on Match Days at the Stadium to handle any emergencies on ground for injuries such as head trauma and cardiac arrests. The League will not be liable for any consequences arising from such assessment by such personnel.
- iii. The participating Clubs/Academies will be solely responsible for any medical costs related to Players and Club Officials participating in the 2023 Season.



- iv. All participating Operating Partners are solely responsible to fulfil League mandated medical measures for each Match Day venue.
- v. The League will not be liable for any death, injuries or any consequences arising from any Matches during the 2023 season.

#### **g. Hospital & Ambulance**

- i. Participating Operating Partner or the Host Club shall arrange a medical services provider hospital in case a Player or Club Official requires treatment or other emergencies arise. A hospital will be mapped out by the Operating Partner, according to the Stadiums.
- ii. A minimum of one (1) BLS (Basic Life Support) and (1) assigned emergency vehicle will be present during each Match.
- iii. The ambulance shall be equipped with equipment such as defibrillator, medicaments and trained medical personnel.
- iv. The League will not be liable to any medical consequences arising during the Season.
- v. Operating Partners will be solely responsible for the availability of medical services and League mandated medical requirements to be fulfilled for each Match Venue.

## **ARTICLE 8 – Transportation**

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- i. Club is solely responsible to arrange for inter-city and intra-city transportation as per schedule requirements.
- ii. The Club is responsible of respecting the travel schedule for the Matches; delays caused by the Club shall incur disciplinary action as per Article 6.

## **ARTICLE 9 – Miscellaneous**

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#### **a. Matters not provided for**

- i. The League shall have the right to delete, add or amend these Rules and Regulations. Any amendment to these Rules and Regulations shall become effective upon the publication by the League of the amended Rules and Regulations.
- ii. Matters not provided for or in the event of any inconsistency or other issues of any kind in connection with these Rules and Regulations and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by the League, whose decisions shall be final and binding.

