



Reliance  
Foundation

YOUTH  
SPORTS



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT  
REGULATIONS 2023-24

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# 1: INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 Definitions



In these Regulations:

“Assistant Referee” means the Match Officials appointed by RFYS who assist the Referee in controlling the Match and whose duties are defined in the Laws of the Game.

“Championship Centre” means a location in a particular Geography, where RFYS is hosting a Football Championship in at least one of the defined age categories

“Football Competition Manager/s or FCM” means the person/s appointed by RFYS to oversee and be in overall charge of the competition and operational management for the football Tournament.

“Force Majeure” means any cause or event outside the reasonable control of any Participant, arising from or attributable to acts, events, omissions or accidents, including but not limited to the effect of any elections, abnormally inclement weather, flood, lightning, storm, fire, explosion, earthquake, structural damage, epidemic or other natural disaster, failure or shortage of power supplies, war, terrorist action, military operations, threat of terrorist action, riot, crowd disorder, strike, lock-outs or other industrial action (but not strikes, lock-outs or other industrial action of any participating Institute), acts or omissions of public authorities or any changes in any law, regulation or policy of the government.

“Fourth Official” means the Match Official appointed by RFYS whose duties are defined in the Laws of the Game and who shall replace the Referee or the Assistant Referee in case either is unable to continue.

“Game” means the game of Football.

“Head Coach” means, in relation to each Participating Team, the most senior Team Official responsible for coaching and/or managing such Participating Team.

“Head of Centre” means the person appointed by RFYS in respect of an RFYS Centre, to oversee matters related to Matches and other Tournament activities held in the respective RFYS Centre.

“Institute” means any school, junior college or college that could be eligible to participate in the Tournament in accordance with the eligibility criteria prescribed by RFYS.

“Institute Registration Form” means the entry participation form to be submitted by an Institute without which an Institute is not eligible to participate in the Tournament.

“Laws of the Game” means the laws of the Game as determined and published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) from time to time.

“League” means an invitational league hosted by RFYS in select centres, with a limited number of Teams playing in a league format to determine the winners of the respective Championship Centres.



“**Lucky Loser**” means a Team which fails to qualify for the next round, but gets another chance to progress further via playing and winning additional **Match/es** and/or having a better record among the losing Teams basis the pre-requisites set by RFYS Central team.

“**Match/es**” means, together, the knock-out matches and the league matches.

“**Match Commissioner**” means the Match Official appointed by RFYS who acts as RFYS’s official representative at a Match/venue and is responsible for overseeing the technical organization of the Match and compliance with the applicable Regulations (under his purview).

“**Match Officials**” means Referees and **Assistant Referees** (including any reserve officials and Fourth Officials), the Match Commissioner and any other person appointed by RFYS to officiate at a Match.

“**Medical Support Team**” means a medical team that includes one paramedic, one support staff and one ambulance.

“**Organising Partner**” means **State Association(s) or State Football Association(s) or Football Club(s) or Private Partner(s)** involved in organizing the RFYS Tournament 2023-24 in their respective Championship Centres

“**Participant or person subject to these Regulations**” means each Participating Institute, Player, Team Official and/or Match Official or any other person, who from time to time, is bound by these Regulations.

“**Participating Institute**” or “**Participating Team**” means any Institute duly registered and participating in the Tournament.

“**Player**” means a student who plays football and is enrolled as a full time student with a Participating Institute, he/she is representing in the Tournament.

“**Team Registration Form**” means the registration form to be submitted by each Participating Institute in respect of each Player being its full time student, under Rule 4.2 and 4.3, as the same may be amended by RFYS from time to time.

“**Referee**” means the Match Official appointed by RFYS who controls the Match by enforcing the rules of the game and whose duties are defined in the Laws of the Game. The Assistant Referees and the Fourth Official operate under the direction of the Referee.

“**Refereeing Matters**” means and include all disciplinary matters occurring between the time Teams arrive at the venue for a Match and the Referee leaves the field of play after the Match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark, if applicable), and which fall within the purview of the Referee as per the Laws of the Game.

“**Regulations**” mean these Regulations which may be amended from time to time by RFYS.

“**Re-registration**” means the registration for the 2023-24 season by Institutes already registered on the RFYS portal in previous seasons, using their existing unique ID under the previous registration.

“**RFYS/ Organizer/ RFYS Central Team**” means Reliance Foundation Youth Sports, the organizer and holder of all proprietary rights (including without limitation all intellectual property rights thereto) associated with the Tournament.

“Squad” means the Players registered with the Participating Institute, from which the Participating Institute will select its Match day Team.

“Team” means the team selected by a Participating Institute to play in the Matches of the Tournament from within their final Squad.

“Team Bench” means the benches/dugouts placed in the Technical area to seat Players and Team Officials listed in the Team Sheet.

“Team Official” means any teacher, officer, coach, doctor, physiotherapist or other person, employed or otherwise, appointed (whether temporarily or for the whole Tournament) and registered by any Participating Institute in relation to its Team.

“Team Representative” means any student whether or not registered as a Player of the Participating Institute or any other person including owner, trustee, directors or any other person employed or otherwise appointed by such Participating Institute whether or not they are registered as a Team Official.

“Team Sheet” means the list of Players and Team Officials who will represent a Participating Institute in a particular Match and/or sit on the Team Bench.

“Technical Area” means an area which a coach, other Team Officials listed on the Team Sheet, and substitute Players are allowed to occupy during a Match. The technical area includes the Team Bench and a marked zone adjacent to the pitch.

“Tournament” means the amateur football tournament organized by RFYS in respect of which these Regulations are being published.

“Tournament Disciplinary Committee” means the disciplinary committee appointed by RFYS pursuant to Rule 5.

“Tournament League Secretary” means the person appointed as the league secretary to oversee primarily the administrative function of the disciplinary process and other functions as set out under these Regulations.

“Under-15 Boys” means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 15 years (born on or after 1st January, 2009 but no later than 31st December 2011) and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1;

“Under-17 Boys” means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 17 years (born on or after 1st January, 2007 but no later than 31st December, 2009) and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1;

“Under-19 Boys” means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 19 years (born on or after 1st January, 2005, but no later than 31st December 2007) and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1;

“Under-21 Boys” means the category of the Tournament which has players pursuing an undergraduate degree course in a college or university and who have not attained 21 years (born on or after 1st January, 2003 but no later than 31st December 2006) and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1. Additionally a number of 5 (five) Under 23 players (Born on or after 1st January 2001 but no later than 31st December 2002) will be allowed in the squad and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1;

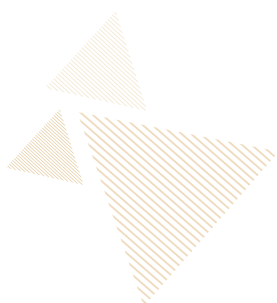
“Under-15 Girls” means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 15 years (born on or after 1st January, 2009) and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1;

“Under-19 Girls” means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 19 years (born on or after 1st January, 2005 but no later than 31st December 2009) and fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1; Additionally only to complete a squad and on special written request case basis, a squad may field up to 3 girl athletes born between 1st Jan 2010 and 31st December 2010.

“Venue Head” means the person appointed by RFYS who acts as RFYS’s official representative at a venue and is responsible for overseeing the operational organization of Matches and compliance with the applicable Regulations at that venue.

“Venue Partner” means any Participating Institute providing its ground/venue for hosting RFYS Tournament Matches.

“Working Day” means any day (not being a Saturday or Sunday) on which banks are generally open for business in Mumbai.



## 1.2 Interpretation



- a) Unless the context otherwise requires:
- (i) words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa; and
  - (ii) words importing any particular gender shall include all other gender(s).

## 1.3 Organizer - Reliance Foundation Youth Sports (RFYS)



- a) The Football Tournament of 2023 ("Tournament") will be played under the auspices of RFYS.
- b) All rights associated with the Tournament which has not been granted by these Regulations and/or specific agreements to any Participating Institute or a Participant, shall remain with RFYS.
- c) These Tournament Regulations and any other guidelines, circulars or codes related to the Tournament shall be binding on all Participants

## 1.4 Participating Institutes



- a) The obligations and responsibilities of the Participating Institutes are stipulated in the Institute Registration Form and in these Regulations and any other agreements reached between RFYS and the Participating Institute.
- b) Each Institute shall sign and submit the prescribed Institute Registration Form to RFYS not later than the registration deadline communicated to the Participating Institutes, in order to be eligible for participation in the Tournament. If the Institute Registration Form does not reach RFYS by the registration deadline, the participation application of the Institute shall be liable to be rejected on the sole discretion of RFYS.

## 1.5 Delegation



RFYS shall be entitled to delegate any power or authority, bestowed on it under these Regulations to any other sub-committee or to any other person/entity such as the Tournament Disciplinary Committee (TDC) and/or the Football Competition Manager (FCM) either generally or in respect of any individual events or circumstances.

## 1.6 Effective Date



Each Participant agrees that these Regulations shall come into force as on the date it is adopted by RFYS as published on its website. Participating in the Tournament shall constitute an agreement with RFYS and acceptance by each Participant to be bound by and comply with these Regulations. Participant(s) can find the Regulations on [rfyouthsports.com](http://rfyouthsports.com). Any amendment to these Regulations shall become effective upon the publication of the amended document on [rfyouthsports.com](http://rfyouthsports.com).

## 1.7 General Conduct



Each person subject to these Regulations shall:

- a) Not at any time act in a manner which does or which might be anticipated to bring such person, RFYS, its agencies/representatives, the Tournament, any Participating Team, any Player, RFYS partners, any RFYS sub-committee, or any Committee Member and/or the Game into disrepute or adversely affect its/their reputation.
- b) Strictly comply with these Regulations.
- c) Co-operate with RFYS and its representatives to help run the Tournament to the highest possible standards and with utmost integrity.
- d) In the event of RFYS conducting inquiries into any suspected or alleged breach of these Regulations, or if the Participating Institute/Team Official/Player becomes aware of any suspicious or unusual activities or information that may have an impact on the integrity of a Match or the Tournament, the Participating Institute/Team Official/Player shall report such matter within 72 hours of having become aware of such information/activity and co-operate with such investigative procedures and forthwith provide accurate and complete information of such activity to the RFYS.

## 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS



### 2.1 Matches played in accordance with the Laws of the Game



- a) All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game laid down by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA, except for the modifications provided, if any, with regards to youth football in the Regulations.
- b) Up to five (5) substitutes listed in the Team Sheet may play in a Match. A Player who has been substituted out may take no further part in the Match.
- c) In matches across all phases & categories of the Tournament (RFYS), Teams will be allowed to use (5) substitutes listed in the team sheet (Match day) to play in a Match. However, each team:
  - i. Will have a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities\*
  - ii. May additionally make substitutions at half-time
  - iii. Concussion based injuries allows an additional substitution available for replacement to the team affected only after the para-medic/referee confirms the affected player is unable to continue further due to the concussion based injury. The substituted player cannot return to the field.

*\*Where both Teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for both Teams*

*\*Multiple substitutions (and requests) by a team during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity*

If, at any time, a Participating Team is able to field fewer than seven (7) Players, the Match shall be abandoned/cancelled. In such a case, the Participating Team which has more than 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.

### 2.2 Duration of Matches



- a) For all rounds of the Under-15 (Girls & Boys) categories, each Match shall last forty (40) minutes, comprising two periods of twenty (20) minutes, with an interval of ten (10) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
- b) For all rounds of the Under-17 Boys and U-19 Girls, each Match shall last sixty (60) minutes, comprising two periods of thirty (30) minutes, with an interval of ten (10) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period, unless required to be reduced to a period of total forty (40) minutes in accordance with and set out under Rule 2.11 (b) below
- c) For all rounds of the Under-19 Boys and Under-21 Boys, each Match shall last ninety (90) minutes, comprising two periods of forty five (45) minutes, with an interval of fifteen (15) minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period, unless required to be reduced to a period of total sixty (60) minutes in accordance with and set out under Rule 2.11 (b) below

- d) If the result is level at the end of normal playing time during the knock-out Matches, no extra time shall be played and Penalty Kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.
- e) If the result is level at the end of normal playing time during the league Matches, no extra time shall be played and a point will be shared each by the Teams, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.

## 2.3 Field of Play



- a) Matches may be played on natural or artificial surface.
- b) The field markings shall be the same width or as close as possible to the width of the goalposts.

## 2.4 Footballs



- a) The balls to be used in Matches shall be as supplied by RFYS before the commencement of the Match/es.

## 2.5 Competition Format



The Tournament will be conducted in three formats across different championship centres. Knock-out format would only be competing in single-elimination format while in League Qualifiers (Knock-out) cum League format, the championship would begin in a knock-out qualifier, culminating into an extended League. Whereas in league format, the Teams will be competing in pure League format basis RFYS central team's decision.

- a) The three formats are explained below:
  - i. Knock-out Format
    1. Teams are drawn into a bracket, which shows their progression from the first round to the finals.
    2. The winner of each Match progressing to the next round and the losing team getting eliminated.
    3. Each winner will play another in the next round, until the final match.
    4. The winner of the final match of the knock-out championship shall be declared the RFYS Centre Champion or eligible for qualifying spots in the league format.
    5. RFYS will decide the number of Teams participating in knock-out format in select cities/phases on own discretion across all age categories.
  - ii. League Qualifiers (Knock-out) + League Format
    1. The championship shall be played in a league format, where each team plays all the others in the league, once or twice basis the decided format for the RFYS Centre by RFYS.

2. The number of Teams participating in the League shall be decided by RFYS depending on the format decided for the RFYS Centre, hence each team would play the matches based on single or double legged format.
3. Participation shall be on the basis of direct Invitation from RFYS or qualification through the League Qualifiers (Knock-out) competition.
4. Teams shall be invited to participate in the League, on the basis of their past participation and performance in RFYS competitions as per internal criteria decided by RFYS Central Team.
5. The remaining spot(s) for the League format will be available through the League Qualifiers (Knock-out) competition.
6. The other Teams shall compete in League Qualifiers which will be a knock-out format (as described in 2.5.a.i above).
7. The number of Teams that qualify for the League through League Qualifiers shall be decided by RFYS basis Championship Centre format of the particular city/cities.
8. Any knock-out and league Match's result shall be determined taking into account Rule 2.2 a).iv and 2.2 a).v respectively.
9. The final 4 of the League will further advance to an exclusive League format. League leaders of the league in respective categories will be declared as RFYS Centre Champions.

### iii. League Format

1. The championship shall be played in a league format, where each team plays all the others in the league, once or twice basis the decided format for the Championship Centre by RFYS.
2. The number of Teams participating in the League shall be decided by RFYS depending on the format decided for the Championship Centre, hence each team would play the matches based on single or double legged format.
3. Participation shall be on the basis of direct Invitation or qualification criteria as set by RFYS.
4. Teams shall be invited to participate in the League, basis of their past participation and performance in RFYS competitions as per internal criteria decided by RFYS Central Team.
5. Any League Match's result shall be determined taking into account Rule 2.2 a).v
6. League leaders of the League in respective categories will be declared as RFYS Centre Champions.
7. Teams will be subject to promotion and relegation from the League subject to the guidelines set by the RFYS Central team

- b) Any knock-out and league Match result shall be determined taking into account Rule 2.2 iv and 2.2 v respectively
- c) The system of play for all League Matches shall be each Participating Team playing one or two match/es against each of the other Participating Teams in the same League basis format decided by RFYS, with three points for a win, one point for a draw and none for a defeat. At the end of the league, below criteria will be used to determine the winner:
- Maximum number of points obtained in all the League Matches
  - Higher goal difference in all the League Matches
  - Team with the maximum points in the head-to-head matches
  - Maximum number of goals scored in all the League Matches.
  - Drawing of lots.
- d) RFYS shall form and/or rearrange group(s) at its discretion, taking geographical and organizational factors into consideration. The decision of RFYS on the group formation shall be final and binding on all Participating Team(s).
- e) League structure, Teams participating and its format will be decided by RFYS. The decision of RFYS on the league formation is final and binding on all Participating Teams.
- f) RFYS reserves the right to add more age categories to the Championship Centre in different Competition centres and/or change the cut-off age for the same at its discretion. The decision of RFYS on age categories is final and binding on all Participating Teams.

## 2.6 Championships Centre



For the purpose of the Championship Centre, certain neighboring areas of a Centre shall also be deemed to be included within that Championship Centre and shall compete with the Teams of such Centre.

a) The RFYS Centre Champions will be determined in the below methodology depending on the format being deployed at the respective championship Centre:

i. Knock-out Format:

1. The winner of the Championship Centre shall be the team that wins all rounds of the knock-out competition and stays undefeated. The draw of the competitions will be made at the sole discretion of RFYS.
2. The four winners of the quarter-finals shall advance to the semi-finals, which shall also be a one-leg, knock-out match. The two winners of the semi-finals shall advance to the Championship Centre Finals or be eligible for the qualifying spots for league format. The winner of the Championship Centre Finals shall be crowned as the RFYS Centre Champion in the respective category.
3. If the result is level at the end of normal playing time during the knock-out Matches, no extra time shall be played and Penalty Kicks shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game.
4. The structure for the Championship Centres shall usually follow the above format. However, the format may be changed if necessary, by RFYS at its sole discretion. RFYS' decision on all matters relating to such format shall be final and binding on all Participating Teams.

ii. League Qualifiers + League Format:

1. The Teams qualifying for the League format will be available through the League Qualifiers (Knock-out) competition, basis decided format by RFYS.
2. The winner of the Championship Centre shall be the team that finishes on top of the league table after all matches in the league have been completed.
3. The RFYS Centre Champion in the League will be decided on the basis of the following criteria:
  - Maximum number of points obtained in all the League Matches
  - Higher goal difference in all the League Matches
  - Team who collected the maximum points in the head-to-head matches
  - Maximum number of goals scored in all the League Matches
  - Drawing of lots

### iii. League Format:

1. The winner of the Championship Centre shall be the team that finishes on top of the league table after all matches in the league have been completed.
2. The RFYS Centre Champion in the League will be decided on the basis of the following criteria:
  - Maximum number of points obtained in all the League Matches
  - Higher goal difference in all the League Matches
  - Team who collected the maximum points in the head-to-head matches
  - Maximum number of goals scored in all the League Matches
  - Drawing of lots

## 2.7 Venues



- a) The Venues for the matches in the Tournament shall be decided at the sole discretion of RFYS.
- b) High standards of behaviour and discipline are expected from each Participating Team. Any damage that is caused to the venue or the facilities provided, attributable to any act of negligence or misconduct of a Player or Team Official shall be recovered from the Player/Team Official's Institute as compensation based on actual costs in addition to any sanction as prescribed under these Regulations.
- c) Due to a likely schedule of back-to-back matches at each venue and also otherwise, all Participating Teams are expected to strictly adhere to the pre-match activities timings and kick-off times for the start and re-start of play after interval.

## 2.8 Team Benches and Technical Area



- a) The Team benches (left or right when facing the field) shall be assigned to the Teams prior to the start of the Match.
- b) Up to a maximum of two (2) Team Officials and a maximum of seven (7) Players (substitutes) will be allowed to sit on the Team Bench during the Match, provided they are duly Registered as per Rule 4 and in possession of the appropriate accreditation/identity card issued by RFYS.
- c) All officials and Players on the Team Bench must wear their accreditation card at all times. The accreditation cards always be available for inspection prior to the start of and during the Match.
- d) All persons on the bench must wear kits that are contrasting with the kit of the Players and Referees on the pitch. In case of a clash, bibs should be worn on top of the jerseys.

## 2.9 Playing Kit



- a) Players shall compulsorily wear registered numbers on their jerseys and if possible on shorts as well. Each Player shall wear the same number allocated to him on the Team Registration Form submitted to RFYS during the registration process and his number shall remain unchanged throughout the Tournament.
- b) Teams are allowed to choose only between numbers 1-18 for their squad. If the Players of a Team come to a Match wearing jerseys which have numbers beyond 18 on match day squad they will be asked to wear bibs (provided by RFYS which shall be numbered 1-18) as per their registered numbers on top of their jerseys.
- c) If there is a clash between the kit colours of competing Teams, the Referee will decide by a coin toss as to which Team would need to wear bibs, in order to achieve a clear distinction between the two Teams. The bibs shall be provided by RFYS.

## 2.10 Match Officials

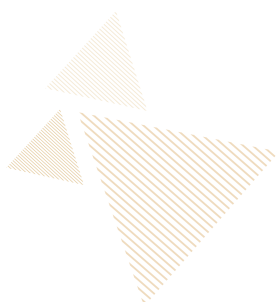


- a) A Referee, two Assistant Referees, a Fourth official and a Match Commissioner shall be appointed for each Match by RFYS.
- b) If the Referee or one of the Assistant Referees is prevented from carrying out his duties, such Referee or Assistant Referee shall be replaced by the Fourth official.
- c) After each Match, the Referee and Match Commissioner shall complete and sign the official Referee report and Match Commissioner report forms and shall also submit the official Team Sheet. On the report form, the Referee shall note all occurrences of significance, such as score, time of goals, and misconduct of Players leading to caution or expulsion (including citing the reason), and any other incident such as misconduct of a Team Official happening before, during and/or after the Match in as much detail as possible.
- d) The official match data report for each completed Match should be verified (i.e., score, cautions, send offs) immediately after the Match by the Team coach or another Team Official. Match reports that are not verified; stand as submitted and may not be contested or appealed.

## 2.11 Match Schedule



- a) All Matches shall be played according to the dates, venue and kick-off times as set by RFYS.
- b) The duration of matches to be played in each age category will be at the sole discretion of RFYS.



## 2.12 Cancellation of Matches



- a) The Referee in consultation with the Match Commissioner and the Venue Head shall take the final decision on whether a Match needs to be delayed and/or cancelled due to Force Majeure reasons such as weather conditions or the field is not fit for play. If a decision is taken to delay or cancel a Match the Referee/Match Commissioner shall as soon as practicable submit a report to the Venue Head detailing the reason for the cancellation.
- b) If a Match cannot commence on time due to Force Majeure as stated above, the RFYS team based on the remaining schedule of the day, and in consultation with the Match Commissioner may, as per its sole discretion, reduce the duration of the remaining Matches (with the minimum duration of each Match being at least 40 minutes) but this shall be decided before the start of the relevant Match/es.
- c) In circumstances where it is not possible to play the Match at all due to a Force Majeure condition even after the delay as prescribed under paragraphs (a) and (b) above, RFYS may, in its absolute discretion and taking account of any relevant considerations such as Match scheduling, sporting or other organizational issues decide to order such cancelled Match to be played at the earliest possible date and time provided this can be done. If it is not possible to order the rescheduling of the cancelled Match (due to scheduling, sporting or other organizational issues), RFYS shall determine the result of the cancelled Match in accordance with the following:
  - i. If the said Match is a knock-out match, RFYS shall try and organize kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner, however if even that is not possible, the winner shall be decided by draw of lots/coin toss.
  - ii. If the said Match is a League Match, the result will be considered a 0-0 draw.
- d) No appeals may be lodged against decisions under Rule 2.11 and 2.12.

## 2.13 Abandonment of Matches



- a) The Referee in consultation with the Match Commissioner and the Venue Head shall take the final decision on whether a Match that is underway needs to be stopped due to Force Majeure reasons such as weather conditions or the field is not fit for play. If a decision is taken to stop the Match and eventually abandon it, the Referee/Match Commissioner shall as soon as practicable submit a report to the Venue Head detailing the reason for the abandonment.
- b) In case of the above, any re-start of the play shall account for the time lost and the remaining Match schedule of the day. If necessary, based on the remaining schedule of the day, the RFYS team in consultation with the Match Commissioner may reduce the duration of the remaining Match/es (with the minimum duration of each Match being at least 40 minutes), but this shall be decided before the start of the relevant Match/es. For the avoidance of doubt, the duration of the Match, which was already underway before stoppage, shall not be reduced.
- c) In circumstances where it has not been possible to complete a Match under paragraph a) above, RFYS may, in its absolute discretion and taking account of any relevant considerations such as Match scheduling, sporting or other organizational issues decide:

- i. To order the part of such Match which has not been completed to be played at an earliest possible date and time provided this can be done, or
- ii. That it is not (due to scheduling, sporting or other organizational issues) possible to order the remainder of the abandoned Match to be completed under i. of this paragraph in which case RFYS shall determine the result of the abandoned Match in accordance with the following:
  - 1. If 60 minutes or less for a 90 minute Match (40 minutes or less for a 60-minute Match and 25 minutes or less for a 40-minute Match) have been played (according to the Referee's watch) at the time of the abandonment of the Match then the result will be a draw if either the score is level or if one Team is winning by a margin of 1 or 2 goals but if one Team is winning by a margin of 3 or more goals then such Team will be the winner and the score at the time of abandonment will hold; or
  - 2. If more than 60 minutes for a 90 minute Match (40 minutes for a 60-minute Match and 25 minutes for a 40-minute Match) have been played (according to the Referee's watch) at the time of the abandonment of the Match then the result will be a draw if either the score is level or if one Team is winning by a margin of 1 goal but if one Team is winning by a margin of 2 or more goals then such Team will be the winner and the score at the time of abandonment will hold.
  - 3. In case of a draw subject to Rule 2.13 (c) – ii 1 and 2 however, the goals scored by each Team will be accounted for in the points table, if it is a League Match.
- d) In case of an abandoned Match, where under Rule 2.13 only the part of the Match, which has not been completed, is ordered to be played at an earliest possible date, the following principles shall apply:
  - i. The Match shall recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted, and with the same score line.
  - ii. The Match shall recommence with the same Players on the pitch and the same substitutes available as when the Match was abandoned.
  - iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the Team Sheet.
  - iv. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was abandoned.
  - v. Players sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced.
  - vi. Any sanction imposed before the Match was abandoned shall remain valid for the remainder of the Match.
  - vii. Any other matter not set out above shall be decided by RFYS at its sole discretion.
- e) No appeal may be lodged against decisions under Rule 2.13.

# 3: ENTRIES FOR TOURNAMENT



## 3.1 Eligible Entries for Participating Institutes



- a) Only a school/junior college affiliated to a state government board, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council of Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), International Baccalaureate Programme or the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is eligible to participate in the Tournament.
- b) Only a full time student who is currently enrolled/registered for an under-graduate degree course at a college or university in India which is affiliated to a central university, state university, deemed university or a private university which is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) shall be eligible to participate in this Tournament (post-graduate course students and diploma course students are not eligible).
- c) Apart from the above, other autonomous Institutes granted the permission to autonomously award degrees and falling under the administrative control of the Department of Higher Education such as the Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Indian Institutes of Technology, the National Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, School of Planning and Architecture, the Indian Institutes of Management and all Institutes listed under Institutions of National Importance by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) shall also be eligible to participate as long as the student is enrolled in an under-graduate degree course.
- d) The Institute must be in existence for at least 5 years, with at least 2 batches having passed from the following: i) from Class 10th, for the Under-17 Boys category, ii) Class 12th (for the Under-19 Boys and Girls categories), and iii) from the relevant college for the graduate Under-21 Boys category.
- e) Students studying in open Institutes or part of distance learning programs are not eligible to participate.
- f) An Institute can only enter a bona fide full time student who is currently enrolled/registered at the said institution.
- g) Foreign students are eligible to participate (Upto Five in match day team), however only up to three (3) foreign students can be fielded and playing on the pitch at all times throughout each Match. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in a 3-0 loss for the defaulting Participating Team unless the opposing Team was winning/has won the Match by a better score, in which case the result on the pitch will be upheld.
- h) A student shall not be allowed to represent more than one Institute or play in more than one category during the same season of the Tournament.
- i) Provisional admission to an Institute shall not make a student eligible to represent that Institute.
- j) Institutes shall complete an official entry form (Institute Registration Form) in full and submit it to RFYS not later than the entry deadline communicated to the Institutes.
- k) Entry Forms received after the deadline and/or incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- l) Any issue regarding the eligibility of a particular Institute shall be decided by RFYS in such manner as RFYS shall deem fit as per its sole discretion.

## 3.2 Duties and Obligations of the Participating Institute



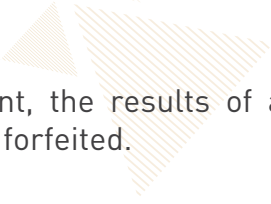

On entering the Tournament, the Participating Institute shall automatically undertake:

- a) To observe any agreement entered into with RFYS as well as these Tournament Regulations, decisions, guidelines and circulars issued by RFYS and/or its sub-committees from time to time;
- b) To comply with the Laws of the Game laid down by IFAB;
- c) To accept that all the administrative, disciplinary and Refereeing Matters connected with the Tournament shall be settled by RFYS in compliance with these Regulations;
- d) To respect their opponents and observe the principles of Fair Play;
- e) To be responsible for the behavior of their Players, Team Officials and any person carrying out any duty on their behalf throughout the Tournament;
- f) To accept all arrangements made by RFYS for the conduct of the Matches;
- g) To attend and participate in all Matches as scheduled and organized by RFYS;
- h) To ensure that its Team reports at the venue well in time and at least an hour before the communicated kick-off time to ensure a timely start to the Match;
- i) To inform RFYS as soon as practicable in case of an unavoidable delay and/or their inability to attend a Match due to Force Majeure. Whether the reason is reasonable and acceptable and whether the change can be accommodated shall be decided by the FCM at his sole discretion. If the reason is not recognized or deemed unacceptable the FCM can sanction the Participating Institute including with a 3-0 forfeit of the Match and/or other measures decided by him at his discretion in accordance with Rule 3.3 e). For avoidance of doubt, even in the case a Participating Institute has a valid reason, if the FCM is unable to accommodate the change and reschedule the Match, the FCM may award a 3-0 walkover to the opposing Team of such Participating Institute.
- j) To accept the use and/or sub-license by RFYS of any of the records, names and images of its Players and Team Officials, including any still and moving representation thereof, which shall appear or be generated in connection with the Participating Institute and its Players and Team Officials in the Tournament.

## 3.3 Withdrawal, Disqualification, Arriving late, Penalty for failing to play and Replacement



- a) Participating Institutes shall play in all their Matches in the Tournament.
- b) If a Participating Institute withdraws after entering, RFYS has the right to replace it with another eligible Institute, if the withdrawal takes place before the start of the Tournament. Where it is not possible for RFYS to replace the said team and if the fixtures for the Matches have already been created, RFYS may give a bye to the opposing Team at its discretion.

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- c) If a Participating Team withdraws while still in contention in the Tournament, it shall be sanctioned as decided by the FCM or TDC. RFYS shall, at its discretion, also take such necessary steps as are required, to make up for the withdrawal or disqualification of a Team. This could include changing the fixture, format, giving a Participating Team a bye or inviting a Lucky Loser to replace the Participating Team that has withdrawn or has been disqualified.
  - d) If a Participating Team is disqualified during the Tournament, the results of all of its Matches will be declared null and void, and the points awarded forfeited.
  - e) If a Participating Institute does not report for a Match at any stage of the Tournament, except in cases of Force Majeure recognized by RFYS, or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the stadium before the end of the Match, the Participating Institute shall:
    - i. Forfeit the Match by a score of 3-0 unless if the Match was already underway and the opponent Team was winning by a higher margin then the Match score shall stand;
    - ii. At least one-match suspension for the Team coach;
    - iii. Be referred to the FCM for further action, if required;
  - f) Other than in the case of Force Majeure recognized by RFYS, if a Participating Team fails to arrive at the match venue by the scheduled kick-off time of the match as communicated to it, then its opponent Team (provided they have arrived at the venue by the scheduled kick-off time) shall get a walkover, resulting in a 3-0 win for the latter.
  - g) Other than in the case of Force Majeure recognized by RFYS, if neither Team arrives at the match venue until the scheduled match kick-off time, a maximum delay of up to 30 minutes (for a 90 minute match), 20 minutes (for a 60 minute match) and 10 minutes (for a 40 minute match) will be allowed for the Match to take place. In such a case:
    - i. If only one Team makes it to the venue within that extended period then it shall get a walkover win of 3-0 but shall receive Penalty Points in accordance with Rule 5.11.
    - ii. If neither Team has arrived at the match venue even after the completion of this extended period, then both Teams shall be handed a 3-0 loss resulting in both of them being eliminated in case it is a knock-out match. In a League stage match, the 3-0 loss result shall be added to both Teams' tally in the points table. Additional sanction in accordance with Rule 3.3 e) above shall also be applied.
    - iii. If as per point g ii) above, both Teams end up being eliminated, then RFYS shall take such steps as necessary to make up for it. This could include giving a bye to the eliminated Teams' opponents in the next Match or selecting a replacement Lucky Loser should the need arise.
  - h) RFYS shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of Force Majeure.
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## 4: TEAM OFFICIALS & PLAYERS



### 4.1 Eligibility of Players



- a) A Player is eligible to play in the Tournament provided he/she fulfills the following conditions relevant to his/her relevant category of the competition:
- i. He/ She fulfills the conditions set out in Rule 3.1 (b);
  - ii. For the Under-15 Boys and Under-15 Girls competition, means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 15 years (born on or after 1st January, 2009 but no later than 31st December, 2011) and;
  - iii. For the Under-17 Boys competition, means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 17 years (born on or after 1st January, 2007 but no later than 31st December, 2009) and;
  - iv. For the Under-19 Boys competition, means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 19 years (born on or after 1st January, 2005 but no later than 31st December, 2007) and;
  - v. For the Under-19 Girls competition, means the category of the Tournament which has players who have not attained 19 years (born on or after 1st January, 2005 but no later than 31st December 2009) and fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1; Additionally only to complete a squad and on special written request case basis, a squad may field up to 3 girl athletes born between 1st Jan 2010 and 31st December 2010;
  - vi. For the Under-21 category, means the category of the Tournament which has players pursuing an undergraduate degree course in a college or university and who have not attained 21 years (born on or after 1st January, 2003 but no later than 31st December 2006) and that fulfills the eligibility criteria laid down in Rule 3.1. Additionally a number of 5 (five) Under 23 players (Born on or after 1st January 2001 but no later than 31st December 2002) will be allowed in the squad.
- b) A Player is deemed ineligible if:
- i. He/ She does not fulfill the conditions set out in Rule 3.1 b) and 4.1 a).
  - ii. RFYS finds that any document submitted during registration is false.

### 4.2 Registration and Replacement of Players



- a) Each participating team shall register a squad of a minimum of eleven (11) players and a maximum of eighteen (18) players, of which at least two (2) must be goalkeepers.
- b) The team sheet shall identify the starting eleven (11) and up to five (7) substitute players for each Match during the Tournament.

### 4.3 Documentation for Registration of Players



- a) For the registration of Players, Players must be registered using the Team Registration Form with the supporting documents as mentioned in the form.
- b) Documentations for the registration of Players are, but not limited to, the following:
  - i. Team Registration form.
  - ii. Color Copy of Birth Certificate and/or National ID (mentioning the birth date), which should preferably be an aadhar card (unless the Player is a foreigner in which case a passport copy shall be submitted).
  - iii. Unattested passport-size clear colored photo (taken within 6 months prior to the submission of the registration).
  - iv. Institute student identity card (in its original form as issued/attested by the Institute).
  - v. For Under-21 category, it is mandatory to share the class XII mark sheet as an additional proof of birth.
- c) Each column in the Team Registration Forms must be completed with correct information.
- d) Any Form with missing information or documentation will not be accepted. All eligible Players will be issued with an official accreditation/identity card.
- e) It is the responsibility of the Participating Institute to ensure that all forms and supporting documents are submitted within the deadline communicated by RFYS.
- f) RFYS reserves the right to request for additional documents/information than those mentioned in clauses.
- b) and c) above, if it deems it necessary.
- g) All Players must carry their original ID (this ID shall be the same as a copy of which was submitted during the registration process) during all Matches for verification. Accreditation cards to students shall be given after the verification which shall be done at the registration desk at the relevant venue.

### 4.4 Registration and Replacement of Team Officials



- a) In each participating category, each Participating Team may register up to two (2) Team Officials, of which at least one must be designated as the Head Coach.



## 4.5 Documentation for Registration of Team Officials



- a) For the registration of Team Officials, officials must be registered using the Team Registration Form.
- b) It is the responsibility of the Participating Institute to ensure that all forms and supporting documents are submitted within the deadline communicated by RFYS.
- c) In addition to the team official registration one Parent will be nominated by the school to be single point of contact, coordinates of this person will be required to communicate regularly with the team.

## 4.6 Size of Delegation Attending Matches



1. Each participating institute is entitled to bring an official delegation of eighteen (18) players and up to two (2) Team Officials who must all be registered as per Rule 4, for a Championships stage Match. This Rule needs to be strictly adhered to.
2. Participating Institutes, at their own cost, shall be allowed to invite guests and other spectators to watch the Match. For avoidance of doubt, the Participating Institute shall be solely responsible for the conduct and behavior of such guests/spectators.

## 4.7 Team Sheet



- a) Participating Teams must mark the names of their eleven (11) Players from their Squad who will start the Match while other seven (7) Players shall be marked as either substitutes or not playing in the Team Sheet Each Team must also identify its team captain and the Team Officials that will be sitting on the bench in that Match on the Team Sheet. This shall be done at least thirty (30) minutes before the kick-off of their Match.
- b) For Under-21 age category, five (5) Under-23 players shall be permitted to be named in the match day sheet, further only a maximum of three (3) Under-23 players will be allowed to be part of the playing XI at any time of the match.
- c) Five (5) Foreign players shall be permitted to be named in the matchday sheet only a maximum of three (3) foreign players will be allowed to be part of the playing XI at any time of the match.
- d) Foreign player(s) categorized as Under-23 shall be counted for both Under-23 as well as foreign player quota.
- e) After the Team Sheet has been completed and signed by both Teams' officials and returned to the Referee, and if the Match is yet to be kicked-off, the following instructions apply:
  - i. If any of the eleven (11) Players selected to start the Match are not able to start the Match for any reason, they may be replaced by any of the substitutes listed on the Team Sheet.
  - ii. The replaced Player shall be eligible to participate in the Match as a substitute.

# 5: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND MEASURES



RFYS shall appoint a Match Commissioner for each Match or Match day, one or more Tournament Football Competition Manager (FCM) and a Tournament Disciplinary Committee (TDC) to oversee disciplinary matters. Their disciplinary tasks and functions are defined below:

## 5.1 Match Commissioner (MC): Refereeing Matters



- a) Disciplinary matters in respect of Level 1 will be dealt with by the Match Commissioner if the incident occurs before, during and after a Match and is a Refereeing Matter (as defined above).
- b) In instances of disciplinary Level 2 offenses under Refereeing Matters, the Match Commissioner shall award sanctions for such offence based on the range of minimum sanctions prescribed under the Regulations.
- c) In addition to 5.1 b) above, the Match Commissioner shall refer any case of Level 2 to the Football Competition Manager (FCM) where he feels that any higher sanction needs to be imposed over and above the prescribed range of minimum sanction as full and appropriate corrective action. The FCM shall then refer it to the Tournament Disciplinary Committee (TDC) with the assistance of the Tournament League Secretary (TLS) for further action.
- d) Any incident of Level 3 under the purview of the Match Commissioner will be immediately reported to the Football Competition Manager by the Match Commissioner, for being placed before the TDC.
- e) All decisions taken by the Match Commissioner shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## 5.2 Venue Head (VH): Non-Refereeing Matters

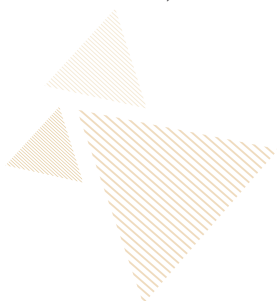


Any incident of Level 1, Level 2 and/or Level 3 offense not covered under the purview of the Match Commissioner will be reported to the FCM by the Venue Head. Venue Head reports to the Head of Centre.

## 5.3 City Head (CH):



Any complaint specifically against the Match Commissioner or the VH only, shall be reported to the Head of Centre (HC). The HC shall forward it to the FCM for further action, after reviewing the merit of the complaint. The FCM shall then review the matter and take appropriate corrective action, if necessary.



## 5.4 Football Competition Manager (FCM):



### 5.4.1 Non-Refereeing Matters

- a) The Head of Centre and Match Commissioners report to the FCM.
- b) Level 1 offences: Any incident reported by the VH will be dealt with by the FCM, and he/she shall award sanctions from the prescribed range of minimum sanctions in these Regulations. The decision of the FCM in such matters shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- c) Level 2 offences: In instances of such offenses, the FCM shall award sanctions based on the range of minimum sanctions prescribed under these Regulations. He may further refer the matter to the TDC (Tournament Disciplinary Committee) in case of any written appeal by any relevant party against the FCM's imposition of minimum sanctions as authorized under this clause 5.4.1 (b) which is received not later than two Working Days of the date of the decision.
- d) In addition to 5.4.1 (b) above, the FCM may refer any case of Level 2 to the TDC where he feels that any higher sanction needs to be imposed over and above the prescribed range of minimum sanction as full and appropriate corrective action.
- e) Level 3 offences: The FCM shall refer each such case to the TDC directly for a hearing and a decision.

### 5.4.2 Refereeing Matters:

Level 2 and Level 3 Offences: For matters referred to the FCM by the Match Commissioner under 5.1 c) and /or 5.1 (d) above, the FCM shall refer the same to the TDC with assistance from the Tournament League Secretary (TLS) for further action.

## 5.5 Tournament Disciplinary Committee (TDC):



- a) The TDC shall entertain cases with a disciplinary hearing and shall impose sanctions in cases of:
  - i. Any matter placed by the Football Competition Manager before the TDC under 5.4.1 (c), 5.4.1 (d) and 5.4.2 above;
  - ii. Any other matter not specified under the Regulations which could be deemed a Level 2 or Level 3 offence; For the avoidance of doubt, any matter not specified under the Regulations which is deemed to be a Level 1 offence will be referred for adjudication to the Match Commissioner (Refereeing Matter) and/or the FCM (Non-Refereeing Matter).
  - iii. Failure to comply with any directions or decisions given by the Match Commissioner and/or the FCM may result in further action involving a disciplinary hearing by the TDC on receiving such report of non-compliance from the FCM.
  - iv. The TDC shall be the final authority in all such matters and all relevant parties including the subject of any complaint (the "Subject") shall be bound by its directions and orders.

- b) Every person (natural or legal) under reference with the TDC has :
- i. The right to expect fair and consistent treatment.
  - ii. The right to adequate notice from the TDC.
  - iii. The right to legal representation at a hearing.
  - iv. Except in cases of a Level 3 offence, no Subject will be expelled from the Tournament for the first instance of (i) Level 1 offence and/or (ii) Level 2 offence unless the TDC decides otherwise as per its sole discretion.
  - v. All disciplinary actions taken by TDC will be duly recorded and placed on file for reference at a future date.

## 5.6 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” offence. 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 TDC shall be the final authority on the same and their decision shall be binding.

### 5.6.1 Level 1:

“Level 1” is the carrying out of an offence by a Subject considered to be of a minor nature (unless frequently repeated) and will normally incur the minimum sanction prescribed under the Regulations imposed by the Match Commissioner or the Football Competition Manager as the case may be. Examples of offences that may be considered a Level 1 offence include: -

- Not being punctual for pre-match activities such as submission of Team Sheet and Matches.
- Discourteous, crude, indecent, inappropriate, abusive or offensive behavior which is not very serious.
- Offensive disregard for equipment or property.
- Refusal to carry out reasonable instructions issued by Tournament officials or Organizers.
- Any action, which in the opinion of the FCM, may prejudice the reputation of the Tournament, RFYS, or which left unpunished, may result in the detriment of the Tournament or other Participants/stakeholders.
- Any other actions of similar gravity to the above on field and off field, at the discretion of the Match Commissioner and Football Competition Manager respectively.

### 5.6.2 Level 2:

“**Level 2**” is the carrying out 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: -

- Level 1 offences mentioned above if specially grave or repeated.
- Deliberate or persistent breaches of Level 1 offence.
- Theft or misappropriation.
- Use of aggressively threatening or grave abusive behaviour.
- Continuous inappropriate or indecent behavior towards any other person.
- Refusal to play or Failure to attend and participate in a scheduled Match.
- Serious damage to equipment or property.
- Disregard for one's own or other people's safety.
- Any action, which may seriously prejudice the reputation of the Tournament, RFYS, or which left unpunished, may result in the detriment of the Tournament or other Participants/stakeholders.

### 5.6.3 Level 3:

“**Level 3**” is an offence by the Subject of such seriousness that the FCM or the TDC may require the expulsion and/or a disqualification of the Subject from the Tournament/future editions of the Tournament. The Subject shall have a right to a disciplinary hearing in such case, however, the FCM or the TDC, 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:

- Physical violence or assault by a Participant or its supporters towards other persons at a Match or Tournament event or related activity, including serious threatening, intimidating or forceful behavior.
- Participating in the Match whilst under the influence of alcohol or banned drugs.
- Reckless disregard of safety and basic safety rules.
- Any attempt to achieve gains or advantage over others by unfair or unscrupulous means or partake in match manipulation.
- 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).
- Providing false information on the registration form (including Player or Institute eligibility).
- Acts that may bring the Tournament, RFYS into grave disrepute.
- Other acts that are considered to be of an extremely serious nature perpetrated against the Tournament, any other Participant or any other party.

## 5.7 Disciplinary Hearing



- a) On receiving a reference of any matter, the TDC shall:
  - i. Advise the complainant that if a disciplinary hearing is called, then the complainant and all relevant witnesses will be invited to attend and give evidence. Such attendance would ordinarily be appropriate but the TDC could decide that this is not required.
  - ii. Contact the Subject (or Participating Institute representative), to advise of the official complaint and request the Subject to submit a written statement of events. The Subject will be entitled to see a copy of the complaint.
  - iii. In cases of disputes of a personal nature, the TDC will attempt to resolve the situation amicably and to the mutual satisfaction of the parties concerned.
  - iv. If settlement cannot be agreed between the parties, or if the offence merits it, then a disciplinary hearing will be arranged as soon as possible.
  - v. Notify all parties as to the hearing date and ensure the parties have all relevant copies of paperwork in good time prior to the hearing.
  - vi. The TDC shall have the power to direct a summary conduct of any matter placed before it involving physical violence or assault by a participant or their supporters towards any Match officials or any of the Organizers and/or their representatives, if the TDC finds that the matter is capable of being decided upon, without any further evidence and/or witnesses to be brought before it to testify. In such case it shall make its decision within 72 hours of receiving the Match Commissioner's Report, without requirement of any further hearing and pronounce its decision accordingly, which will be notified to the parties.
- b) The panel for the TDC shall be decided by RFYS.
- c) The quorum for the TDC may consist of a single member and shall be decided on a case-to-case basis by the Tournament Legal Secretary in consultation with RFYS.

## 5.8 Disciplinary Procedure



- a) The procedure followed at the Hearing shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Disciplinary Committee, provided that the Hearing is conducted in a fair manner and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- b) After the TDC has reached a decision, the relevant parties shall be notified in writing of such decision and informed of any penalties within 7 days of the decision being reached, penalties will be effective from the date of the decision.

## 5.9 Penalties/sanctions



Following the hearing, the TDC will apply such penalties/sanctions as the TDC may consider appropriate, including temporary or permanent expulsion of the Subject from the Tournament. The decision of the TDC shall be final and binding on all parties without any further appeal.

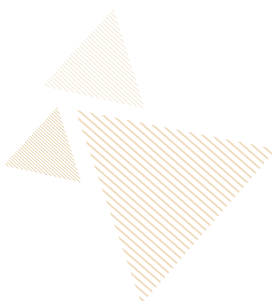
For the avoidance of doubt, the fact that any Subject is liable to face sanctions or has pending any other criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings in relation to the same matter shall not prevent or fetter any disciplinary authority set out in these Regulations from conducting proceedings and/or imposing sanctions under these Regulations.

## 5.10 Cautions, Expulsions and Suspensions



- a) A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the Referee to a Player during a Match to sanction behavior or action of a less serious nature (in accordance with Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).
- b) Head Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their Teams. In the absence of a Head Coach due to suspension or any other reason, he shall designate this responsibility to another Team Official. The same should be indicated on the Team Sheet. In case both the team officials are suspended, then the institute has to request a proxy replacement for given match/es the mentioned, contingent on approval by RFYS Central Team.
- c) A suspended Player and/or Team Official shall not be allowed on the Team Bench or enter the field of play before or during the Match.
- d) Two cautions received during the same Match results in an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, shall result in an automatic suspension from the next match. The two cautions that resulted in the red card are rescinded and not counted in the Player's overall tally of yellow cards.
- e) For the avoidance of doubt, in a knock-out or knock-out qualifier for the League Tournament, a Player who receives three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in three (3) separate Matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the third caution across all age categories.
- f) For the avoidance of doubt, all accumulated yellow cards will not carry forward while progressing into next phase
- g) For the avoidance of doubt, in the League stage of the League Tournament, a pending suspension from the knock-out qualifier stage shall not be carried over to such Player's first Match of the League Stage (if qualified), such that he shall be deemed to have no accumulated cautions at the start of the League.
- h) For the avoidance of doubt, in the league stage of the League Tournament, a Player who receives three (3) cautions (yellow cards) in three (3) separate Matches shall automatically be suspended from participating in the Match following the Match in which he received the third caution.
- i) If an abandoned Match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that Match shall be annulled. If the Match is not to be replayed, the cautions received in the Match are upheld.
- j) An expulsion is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the Technical Area, during a Match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless he is serving a stadium ban.

- k) Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards as elucidated in point d) above.
- l) If a Player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (via a direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same Match is upheld. A Team Official who is sent off during a Match shall also automatically be sent off from the field for that particular Match.
- m) An expulsion also automatically results in a suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a Match that is later abandoned and/or annulled. The duration of the suspension may be extended depending on the cause of the expulsion.
- n) If a suspension is to be served, only those Matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the Team to which the suspended Player or official belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the Match.
- o) Carrying over of Match Cautions and Suspensions
  - i. Cautions received during one season of the Tournament are not carried over to another season.
  - ii. Match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a Player in different Matches shall not be carried over from one season to another.
  - iii. Match suspensions resulting from two cautions issued to a Player in the same Match shall not be carried over from one season to another.
  - iv. Suspensions not served during one season of the Tournament shall be carried forward to the same age-category Tournament next season or the subsequent season whenever the Player/Official and/or the Participating Team participates (in case of a Player/Official this will apply regardless of whether he has changed his Institute).
  - v. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age category, it shall be carried over to a higher age category should and when the Player/Official and/or Participating Team participate in the Tournament again.
- p) Each Participating Institute shall bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by their Players and Team Officials and shall ensure that all Players and Team Officials are eligible to play or sit on the Team Bench in respect of the relevant Match.



## 5.11 Code of Conduct



Basis the below Code of Conduct, Match suspensions will be applicable for individuals while Penalty Points (PP) will be imposed on Participating Teams, as per the prescribed sanctions, if and when a Participating Team is also liable. An accumulation of 20 Penalty Points for a Participating Team (for the same or different offences) will result in a 3-0 forfeit or a possible 3 point deduction (if applicable such as in a League stage) for the Participating Team in the Match subsequent to the one in which their tally of PP added up to 20 or more points. Subsequently, if a Participating Team accumulates 30 or more points it will be reported to the TDC for stricter and appropriate action.

Offense Description	Level 1	Level 2
Receiving a second caution (yellow card) in a Match	1 Match	NA
Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick (Law 12)	1 Match	NA
Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by handling the ball	1 Match	NA
Serious Foul Play	1-2 Match	2-4 Match
Violent Conduct (such as elbowing, punching, kicking etc)	1-2 Match	2-4 Match
Spitting at another Participant	NA	2-4 Match
Team Misconduct: 5 or more Players receiving a sanction (cautions or expulsions) in the same Match	First Time: Warning, 2nd Time: 3 Penalty Points	5 Penalty Points each time third time onwards
Team Misconduct: Several Players and/or officials from the same Team threaten, harass or misbehave with a Participant/s or a Match Official	0-2 Match for individual 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach or because of the gravity of the incident
Involvement in a brawl	0-2 Match for individual 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach or because of the gravity of the incident
Not being punctual for pre-Match activities such as submission of Team Sheet and start and restart of Matches	First Time: Warning, 2 Penalty Points thereafter for each infringement up to two times	3 Penalty Points each time fourth time onwards

Indulging in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior (including discrimination)	1-2 Match for individual 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach or because of the gravity of the incident
Engage in intimidation, abuse or harassment of Match Officials	1-2 Match	3-4 Match
Entering the pitch during or after the Match by any Team Representative to protest any decision of the Referee	First Time: Warning 3 Penalty Points thereafter for each infringement up to two times	4 Penalty Points each time fourth time onwards
Bringing or allowing unauthorized person (such as Players or officials not part of the Team) in or around the Technical Area.	First Time: Warning, 2nd Time: 3 Penalty Points	4 Penalty Points each time third time onwards
Disregard for equipment or property	Warning-2 Match for individual, 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times and Payment of amount equal to the monetary damage charged to the Participating Team	2-4 Match for individual 4 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach. Additionally, payment of amount equal to the monetary damage charged to the Participating Team
		2-4 Match for individual 4 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach. Additionally, payment of amount equal to the monetary damage
Participating Team arriving later than the communicated time of kick-off	NA	As per Rule 3.3
A Participating Team refusing to play a Match or to continue playing one which it has begun	NA	As per Rule 3.3
Failure to attend and participate in a scheduled Match	NA	As per Rule 3.3

An action which brings any one or more of the following into disrepute: RF, RFYS, any Match Official, any Participating Team, any Player or the Game or which left unpunished, may result in the detriment of the Tournament or other Participants / stakeholders.	1-2 Match for individual 4 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach
Theft or misappropriation	NA	Warning-4 Match and return of or compensation for the stolen item
Participating in the Match whilst under the influence of alcohol or banned drugs	NA	Level 3 offence
Disregard for one's own or other people's safety	1-2 Match for individual First Time: 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach
Engage in public criticism of the Match or Tournament officials or making any adverse comment (such as about the integrity of a person) in media etc. anytime	1-2 Match for individual 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach
Unruly behavior such as, but not limited to, bursting of cracker, stone pelting, water bottle throwing, using laser beam pointed towards Players/ officials by Team Representatives or supporters of a Participating Team.	0-2 Match for individual 3 Penalty Points for each infringement up to two times	2-4 Match for individual First Time: 6 Penalty Points 6 Penalty Points each time third time onwards until it is categorized as a Level 3 offence for persistent breach
Fielding suspended Player official or an ineligible Foreign Player (in regard to Rule 3.1 g)	NA	3-0 forfeit
Fielding ineligible Player or participation of ineligible Institute	NA	NA – Level 3 offence which will be decided by TDC

For red card offenses, the above listed sanctions are including the automatic one match suspension.

In exceptional circumstances, the relevant disciplinary authority may, even where a minimum sanction is specified in these Regulations, choose to impose a sanction lower than the minimum due to significant mitigating circumstances.

In general, a sanction shall be on the higher side of the range when an offence committed is against a Match Official/s, which shall be considered an aggravating circumstance.

Unless otherwise specified, the disciplinary authority may increase a sanction if an infringement has been repeated, which shall be considered an aggravating circumstance.

## 5.12 Indiscipline or Violent Conduct

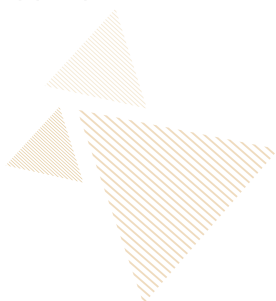


- a) Any Player, Team Official, Team Representative or Participating Team reported for indiscipline or violent conduct anywhere at the venue including but not limited to the field of play, the dressing rooms, and/or at their place of stay, if applicable (if a Team has travelled out of their city for a Match and been accommodated by RFYS) which directly affects or is a consequence of the Participants' participation in the Tournament shall be dealt with by the relevant disciplinary authority as described in the disciplinary procedure above.

## 5.13 Protest



- a) A protest is an objection of any kind to any matter that has a direct effect on Matches and any matters related to breach of these Regulations such as the fielding of an ineligible Player/s or ineligibility of a Participating Team.
- b) Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the Match Commissioner/Venue Head within 90 minutes of the end of the Match by the Team concerned and with a protest fee of Rs. 1000. No protest shall be entertained after the stipulated time and without the payment of the fee. The Match Commissioner, at his discretion, may resolve or reject a protest falling under his purview there and then at the venue. If required, the Match Commissioner and/or the FCM may ask a Team to follow up the initial protest with a full written report to enable them to make a decision.
- c) Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the Referee by the team captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has been resumed.
- d) No protests may be made against the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final.
- e) If any of the formal conditions of a protest as set out in these Regulations are not met, such protest shall be disregarded.
- f) In the case of a protest on a Player's eligibility concerning his / her age or a Participating Institute's eligibility, it is mandatory for the Team which lodges the protest to produce proof to support the protest. The Participating Institute shall submit this proof within 24 hours of the end of the Match. The FCM and/or TDC will at its sole discretion determine the veracity of the proof submitted by the Team concerned and its decision shall be binding.
- g) Should the relevant disciplinary authority determine that a protest is irresponsible or malicious, it may impose Penalty Point/s on the Team that lodged the protest.
- h) The FCM can decide to refer a protest regarding ineligibility directly to the TDC, if he deems it appropriate.



## 6: MISCELLANEOUS



### 6.1 Golden Awards



In each of the competition centres, RFYS will declare winners in three award categories.

- a) Golden Boot: The golden boot award is presented to the player who scores the highest number of goals in the competition. In case of a tie between two players at the end of the championship, the below criteria will be used as tie-breaker to decide the winner;
  - i. Least number of matches played
  - ii. Least number of minutes played
  - iii. If the players are still tied, the award should be shared between them
- b) Golden Ball: The golden ball award is presented to the best overall player in the competition. In case of a tie between two players at the end of the championship, the below criteria will be used as a tie-breaker to decide the winner;
  - i. Least number of matches played
  - ii. Most goals scored
  - iii. If the players are still tied, the award should be shared between them
- c) Golden Glove: The golden glove is awarded to the goal keeper who manages to keep the highest number of clean sheets in the competition. In case of a tie the below criteria will be used as a tie-breaker to decide the winner
  - i. Least number of goals conceded in the competition
  - ii. Most number of minutes played in the competition
  - iii. If the players are still tied, the award should be shared between them
- d) At all knock-out centres, scores for the above awards shall be kept from a player's first match till the final, post which the winners will be declared
- e) At all League centres, scores for the above awards shall be considered only in the League stage (League + League Playoff where applicable) and not in the League qualifier stage (Knock-out stage) of the competition.

### 6.2 Matters not provided for



- a) All the prize money due to the RFYS Centre Champion institutes will be credited before the end of the Financial Year (2023-24). Bank details of the institute along with relevant documents to be submitted one day prior to the Championship Centre Finals. Only official institutes' details will be accepted.
- b) Any damage that is caused to the venue or the facilities provided, attributable to any act of negligence or misconduct of a Player or Team Official shall be recovered from the Player/Team Official's prize money due to them from winning the Championship Centre
- c) Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of Force Majeure shall be decided by RFYS whose decisions are final.

- d) In case of illness, or injury caused to an RFYS athlete while participating in any RFYS competition, basic /emergency medical treatment shall be administered by the RFYS Medical Support team at RFYS cost. However in case of hospitalization, and/or special care or treatment required to treat such injury or illness, the Athlete or his / her Institute shall be obliged to arrange and pay for such treatment without liability to RFYS. However, in case of exceptional circumstances, if RFYS is required to incur any expenses towards such hospitalization, and/or special care or treatment, the Athlete or his / her institute shall reimburse the expenses to RFYS within three working days of request for payment by RFYS. Notwithstanding anything contained in this clause and/or the Agreement, RFYS shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever, for the death or serious incapacity if any, resulting from any such injury caused to an RFYS athlete.

**RFYS shall have the right to delete, add or amend these Regulations.  
RFYS adopted these Regulations on 1st August 2023.**

