



APPROVED OFFICIAL LEAGUE LOGO

# HANDBOOK

Version 1: 2025



# SPONSORS

DRAFT

# CONTENTS

## STANDARD CODE OF RULES

League Members:

League Officers:

Rule 1 Definitions

### GOVERNANCE RULES

Rule 2 Name and Constitution

Rule 3 Team Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meeting

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

### MATCH RELATED RULES

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Team Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Official

### OPERATIONAL SCHEDULES MATCH

Schedule A: Fees & Fines Tariffs

Schedule B: NYFDL Rules

Schedule C: FIFA Laws - The Referee in Football

Schedule D: FIFA Laws of the game

Schedule E: Fouls & Misconduct

Schedule F: Pitch Markings; Length of a Football Field; Player Requirements; Affiliate Requirements; Guide to Pitch sizes; Stoppage time.

Schedule G: Player Selection (Draft) Procedure; UK Player Development Tour; E-Learning

Schedule H: Function of the National & State Executive Boards; the State Administrator/Chairperson; the CEO and the NEB officers



NYFDL Management Team & National Executive Board Members

Affiliates Membership Index

DRAFT

# NYFDL YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the league and competitions is through affiliation with the regional or State NYFDL in the area in which the school, club or academy is located.

Upon registering an expression of interest with the appropriate affiliation fee, the application will go through a due diligence process as well as a facilities audit to determine the eligibility or suitability of the applicant organisation or institution.

A registration number will be issued to the applicant organisation or institution for the season.

Next, a log in code will be provided to each approved member to enable them gain access to the National League Portal to register their players.



**Let's Play Ball!**



## STANDARD CODE OF RULES

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)) for open age football (the “Standard Code”) and adopted by The Nigerian Youth Development League (NYFDL) for its Future Stars “NYFDL Youth League.” The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions organised by The NYFDL.

The NYFDL, an Independent Competition has adopted these Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The NYFDL have added to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by FIFA, the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

**Please note that all players must be registered through the leagues’ online portal.**

### 1. DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

“Affiliated Association”	means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of FIFA.
“AGM”	shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
“Affiliate”	means a Affiliate for the time being in membership of the Competition.
“Competition”	means The NYFDL Youth League.
“Match”	means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.
“Deposit”	means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.
“Fees Tariff”	means a list of fees approved by affiliates at a general meeting to be levied by the LMB for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.
“Fines Tariff”	means a list of fines approved by the affiliates at a general meeting to be levied by the LMB for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.
“Ground”	means the ground on which the Affiliate Team(s) plays its Matches.
“LMB”	means the League Management Team elected to manage the running of the competition.
“Match Officials”	means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Match
“Officer”	means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position by an affiliate or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.
“Participant”	shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of FIFA from time to time.
“Player”	means any player who plays or who is eligible to play for an affiliate
“Playing Season”	means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played
“Rules”	means these rules under which the Competition is administered.
“Season”	means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.
“Secretary”	means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.
“SGM”	means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
“Team”	means a team registered in the league by an affiliate, including where the affiliate provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.
“The NFF”	The Nigeria Football Federation
“written” or “in writing”	means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.
“Secretary”	Means The NYFDL officer appointed by either the NEB or the LMB

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

## GOVERNANCE RULES

### 1. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

- 1.1. The Competition will be known as The Nigerian Youth Football Development League (NYFDL). The members participating in the Competition must be affiliated members of the Competition. The affiliate which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- 1.2. All affiliates acknowledge that in the course of membership of the Competition that information, literature, software and other materials received or distributed and owned by the Competition shall at all times remain the sole property of the NYFDL and undertakes upon ceasing to be a member of the competition to surrender or cease to use in any form such files, information data, logos, marketing materials, software, trademarks and products of the Competition and the NYFDL.
- 1.3. This Competition shall consist of not less than 12 teams for each age group division approved by the NYFDL National Executive Board. The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be defined by the NYFDL.
- 1.4. All Affiliates may not either during or at any time after cessation of membership of the Competition disclose to anyone one other than in the proper cause of membership obligations, any information of a confidential nature relating to the Competition's members, players, officials, sponsors or suppliers and may not use such information in a manner which may either directly or indirectly bring the Competition into disrepute or cause loss to the Competition.
- 1.5. All Affiliates shall adhere to the Rules. Every Affiliate shall be deemed as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the League Management Board (LMB) in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- 1.6. The administration under these Rules will be carried out by the competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the LMB in accordance with the rules, regulations, and policies of the NYFDL.
- 1.7. The Rules are guided by the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by FIFA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- 1.8. All teams must be affiliated to the league and any sanctioning body prescribed by the NYFDL and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the NYFDL and must have a constitution approved by the NYFDL. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 1.9. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the NFF, State FA and other relevant youth football governing bodies, and the constituent Teams of Affiliates may be grouped in divisions, *each not exceeding 16 in number*.

### 2. Safeguarding, Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- 2.1. The Competition and each Affiliate must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to NYFDL Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in all relevant legislation).
- 2.2. This Competition and each Affiliate must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability, or disability or otherwise.
- 2.3. Any alleged breach of Equality legislation must be referred to the appropriate NYFDL for investigation. The competition and each Affiliate must make every effort to safeguard the children taking part in the competition and must ensure adequate safeguarding policies are in place and that all officers and officials of the competition are vetted.
- 2.4. Affiliates must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Confederation of African Football (CAF) and FIFA which are adopted by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.5. All Affiliates shall abide by NYFDL Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined from time to time.



- 2.6. Affiliates shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (except for NFF and State FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the LMB. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 2.7. At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the league, age categories and format at their discretion. When necessary, this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- 2.8. Only one Team shall be permitted from any Affiliate to participate in the same age category. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the NYFDL in the event of a division comprising of more than one Team from the same Affiliate.

### **3. AFFILIATE NAME**

- 3.1. Any Affiliate wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the NYFDL National Executive Board. Such request **MUST** be lodged with the state LMB. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

### **4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

- 4.1. Applications by Affiliates for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Affiliate must be made in writing to the Secretary.
- 4.2. At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present, of which due notice has been given, applications may be received at the AGM or an SGM.
- 4.3. The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per *Affiliate/Team* payable on or before the AGM of the Competition in each year.
- 4.4. In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Affiliate with the Competition the LMB may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Affiliate on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 4.5. An Affiliate shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription, and deposit (if required) have been paid.
- 4.6. If required by the NFF, Affiliates must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by July of its affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Affiliates must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

### **5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

- 5.1. Officers of the state or regional LMB of the Competition shall all be elected at the AGM.
- 5.2. Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 31<sup>st</sup> June in each year.
- 5.3. All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the team manager of two Affiliates, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- 5.4. The LMB shall meet weekly during the season as and when required off-season. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the LMB, the Secretary shall convene a meeting.
- 5.5. Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- 5.6. All communications received from Affiliates must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## 6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6.1. The LMB shall be constituted by the league's founding members in each state and may appoint sub-committees and delegate such powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the LMB for ratification. The LMB shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the NYFDL.
- 6.2. Each member of the LMB shall have the right to attend and vote at all AGMs and SGMs and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Affiliate so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- 6.3. In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair of the LMB shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6.4. The LMB shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.
- 6.5. Except for Rules 6(I), 8(H), and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule, the LMB shall issue a formal written charge to the Affiliate concerned. The Affiliate charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply, a Affiliate may:
  - a. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the LMB on the papers; or
  - b. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the LMB; or
  - c. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the LMB on the papers; or
  - d. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the LMB; and if unsatisfied with the outcome notify that it wishes to put its case in writing within 3 days that it wishes to appeal at a hearing before the TNUK International Operational Lead
  - e. Where the Affiliate charged fails to respond within 7 days, the LMB shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.
  - f. Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Affiliate as more fully set out above.
  - g. Having considered the reply of the Affiliate (whether in writing or at a hearing), the LMB shall make its decision and, if the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).
- 6.6. The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is ₦100,000. When setting any fine, the LMB must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, considering any mitigating circumstances.
- 6.7. Decisions of the LMB must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- 6.8. 70% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the LMB or any sub-committee thereof.
- 6.9. The LMB, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number by majority vote.
- 6.10. An Affiliate must comply with an order or instruction of the LMB and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the LMB. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 6.11. Subject to an Affiliate's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Affiliate failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- 6.12. The LMB shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- 6.13. The business of the Competition as determined by the LMB MUST be transacted by electronic mail

## **7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS**

- 7.1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the LMB or a sub-committee duly appointed by the LMB with guidance from The NYFDL National Executive Board. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the LMB unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Match.
- 7.2. Except in cases where the LMB decides that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 3 days (excluding Sundays) of the Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the LMB.
- 7.3. A member of the LMB whose Affiliate is involved in a complaint or protest shall not be a party to the deliberations (except as a witness) when such protest or complaint is being determined. A member of the league will be appointed in their stead.
- 7.4. No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the LMB unless the complaining Affiliate shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Affiliate losing its case. The Competition shall have the power to order the defaulting Affiliate or the Affiliate making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- 7.5. All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- 7.6. All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- 7.7. Should a Affiliate elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- 7.8. The LMB shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the LMB shall direct.
- 7.9. Any external appeal against a decision of the LMB must be lodged with the NYFDL within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the National Executive Board. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the NYFDL, in such respect the NYFDL may (but is not obliged to):
  - a. invite submissions by the parties involved.
  - b. convene a hearing to hear the appeal.
  - c. permit new evidence; or
  - d. impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- 7.10. Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the LMB.
- 7.11. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.
- 7.12. All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the LMB, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the LMB.
- 7.13. The Affiliates or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the LMB.
- 7.14. All such protests, claims, complaints, and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

## **8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 8.1. The AGM shall be held not later than June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 70% members are present and entitled to vote: -
  - a) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
  - b) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
  - c) Election of Affiliates to fill vacancies.
  - d) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
  - e) Election of Officers of the Competition and the League Executive Committee members.
  - f) Confirmation of the LMB Officers
  - g) Appointment of auditors.

- h) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
- i) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
- j) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season).
- k) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- l) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Affiliate at least 7 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.
- m) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the NYFDL within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

8.2. Each Affiliate shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Affiliate shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

8.3. Affiliates who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Affiliates expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*

8.4. All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 60% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

8.5. No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Affiliate.

8.6. Any continuing Affiliate must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

8.7. Officers of the Competition (LMB) and sub-Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.

8.8. Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

## 9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9.1. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Affiliates in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.

9.2. The LMB may call a SGM at any time.

9.3. At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

9.4. Each Affiliate shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Affiliate shall be entitled to one vote only.

9.5. Any Affiliate failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9.6. Officers of the Competition and LMB members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

## 10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10.1. Each Affiliate shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Affiliate intends to compete.

"We, (A) [name] of Affiliate and (B) [name] Principal/Chair, Director of Sports/Head of PE/Manager of (name and address of Affiliate) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of The NYFDL Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Affiliate, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the LMB of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."

10.2. The agreement shall be signed by:

Where an Affiliate is a school, the Affiliate Principal and Head of Sports; or

Where an Affiliate is a club or Academy, two directors.

Any alteration of the signatories of the Affiliate on the above agreement must be notified to the Operational Lead through the League Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF AN AFFILIATE**

- 11.1. Any Affiliate intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. This does not apply to an Affiliate moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 11.2. The LMB shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **12. EXCLUSION OF AFFILIATES, TEAMS, LEAGUE OFFICERS & PLAYERS,**

- 12.1. At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Chair of the disciplinary and compliance sub-committee, the delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the LMB from office; (ii) exclude any Affiliate or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the LMB or Affiliate which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- 12.2. At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Affiliate whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Affiliate whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- 12.3. Any Officer or member of a Affiliate proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Affiliate not registered in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or LMB may decide, and their Affiliate shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

## **13. TROPHY**

- 13.1. The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy: -

“We (A) [name] and (B) [name], the Principal / Chair and Head of Sports / Manager of (name of Affiliate), members of and representing the Affiliate, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Affiliate jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 30<sup>th</sup> March. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

- 13.2. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 13.3. At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit. The same applies to all Cup competitions organised by The NYFDL or its parent company TNUK International LTD which includes but not limited to the League Cup, The President's Cup, Governor's Cup, Oba Cup, International Schools World Cup etc

## **14. ALTERATION TO RULES**

- 14.1. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the NYFDL, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.
- 14.2. Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary in April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the LMB, shall be circulated to the Affiliates by 31<sup>st</sup> May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Affiliates with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
- 14.3. A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the NYFDL or NFF (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.



## **15. FINANCE**

- 15.1. The NYFDL shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- 15.2. All expenditure in excess of ₦25,000 shall be approved by the LMB.
- 15.3. The financial year of the Competition will end on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- 15.4. The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited/verified* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

## **16. INSURANCE**

- 16.1. All Affiliates must always have valid public liability insurance cover.
- 16.2. It is recommended that Affiliates participating in the competition should have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time.
- 16.3. Failure to comply with Rule 16.1 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **17. DISSOLUTION**

- 17.1. Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- 17.2. In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the Board of Directors are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- 17.3. The Board of Directors shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
  - a. Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or a Youth Football Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the NYFDL.
  - b. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Board of Directors may decide.

## **18. MATCH RELATED RULES**

### **QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS**

- a. A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
  - I. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by an Officer of the Affiliate, is submitted to the Competition 14 days prior to the Player playing and whose registration has been confirmed by the Competition prior to that Player playing in a Match.
  - II. registered through the league's online Portal and acknowledged with a registration number.
- b. Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18(A) (i) or (ii) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Affiliate unprocessed. If a Affiliate attempts to register a player via the online Portal but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information, the registration will not be processed.
- c. For Affiliates registering Players under Rules 18(A) (i) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Affiliates registering Players via the online Portal (under Rule 18 (A) (iii)), Affiliates must access the league website in order to complete the registration process. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- d. Players who are not registered full-time students in the schools Chapter at the member Affiliate at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> term in September are not permitted in this Competition. A player who is not registered with their grassroots community club or Academy 21 days prior to the start of the competition shall not be eligible to play in the competition.
- e. It is the responsibility of each Affiliate to ensure that any Player registered to the Affiliate has, where necessary, the required student identification.
- f. Each Affiliate shall present on match days, a photo album of the team containing a passport photo of each player for facial recognition to be confirmed by the match official and an official from the opposition.

- g. Each Affiliate must have a minimum of 14 Players (11 a-side) 12 players (9-a-side) 10 players 7/8 a-side), 7 players (5-a-side) registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- h. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Affiliate/Team for each Player registered.
- i. The LMB shall decide all disputes.
- j. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Affiliate, priority of registration shall decide for which Affiliate the Player first registered as a full-time student or player. The Secretary shall notify the Affiliate last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.
- k. It shall be a breach for a Player to play for more than one Affiliate in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred to the new Affiliate as a full-time student or player.
- l. The LMB shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules the LMB shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities.
- m. The LMB shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the NYFDL. Application should be made to the parent County of the Affiliate the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.
- n. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
- o. For a Player who has previously had a registration removed but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of one full season. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute. (Note: Action shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the NYFDL, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the NYFDL. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)
- p. An Affiliate shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Affiliate and shall produce such records upon demand by the LMB.
- q. A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Affiliate, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to inspection of an Officer of the league at all LMB meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
- r. Any Affiliate found to have played an ineligible Player in a Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- s. Where a Affiliate is found to have played an ineligible Player, the LMB may also, at its discretion:
  - i. Award the points available in the Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Match not being ordered to be replayed; or
  - ii. Levy penalty points against the Affiliate in default; or
  - iii. Order that such Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the LMB).
- t. The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education: - Priority must be given at all times to school activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff: The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).

## **19. AFFILIATE COLOURS**

- 19.1. Every Affiliate must register the home and away colour of the shirts and shorts of the league season with the Registration Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> June who shall decide as to their suitability. Affiliates MUST order its home & away jerseys from the league partner ONLY. The colours MUST be registered with the competition.
- 19.2. Any Affiliate wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the LMB.
- 19.3. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.
- 19.4. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *away* Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 19.5. Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **20. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES**

- 20.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and as determined by the National Executive Board
- 20.2. Affiliates must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a good playable condition. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the LMB shall have power to order the venue to be changed.
- 20.3. The State Executive Board shall have the power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Matches and to order the Affiliate concerned to play its Match(es) on another ground.
- 20.4. Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the Leagues' Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used must be examined every season and the results passed to National Executive Board. The LMB will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.
- 20.5. The home team is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements.
- 20.6. Within the International Football League System ("IFLS") all Matches shall have a duration of 80 minutes (U19, U18, U17); 70 minutes (U15, U14, U13), 60 minutes (U11, U10) 40 minutes (U9, U7), 30 minutes (U5). Matches may be split in four quarters or two halves with 5-10 minute breaks
- 20.7. The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Affiliates prior to the scheduled date of the Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 7 days prior.
- 20.8. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Fixtures Secretary.
- 20.9. The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two match balls supplied by the league and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Teams can purchase additional footballs from the league kit partners to be advised.
- 20.10. Except by permission of the LMB all Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The NFF or state FA Competitions. Affiliates may mutually agree to bring forward a Match with the consent of the (*Fixtures*) Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 20.11. In the case of a revised fixture date, the Affiliates must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).
- 20.12. An Officer of the home Affiliate must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Affiliate at least 3 clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Affiliate shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 20.13. Home and away matches shall be played.
- 20.14. In the event of an Affiliate failing to keep its engagement the LMB shall have power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Affiliate, award the points from the Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Affiliate to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of



goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the LMB shall have the power to order a Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

- 20.15. Any Affiliate with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition.
- 20.16. Any Affiliate unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the *Fixtures* Secretary, the Competition *Referees* Secretary and the main contact of the opposing Affiliate.
- 20.17. In the event of a Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Affiliate has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Affiliates and approved by the LMB. Failing such agreement and notification to the *Fixtures* Secretary within 3 days the LMB shall have the power to order the Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Affiliates involved agree, the LMB shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. If gate money is taken and retained the visiting Affiliate shall receive their actual standard class bus fares or the equivalent for 16 persons, for hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). OR The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Affiliates after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Affiliate shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Match.
- 20.18. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.  
The LMB shall review all Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Affiliate, the LMB shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the LMB are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Affiliate member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Affiliate member(s), the LMB shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match, and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the LMB for an abandoned Match.
- 20.19. The LMB shall review any Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The NFF or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- 20.20. An Affiliate may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Match. An Affiliate may name up to 4 substitute Players of whom not more than 3 may be used.
- 20.1. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, an Affiliate may use up to 6 substitute Players in a 11 v 11 Match: up to 4 in a 9 v 9 Match and up to 2 in a 7 v 7 Match.
- 20.2. The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 15 minutes before the start of the Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Match.
- 20.3. A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.
- 20.4. The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes' duration. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- 20.5. The Teams taking part in a Match shall identify a Team captain who *may/shall* wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 20.6. Players and Managers are not allowed to contest the decision of the referee. The referee's decision is final. Only the team captain may approach the referee to make an infield protest. Failure to abide by this rule shall result in a fine and or points deduction.

## 21. REPORTING RESULTS

21.1. The (*Registration/Fixtures*) Secretary must receive via email online or WhatsApp within 24hrs of the date played, the result of each Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and the *referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition*. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

21.2. The Home Affiliate/both Affiliates shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each Match to the Results Secretary by 10pm. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

21.3. The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Affiliate, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## 21. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.
- b. In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).
- c. In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
- d. In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
- e. In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head-to-head Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.
- f. If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each, then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the LMB.
- g. Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).
- h. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.
- i. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:
  - j. retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
  - k. additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
  - l. election.
- m. The last 2 Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 21 (B)
- n. When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which its reserve Team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division its reserve Team automatically retires from the Competition.
- o. Should either or both leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
- p. In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 21(D) a completed fixture shall include any Match(es) which has been awarded by the LMB.

## 22. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 22.1. Registered referees (and assistant referees where, approved by the League for all Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the state executive board and by the NYFDL.
- a. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed match commissioner shall take charge, and assistant referees appointed by the competing Teams.
  - b. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Affiliates shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Match.
  - c. Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide an assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
  - d. The appointed referee in consultation with the match commissioner shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Matches and the referee's decision shall be final.
  - e. Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the NYFDL, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses / or inclusive of travel expenses.
  - f. Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the LMB from the fee deposited by each Affiliate on registering for the competition. The Match Officials deposit is a condition for playing in the league. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine or expulsion from the league in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
  - g. In the event of a Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Affiliates have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *half fee plus expenses*. Where a Match is not played owing to one Affiliate being in default, that Affiliate shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
  - h. A referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
  - i. Each Affiliate shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the LMB, award marks to the referee for each Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Affiliates failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the LMB shall determine.
  - j. The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to the Registration Secretary for audit purposes.
  - k. The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Match.
  - l. Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
  - m. Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by NYFDL before the beginning of the season or the Competition.

## SCHEDULE A

### Fees & Fines Tariffs

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FEE (ONE OFF)	₦25,000
4 (B)	AFFILIATE ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEE (payable until sponsorship is secured)	₦250,000
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	₦50,000
7 (C), 7 (E), 7(G)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	₦5,000
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	₦10,000
18 (Schedule C)	DRAFT / SELECTION FEE PER PLAYER	₦ TBC
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES (per match)	₦10,000
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES (per match)	₦10,000

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	Expulsion
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NFF INITIATIVES	₦5,000
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	Expulsion
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF AFFILIATE NAME	₦10,000
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY LEAGUE FEES	Expulsion
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS ON FORM/RETURNS	₦5,000
5(E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	₦2,500
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE LMB	₦5,000
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	₦5,000
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	₦5,000
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	₦5,000
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	₦5,000
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	₦10,000
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	₦25,000
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	₦5,000
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	₦10,000 + Suspension
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	₦2,500
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	₦5,000
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE AFFILIATES, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	Expulsion
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	₦25,000 + Suspension
18 (N)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	₦25,000 + Points Deduction
18(O)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO STATE FA, NSSF & NFF ACTIVITIES	₦ TBC
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	₦
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	₦5,000
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	₦5,000
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	₦10,000
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	₦5,000
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	₦
20 (E) (i) & (iv)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	₦10,000
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	₦2,500
21 (A)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	₦2,500
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	₦5,000
21(C)	RESULT NOTIFICATION NOT SIGNED BY APPROPRIATE SIGNATORIES	₦2,500
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	₦2,500

## SCHEDULE B

---

### NYFDL Rules

- 1) U11- the player must be under the age of 11 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season OR at start of competition
- 2) U13- the player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season OR at start of competition
- 3) Under 15 - the player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season OR at start of competition
- 4) Under 17 - the player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season OR at start of competition
- 5) Under 19 - the player must be under the age of 19 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season OR at start of competition

### Match Ball Sizes

- 1) A size 3 ball will be used for age groups U7 to U9.
- 2) A size 4 ball will be used for age groups U10 to U15.
- 3) A size 5 ball will be used for all other age groups.

The format below will be the maximum format allowed for each age group in the season.

- 1) U7 - 5 v 5
- 2) U9 - 7 v 7
- 3) U11 - 8 v 8
- 4) U13 - U15 - 9 v 9
- 5) U17 - U19 - 11v11

### Penalty Kick Law

- A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area or off the field as part of play as outlined in Laws 12 and 13.
- A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

### Procedure

- The ball must be stationary on the penalty mark and the goalposts, crossbar and goal net must not be moving.
- The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified.
- The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net, until the ball has been kicked.

The players other than the kicker and goalkeeper must be:

- at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the penalty mark
- behind the penalty mark
- inside the field of play
- outside the penalty area

After the players have taken positions in accordance with this Law, the referee signals for the penalty kick to be taken.

- The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward; backheeling is permitted provided the ball moves forward.
- When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
- The penalty kick is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play or the referee stops play for any offence.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken and completed at the end of each half of the match or extra time. When additional time is allowed, the penalty kick is completed when, after the kick has been taken, the ball stops moving, goes out of play, is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper, or the referee stops play for an offence by the kicker or the kicker's team. If a defending team player (including the goalkeeper) commits an offence and the penalty is missed/saved, the penalty is retaken.

### Offences and sanctions

Once the referee has signalled for a penalty kick to be taken, the kick must be taken; if it is not taken the referee may take disciplinary action before signalling again for the kick to be taken.

If, before the ball is in play, one of the following occurs:

The player taking the penalty kick, or a team-mate infringes the Laws of the Game:

- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken.
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and restarts with an indirect free kick.

Except for the following when play will be stopped and restarted with an indirect free kick, regardless of whether or not a goal is scored:

- a penalty kick is kicked backwards.
- a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick; the referee cautions the player who took the kick.
- feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up (feinting in the run-up is permitted); the referee cautions the kicker.

The goalkeeper offends:

- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded.
- if the ball misses the goal or rebounds from the crossbar or goalpost(s), the kick is only retaken if the goalkeeper's offence clearly impacted on the kicker.
- if the ball is prevented from entering the goal by the goalkeeper, the kick is retaken.
- If the goalkeeper's offence results in the kick being retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence in the game and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s) in the game.

A team-mate of the goalkeeper offends:

- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded.
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken.
- a player of both teams infringes the Laws of the Game; the kick is retaken unless a player commits a more serious offence (e.g. illegal feinting);
- both the goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kicker is cautioned and play restarts with an indirect free kick to the defending team

If, after the penalty kick has been taken:

- the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player:
- an indirect free kick (or direct free kick for a handball offence) is awarded

The ball is touched by an outside agent as it moves forward:

- the kick is retaken unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent the goalkeeper or defending player playing the ball, in which case the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the interference was by the attacking team.

The ball rebounds into the field of play from the goalkeeper, the crossbar or the goalposts and is then touched by an outside agent:

- the referee stops play
- play is restarted with a dropped ball at the position where it touched the outside agent

#### FIFA Rules on Feinting a Penalty Spot Kick

Rule	Details
Feinting Strategies	Players can use feinting strategies to confuse an opponent when taking a penalty kick.
Referee Caution	The referee can caution the spot kicker if they consider it to be an act of unsporting behaviour.
Illegal Feinting	Illegal feinting by the penalty kicker results in an indirect free kick, even if a goal is scored.
Deliberate Stopping	Players cannot deliberately stop at the end of their run up and create a feint to gain an advantage.
Infringement	This is a deliberate infringement of the official Laws of the Game.
Outcome	The referee would issue a yellow caution card, and the player loses the chance to have a second shot at goal.

#### Passing a Penalty Kick is allowed

Action
Passing a Penalty Kick is allowed

To be legal, it must be one of the penalties taken within a regular game and not as part of a penalty shootout. The shooter kicks the ball forward from the penalty mark a few yards or so. One of his teammates runs into the box after they kicked the ball. They shoot the ball into the back of the net - resulting in a goal

#### Scoring a Rebound from a Penalty Kick

- it would only count under certain circumstances. The penalty must be one taken during a normal game (not a shootout).
- First, the ball must first make contact with another player (e.g. the defending goalie). Once that happens, yes... you can hit the rebound and go for a goal.
- Note: A ball rebounding off the post would not always count. After it rebounds, the ball must touch some other player before you can score

#### FIFA Handball Rule Football

Players would get sent off for denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:

- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area).
- Throws an object at the ball, at an opponent, or at a match official.
- Makes contact with the ball using a held object (e.g. a boot, clothing, or a shin guard)

There is one simple explanation of the handball foul in football. Did the player's hand or arm, from the tips of the fingers to the shoulder, play the ball? And if so, was it done with intent?

Rules on Deliberate Handball in Football: FIFA Law 12A ball which is first kicked, and then hits a player's hand or arm, is rarely ruled as ball handling. The referee must use good judgment to decide whether the handball ball was accidental contact.

Football hand ball rule governs any purposeful attempt to gain advantage such as:

- Ball to Hand: Legal in soccer football rules and regulations.
- Hand to Ball: Illegal and penalized in football handball rules.
- Goalkeeper Back-pass: Rule Infraction



## Ball Handling by Goalkeepers

There is a situation in football which does not allow the goalkeeper to use their hands. Of course, we are referring to the 'back-pass rule'.

- Goalkeepers must not handle a pass, with either of their hands, if it came directly from one of their teammates.
- Instead, the goalie must use their feet to pass the ball to one of their players or boot it forwards. An indirect kick from the point of the infraction will occur if the keeper breaches the back-pass rule.

## Football Handball Rules: Direct or Indirect Kick?

As a rule, a direct free kick results from a contact foul or a handling misconduct. Most of the other football rules' infringements result in indirect free kicks. In soccer, a football penalty kick gets awarded if an outfield player from the defending team handles it within their own goal area.

Referees use direct and indirect kicks to restart play following an infraction. When play gets restarted, the ball must be stationary before a player kicks it. The opposing players should be at least 10 yards away from the ball.

Following football referee rules, the referee will hold one arm straight up in the air for an indirect free kick. Their arm remains upright until the ball gets passed to a second player.

Direct Free Kick: You can score by kicking the ball 'directly' into the goal.

Indirect Free Kick: You cannot score 'directly' from the first kick. So, an indirect free kick must make contact with another player before it can pass over the goal line.

## SCHEDULE C

---

### FIFA LAW 5 The Referee in Football

- Enforces the Laws of the Game.
- Controls the competition in cooperation with the other list of officials in soccer matches.
- Acts as timekeeper, keeps a record of the match, and provides the appropriate authorities with a match report.
- Records information on disciplinary action and any other incidents that occurred before, during, or after the match.
- Supervises or indicates the restart of play.

### Football Referee Health and Safety

- The referee has a duty and responsibility towards health and safety in football. They can stop the game, suspend it, or postpone it.
- In fact, they can call off the match altogether, such as if there are serious issues with the crowd or the weather conditions.

### Football Referee Rules: Disciplinary Action

- Punishes the more serious offence, in terms of sanction, restart, physical severity and tactical impact, when more than one offence occurs at the same time.
- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences.
- Has the authority to take disciplinary action from the time of entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark). If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player taking part in the match; the referee will also report any other incidents of misconduct.
- Has the power to show yellow or red cards from the time of entering the field of play at the start of the match until after the match has ended, including during the half-time interval, extra time, and for kicks taken from the penalty mark.
- Takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and may expel them from the field of play and its immediate surroundings.
- Acts on the advice of other match officials in football regarding incidents that the referee has not seen.

### Referee Rules in Football: Injuries

- Allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is only slightly injured.
- Stops play if a player is seriously injured and ensures that the player gets removed from the field of play. An injured player may not get treatment on the field of play and may only re-enter after play has restarted; if the ball is in play, re-entry must be from the touchline. But, if the ball is out of play, it may be from any boundary line.

Exceptions to the requirement to leave the field of play are only when a:

- Goalkeeper gets injured.
- Goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need attention.
- Players from the same team have collided and need attention.
- Severe injury has occurred.
- Player gets injured as a result of a physical offence for which the opponent is cautioned or sent off (e.g. reckless or serious foul challenge), if the assessment or treatment gets completed quickly.
- Ensures that any player bleeding leaves the field of play. The player may only re-enter on receiving a signal from the referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped and there is no blood on the player's equipment.
- If the referee has authorised the doctors or stretcher bearers to enter the field of play, the player must leave on a stretcher or on foot. A player who does not comply, must receive a caution for unsporting behaviour.

- If the referee has decided to caution or send off a player who gets injured and has to leave the field of play for treatment, the card must be shown before the player leaves.
- If play did not get stopped for another reason, or if an injury suffered by a player is not the result of an infringement of the Laws of the Game, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

### Football Referee Rules: Outside Interference

A football referee can stop, suspend, or abandon the match for any infringements of the laws. They have the same powers to rule over an outside interference such as if:

- The floodlights prove to be inadequate.
- An object thrown by a spectator hit one of the officials, a player or team official, the referee may allow the match to continue, or stop, suspend, or abandon it (depending on the severity of the incident).
- A spectator blows a whistle which interferes with play - play is stopped and restarted with a dropped ball.
- An extra ball, other object, or animal enters the field of play during the match, the referee must:
- Stop play (and restart with a drop ball) only if it interferes with play unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent a defending player playing the ball, the goal would be awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the ball enters the opponents' goal.
- Allow play to continue if it does not interfere with play and have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Unauthorised persons enter the field of play (e.g. a streaker).
- Referee Rules in Football: Advantage

The referee in football allows play to continue when an infringement or offence occurs:

- If the non-offending team will gain from the advantage played.
- And then penalises the infringement or offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time or within a few seconds

## SCHEDULE D

### FIFA's "Laws of the Game"

FIFA is the Fédération Internationale de Football Association. When it comes to picking up the game or teaching aspiring soccer players, knowing these established rules is an essential part of learning the game.

The official FIFA "Laws of the Game" gets translated into English, French, German, and Spanish and is an excellent resource for coaches, referees, and fans. The following are the 17 essential points:

- 1) The Field - Natural and artificial surfaces are totally acceptable for a match. That means that you can play on turf or natural grass, but whatever surface you play on, it has to be green. A field must also have the correct field markings (length, width, goal box, etc.)
- 2) Designated Ball - For a football (soccer ball) to be considered official, it must meet the following standards. It must be Leather; spherical; 27-28 inches in circumference (68-70 cm); 410-450 grams in weight (14-16 oz); and be pressurized at 8.5-15.6 lbs/square inch (600-1,100 grams/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- 3) Player Numbers - An official match consists of 2 teams of equal players (this includes the goalkeepers).
- 4) Jerseys and Gear - Teams Must wear jersey colours that clearly distinguishes them from the opposition.
- 5) Role of the Referee - The referee checks the players in, ensures that the field is safe, inspects the ball and goals prior to the game's start, keeps track of time, keeps track of substitutions, fouls, goals, scorers, etc. Referees also stop the play when there is a foul and assist in the management of injured players.
- 6) Assistant Referees - the assistant referees help to call fouls and offsides where the main referee might not have an ideal view
- 7) Match Length - Football games or matches run typically run between 30 minutes and 90 minutes with two equal halves; this does not include injury or stoppage time or overtime or half time which is between 10 and 15 minutes. Sometimes games will be shortened for youth games if there is a natural event like high heat or humidity (risk of heat stroke), etc. (For league or tournament games that are played in dangerous heat, a game may be broken up into quarters.)
- 8) Starting/Stopping Play - The kick-off occurs at the start of the match, after half-time, and after a goal has been scored. The team that leads the kick-off is determined from the coin toss. They get to choose either which half of the field they want to take or if they want to start with the ball. The teams change sides in the second half of the game.
- 9) Ball In-Play or Out-of-Play - A dropped ball is used when the play is interrupted but it is unclear which team had possession. One member from each team will go head-to-head and wait for the referee to drop the ball between them. The ball is still considered in-play if it ricochets off something like the crossbar, goalpost, or even the referee. For a ball to be out-of-play, it must fully cross over the 5-inch white lines making the boundary of the field.
- 10) Determining a Goal - The ball must fully cross over the goal line between the goal posts/under the crossbar. It is possible for a team to score on themselves—this will count as the other team's goal and this is typically done from a ricochet or some kind of accidental deflection.
- 11) Offsides - The rule applies in anytime the ball reaches an attacking player and both the ball and attacking player are behind (closest to the goal) the last defensive player of the opposing team, they are considered offsides. If an attacking player kicks a ball to another attacking player, and the receiving player is behind the last defensive player at the time of receiving the ball, this is offside.
- 12) Fouls - these are generally awarded for more serious fouls or offenses. Serious offenses may result in a red card and includes kicking, tripping; charging; punching; pushing; holding; spitting
- 13) Free Kicks - are generally awarded when a player commits a foul against the opposition player. Indirect kicks are awarded for the less serious offences and a foul may result in a yellow (caution) or a red (sending off) after receives a second yellow, or straight red card for dangerous foul play
- 14) Penalty Kicks - A penalty kick occurs when a major offense is committed. For a PK to be setup, all players must be outside of the goal box. The player who endured the foul must take the PK. The ball will be counted/walked from the goal-line and placed in the goal box. Just the goalie and the player engage in the PK, but once the ball is kicked (if it ricochets), all players can charge/rush from the goal box line.



- 15) Throw-Ins - Throw-ins are used to restart play. the team that was in possession of the ball last when it crossed the 5-inch white line does not get the throw-in—it goes to the opposing team. When doing a throw-in, the player must:
  - a. stand behind the line or on the line
  - b. throw the ball over the head with two hands
  - c. have both feet on the ground
  - d. all opponents have to stand 2 yards away
  - e. a player cannot throw the ball to themselves
- 16) Goal Kicks - Goal kicks are used to restart play. Goal kicks take place when a ball crosses the goal line but did not result in a goal, that is, the ball simply went out of bounds. The ball is placed in the goal area and kicked or passed to teammate — all opposition players must be outside of the penalty area.
- 17) Corner Kicks - A corner kick takes place if the ball went out of bounds but it was the fault of the defending team. The opposing team will set up in the corner of the field and play the ball in the small arc that sits in the right angle of the field—this is generally marked by a flag. The ball has to make contact with another player—this means an offensive player can stand near to the individual taking the corner kick and the two can exchange passes to start play.

## SCHEDULE E

### LAW 12: FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Direct and indirect free kicks and penalty kicks can only be awarded for offences committed when the ball is in play.

#### Direct free kick

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip

If an offence involves contact, it is penalised by a direct free kick or penalty kick.

Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed

Reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned

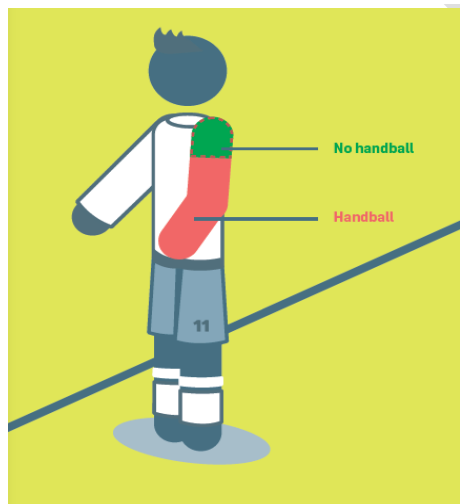
Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:

- a handball offence (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- holds an opponent
- impedes an opponent with contact
- bites or spits at someone on the team lists or a match official
- throws an object at the ball, opponent or match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object
- See also offences in Law 3

#### HANDLING THE BALL

For the purposes of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit. Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offence.



It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalised
- scores in the opponents' goal:
- directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
- immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction. However, if the offence is playing the ball a second time (with or without the hand/arm) after a restart before it touches another player, the goalkeeper must be sanctioned if the offence stops a promising attack or denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

## Indirect free kick

An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) or other verbal offences
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is penalised if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick
- commits any other offence, not mentioned in the Laws, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player

‘An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offences:

- controls the ball with the hand/arm for more than six seconds before releasing it
- touches the ball with the hand/arm after releasing it and before it has touched another player
- touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after:
- it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
- receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with the hand(s) when:

- the ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g. ground, own body) or by touching it with any part of the hands or arms except if the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper or the goalkeeper has made a save
- holding the ball in the outstretched open hand
- bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air

A goalkeeper cannot be challenged by an opponent when in control of the ball with the hand(s).

## PLAYING IN A DANGEROUS MANNER

- Playing in a dangerous manner is any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to someone (including the player themselves) and includes preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.
- A scissors or bicycle kick is permissible provided that it is not dangerous to an opponent.

## IMPEDING THE PROGRESS OF AN OPPONENT WITHOUT CONTACT

- Impeding the progress of an opponent means moving into the opponent’s path to obstruct, block, slow down or force a change of direction when the ball is not within playing distance of either player.
- All players have a right to their position on the field of play; being in the way of an opponent is not the same as moving into the way of an opponent.
- A player may shield the ball by taking a position between an opponent and the ball if the ball is within playing distance and the opponent is not held off with the arms or body. If the ball is within playing distance, the player may be fairly charged by an opponent.

## Disciplinary action

- The referee has the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark).
- If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player or team official taking part in the match (see Law 3.6); the referee will report any other misconduct.
- A player or team official who commits a cautionable or sending-off offence, either on or off the field of play, against an opponent, a team-mate, a match official or any other person or the Laws of the Game, is disciplined according to the offence.
- The yellow card communicates a caution, and the red card communicates a sending-off.
- Only a player, substitute or substituted player or team official may be shown the red or yellow card.
- Players, substitutes, and substituted players
- Delaying the restart of play to show a card

Once the referee has decided to caution or send off a player, play must not be restarted until the sanction has been administered, unless the non-offending team takes a quick free kick, has a clear goal-scoring opportunity and the referee has not started the disciplinary sanction procedure. The sanction is administered at the next stoppage; if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the player is cautioned; if the offence interfered with or stopped a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.

## Advantage

If the referee plays the advantage for an offence for which a caution/sending-off would have been issued had play been stopped, this caution/sending-off must be issued when the ball is next out of play. However, if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour; if the offence was interfering with or stopping a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.

Advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play, violent conduct or a second cautionable offence unless there is a clear opportunity to score a goal. The referee must send off the player when the ball is next out of play but if the player plays the ball or challenges/interferes with an opponent, the referee will stop play, send off the player and restart with an indirect free kick, unless the player committed a more serious offence.

If a defender starts holding an attacker outside the penalty area and continues holding inside the penalty area, the referee must award a penalty kick.

## CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- persistent offences (no specific number or pattern of offences constitutes "persistent")
- unsporting behaviour

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- unsporting behaviour

When two distinct cautionable offences occur, even if they happen close together, each should be treated as separate and result in individual cautions. For instance, if a player enters the field without permission and then makes a reckless tackle or stops a promising attack with a foul or handball.

## Cautions for Unsporting Behaviour

- There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour including if a player:
- attempts to deceive the referee e.g., by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- changes places with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (see Law 3)
- commits in a reckless manner a direct free kick offence
- handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack
- commits any other offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball
- denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offence which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick
- handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (whether or not the attempt is successful) or in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal
- makes unauthorised marks on the field of play
- plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
- shows a lack of respect for the game
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is cautioned if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick
- verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart

## CELEBRATION OF A GOAL

Players can celebrate when a goal is scored, but the celebration must not be excessive; choreographed celebrations are not encouraged and must not cause excessive time-wasting.

Leaving the field of play to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence but players should return as soon as possible.

A player must be cautioned, even if the goal is disallowed, for:

- climbing onto a perimeter fence and/or approaching the spectators in a manner which causes safety and/or security issues
- gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way
- covering the head or face with a mask or other similar item
- removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt

## DELAYING THE RESTART OF PLAY

Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by:

- appearing to take a throw-in but suddenly leaving it to a team-mate to take
- delaying leaving the field of play when being substituted
- excessively delaying a restart
- kicking or carrying the ball away, or provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play
- taking a free kick from the wrong position to force a retake

## SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

- A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:
- denying the opposing team, a goal, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick (unless as outlined below)
- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone

- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or action(s)
- receiving a second caution in the same match

A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

#### **DENYING A GOAL OR AN OBVIOUS GOAL-SCORING OPPORTUNITY**

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs.

Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offending player is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g., holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.

A player, sent-off player, substitute or substituted player who enters the field of play without the required referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent and denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is guilty of a sending-off offence

The following must be considered:

- distance between the offence and the goal
- general direction of the play
- likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- location and number of defenders

#### **SERIOUS FOUL PLAY**

- A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.
- Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

#### **VIOLENT CONDUCT**

Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team-mate, team official, match official, spectator, or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made.

In addition, a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, is guilty of violent conduct unless the force used was negligible.

#### **Team Officials**

Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

#### **WARNING**

The following offences should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off:

- entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official
- minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
- occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

#### **CAUTION**

Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

- clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- delaying the restart of play by their team
- deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- dissent by word or action including:
- throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects
- action(s) which show(s) a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g., Sarcastic clapping
- entering the referee review area (RRA)
- excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)
- showing a lack of respect for the game

## SENDING OFF

Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g., holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  - show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
  - enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- entering the field of play to:
  - confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
  - interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official
- entering the video operation room (VOR)
- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any
- other person (e.g., ball boy/girl, security, or competition official etc.)
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or action(s)
- using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

## OFFENCES WHERE AN OBJECT (OR THE BALL) IS THROWN

In all cases, the referee takes the appropriate disciplinary action:

- reckless - caution the offender for unsporting behaviour.
- using excessive force - send off the offender for violent conduct.
- Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

If the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision. If the ball is in play and a player commits a physical offence inside the field of play against:

- an opponent - indirect or direct free kick or penalty kick
- a team-mate, substitute, substituted or sent-off player, team official or a match official - a direct free kick or penalty kick
- All verbal offences are penalised with an indirect free kick.

If the referee stops play for an offence committed by a player, inside or outside the field of play, against an outside agent, play is restarted with a dropped ball, unless a free kick is awarded for leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

If, when the ball is in play:

- a player commits an offence against a match official or an opposing player, substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official outside the field of play or
- a substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official commits an offence against, or interferes with, an opposing player or match official outside the field of play,
- play is restarted with a free kick on the boundary line nearest to where the offence/interference occurred; for direct free kick offences, a penalty kick is awarded if this is a direct free kick offence within the offender's penalty area.
- If an offence is committed outside the field of play by a player against a player, substitute, substituted player or team official of their own team, play is restarted with an indirect free kick on the boundary line closest to where the offence occurred.
- If a player makes contact with the ball with an object (boot, shin guard etc.) held in the hand play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick).
- If a player who is on or off the field of play throws or kicks an object (other than the match ball) at an opposing player or throws or kicks an object (including a ball) at an opposing substitute, substituted or sent-off player, team official, or a match official or the match ball, play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position where the object struck or would have struck the person or the ball. If this position is off the field of play, the free kick is taken on the nearest point on the boundary line; a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender's penalty area.
- If a substitute, substituted or sent-off player, player temporarily off the field of play or team official throws or kicks an object onto the field of play and it interferes with play, an opponent or match official, play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick) where the object interfered with play or struck or would have struck the opponent, match official or the ball.

## FIFA - Offences committed by goalkeepers.

A goalkeeper is not permitted to keep control of the ball in his/her hands for more than six seconds.

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball:

- While the ball is between his hands or between his hand and any surface (e.g., ground, own body)
- While holding the ball in his/her outstretched open hand
- While in the act of bouncing it on the ground or tossing it into the air

When a goalkeeper has gained possession of the ball with his/her hands, he cannot be challenged by an opponent.

A goalkeeper is not permitted to touch the ball with his/her hand inside his/her own penalty area in the following circumstances:

If he/she handles the ball again after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player:

- The goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball by touching it with any part of his/her hands or arms except if the ball rebounds accidentally from him, e.g., after he/she has made a save - Possession of the ball includes the goalkeeper deliberately parrying the ball
- If he touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate
- If he/she touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

#### Offences committed against goalkeepers

- It is an offence for a player to prevent a goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands
- A player must be penalized for playing in a dangerous manner if he/she kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- It is an offence to restrict the movement of the goalkeeper by unfairly impeding him, e.g., at the taking of a corner kick

#### FIFA - Persistent Infringement

Referees should be alert at all times to players who persistently infringe the Laws. In particular, they must be aware that, even if a player commits a number of different offences, he/she must still be cautioned for persistently infringing the Laws.

There is no specific number of infringements which constitutes "persistence" or the presence of a pattern - this is entirely a matter of judgment and must be determined in the context of effective game management.

## SCHEDULE F

---

#### The Markings on the Field

All official soccer field are always rectangular and marked with 5-inch boundaries called goal lines, touch lines, halfway lines, a center mark (circle), a corner mark.

- Touch lines: the longer boundaries (lengthwise) or "sides" of the field
- Goal lines: the shorter boundaries along the goal-line or "end" of the field
- Halfway lines: divides the middle of the field in half
- Center mark: a circle that intersects the halfway line in the middle of the field and has a 30-foot radius (9.15 meters).
- Corner arc: arcs in the right angle formed from the intersecting touch lines and goal lines. This arc keeps defenders from interfering with the opposing teams' play during a corner kick. These areas are marked with flag posts.
- The goal area and penalty area: lines extend from the goal posts to form a rectangular goal area, and a larger penalty area is created around the goal box. This is where goal kicks are taken and it is the area in which the goalkeeper can use their hands (outside of this is considered a "hand-ball," which we will cover later).
- The goal: Goals are made of a crossbar and goal posts and they are 7.32 meters in width by 2.44 meters in height. Goal posts must sit on the 5-inch white lines.

#### The length of a soccer (football) field

There is actually a range of dimensions. The length of a soccer field can range from 90 meters to 120 meters and have a width of 45 to 90 meters, but for international matches, this range is much higher. For international matches, a field will have a length of between 100 and 110 meters and a width of 64 to 75 meters.

#### Players Requirements

- **jerseys and undergarments:** slide shorts or sleeves need to be the same colour as the jersey; jerseys need to have sleeves (goalkeepers need to wear colours that help the referee to distinguish them from all remaining players on both teams).
- **shin guards:** need to be covered by socks entirely and need to cover a large portion of the shinbone. Sometimes, if they are too small, they will be rejected, so avoid purchasing youth-size shin guards if you are an adult (some players like these because they lead to better ball-handling)
- **socks:** if you use electrical tape to secure shin guards, it has to be the same colour as the sock.
- **cleats/boots:** cannot be metal or made for turf/indoor.

#### Affiliate Requirements

- **Mandatory:** Each team to order two sets of jerseys (Home & Away) from league & competition teamwear partners for each team featured in the league,
- **Recommended:** Each player in each Affiliate team in order to compete **MUST** have appropriate footwear (boots - No blades/hard studs) and Shin Pads
- **Mandatory:** Each Affiliate to have regular sized goal posts for each age format (5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11)
- **Mandatory:** Each team **MUST** provide refreshments for their teams; a First Aid bag and qualified emergency first aider on match days
- **Mandatory:** Coaches/Managers for each affiliate **MUST** complete the Introduction to Football Coaching Award, Safeguarding and First Aid

## Guide To Pitch Sizes

Format	Minimum Width	Minimum Length	Maximum Width	Maximum Length
5-a-side	20m (21.87 yards)	30m (32.80 yards)	25m (27.34 yards)	35m (38.27 yards)
7-a-side	30m (32.80 yards)	45m (49.21 yards)	35m (38.27 yards)	50m (54.68 yards)
9-a-side	45m (49.21 yards)	60m (65.61 yards)	50m (54.68 yards)	67m (73.27 yards)
11-a-side	45m (50 yards)	90m (100 yards)	80m (90 yards)	120m (130 yards)

## Stoppage time

Substitutions, injuries, penalty kicks, and major interruptions (like a dog running onto the field) will count towards stoppage time and will be added on in the second half of the game.

## Restart of Play

In 4 v 4 / 5 v 5 games, the opposition team **MUST** retreat to the halfway point for every restart of playing from a goal kick. The opposite **CANNOT** tackle the team restarting play until it reaches the halfway point

## SCHEDULE G

### A: Player Selection (Draft) Procedure

Eligible or affiliated member schools may partner with under resourced schools in their local area or in rural communities to recruit underprivileged, or out of school gifted and talented players through open screening to undergo a competitive draft/bidding process for an offer of a 3 year scholarship and registered as a full-time student. This player pathway is integral to the vision of the league. The process will provide them with the opportunity to get an education either in the state school or independent school's sector which ordinarily would be out of their reach and receive quality education and competitive sporting opportunities. The final decision to represent a school rest with the player based on preference and geographical location of both the school and the player.

The Player Draft Procedure will be an annual event which serves as the league's most common source of player recruitment for out of school players or those in areas where competition is non-existent or inadequate for their development. If the draft is organised by the league, teams will take turns selecting from a pool of eligible players. When a team selects a player, the team makes a proposal to the player and receives exclusive rights to enrol that player as a full-time student on a full or partial scholarship for the duration of their secondary education, and no other Affiliate in the league may sign the player. However, if the Affiliate and player fail to reach an agreement, the player is placed back on the draft billboard for an opportunity for another Affiliate to make a proposal.

The order of the pick will be determined by the standings of each team at the end of the regular season: The Affiliate with the worst record will pick first, and the one with the best record will pick last.

### B: International Player Development Tour

At the end of the season, the best 16 players in the U19 (Academy). U17, U15 (School) age categories will be nominated by the league, team managers and match officials to attend a playing and scouting tour of the UK or any other European Country. In the absence of sponsorship, each Affiliate will be responsible for the cost of the player selected to attend the tour. The 2-3 weeks residential provides professional academy experience with professional clubs for young players who join their contemporaries from around the globe for a development camp where they are coached by category A licensed coaches and exposed to modern and evolving training methodologies.

The development tour will also enable players gain an insight into how academy players are developed, their lifestyles and what it takes to make it in professional football. They will play a minimum of 3 friendly matches against opposition appropriate to their ability level, such as semi-pro and professional academies, local regional league teams of a good standard, and other visiting teams for a for a chance to be seen and scouted by professional clubs.

The player development camp is designed to support:

- Each Affiliate member' player development objectives
- The implementation of a playing and coaching style

This will include adopting:

- Modern youth development & coaching values
- Playing philosophy - position/unit specific roles in a flexible playing system or formation linking from 7v7, 9v9 to 11v11
- Coaching philosophy - a style that empowers coaches to grow their knowledge
- Access to sports technology - to measure and track improvement - including stationary bikes, resistance bands, reaction testing with our Fit light equipment, GSP player performance tracker, and benchmark your players against Southampton FC Academy players



- e) Access to yoga, technical skills training, strength and conditioning, nutrition session, speed testing, shooting testing, and agility testing

All group leads/coaches accompanying the squad on the tour will receive at a minimum

- Individual player development plan
- 2 report cards with direct review from technical director
- Age specific speed, agility, and quickness sessions
- Strength & conditioning training (U10 -18)
- Monthly in game video analysis per team classroom setting
- Annual nutrients plan for every player -plus- player recovery and hydration routine after high intensity training and after every game

## C: E-Learning

The courses, offered with Charterhouse Lagos and the English FA, combine extensive experience in Learning & Development with innovative methods from a highly competitive environment. The E-learning programme will consist of a selection of modules, courses, and qualifications to suit individual development needs.

Mandatory Courses for NYFDL member Affiliates include:

- a) Introduction to Football Coaching Award - As part of the whole programme offer, the NYFDL International Academy Partner programme will train and award a level 1 (Introduction to coaching) award to all coaches that will deliver the after school and Academy programmes respectively. This is to ensure that modern practices are embedded in the coaching curriculum of each Affiliate. It is also recommended that each Affiliate enrol two coaches (male & female) on the coaching course to support delivery. Subsequent higher-level courses such as the
- The FA International Foundation Coaching Course
  - The FA International Intermediate Coaching Course
  - The FA International Licence Coaching Course will be introduced accordingly.

Coach development and education is a strategic philosophy and approach for creating a knowledgeable workforce focussed on developing high quality players not only on the field, but also off the pitch as well. The coaching philosophy is:

- Player centred - Provide individualised feedback and support to players.
- Phase specific - the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the player at their stage of development. This will give you a strategy for player development particularly in the senior youth phase (U15 - U17)
- Holistic - Support with material that allows coaches to develop their knowledge in all aspects of player development including sports science and sport psychology.

Course structure

### 1. Weekly Webinars

Hosted by our expert Coach Developers, these weekly discussions will focus on some of the most important things Candidates will need as a football coach:

Week One - Engaging Players (1h)

Week Two - Learning About Football (1h)

Week Three - Matchday: Parent Relationships (1h)

Recordings of all three weekly webinars can be watched back on-demand.

### 2. E-Learning

The modules below need to be completed to pass the course. They are specifically designed to give candidates the knowledge they need to pass a quick assessment at the end of the course.

How to behave as a coach (20m)

Candidates explore the behaviours and skills of a good coach and test their understanding of:

- Observation
- Player engagement
- Effective communication
- Environment creation

Disability Football Introduction (30m)

Candidates explore what is meant by disability and the different pathways available for disabled players from mainstream to pan-disability and impairment-specific football.

How to build a session (20m)

Candidates gain an introduction on how to prepare for training and explore different ways to structure sessions, including the use of small-sided games.

How to adapt a session (15m)

Candidates learn how to use The NYFDL's Space, Task, Equipment and People (STEP) principles to adapt sessions and practices to suit the needs of their team.

Respect for coaches (25m)

Candidates develop their knowledge of how to help players feel safe, have fun and remain included. This module will cover:

- Creating the right environment
- Understanding your players
- Leading by example
- Building a positive team around you



- Instilling an 'anything is possible' attitude

#### Assessment (10m)

This short, online assessment is designed to recap your knowledge of what you've learned on the course.

#### 3. Running a team guide

Whether candidates are coaching young children or adults, they will be given a 'Running a team guide' as part of the course. This guide will provide practice plans, advice on how to structure and plan coaching sessions and top tips in helping their players become more skilful. The guide also includes:

- Spotlight practices - videos of practice ideas
- Maximising matchday
- Parent-coach communication plan
- Useful links to other FA resources

#### 4. Podcasts

Candidates will gain access to podcasts recorded by our Coach Developers, designed to complement the weekly webinars and e-learning modules:

- Good coaching
- Space, Task, Equipment, People (STEP) framework

#### 5. The NYFDL Community

When candidates enrol, they will be given exclusive access to our online coaching community, which is a place for them to share tips, discuss ideas and learn from other coaches as they work through the course. We encourage candidates to stay active on the community and get involved in discussions to get the most out of their experience.

Candidates will also have access to a number of useful resources, case studies and practice videos to use alongside weekly webinars, giving you the chance to apply practical skills to real-life coaching.

#### b) Introduction to Goalkeeping Course

##### About the course

The Introduction to Goalkeeping Course builds on the knowledge coaches have gained on their Introduction to Football Coach Award with a greater emphasis and focus on a specific position, the Goalkeeper. The course will provide learners with practical experiences that they can apply in their environments.

##### Expectations and goals

This course aims to:

- Provide learners with the capabilities to design and deliver effective goalkeeping practices
- Help coaches support their goalkeepers with basic technical and tactical techniques
- Provide a greater understanding of the goalkeeping positions
- Help coaches understand the challenges of growth and maturation for goalkeepers
- Provide learners with practical experience of effectively incorporating goalkeepers in practices with coach development support
- Compliment and reinforce the Introduction to Coaching Award messages, and our player development principles

- c) **Level 1 Football Groundsmanship Award** - Each Affiliate is required to present a member of staff to undertake a groundsman award on pitch maintenance and markings.

The course contents consist of 3 online theory modules (totalling 4 hours of learning):

Module 1: Requirements of the groundsman and pitch

Module 2: Equipment and machinery

Module 3: Materials

Plus 2 practical modules (each being about 2 hours of demonstration, explanation, and learning):(guided by geographical location)

Module 4: Spring and summer (Dry Season) practical work

Module 5: Autumn and winter (Rainy Season) practical work

##### Course completion

When a learner has completed all 5-modules they will receive a Certificate of Course Attendance. They will also have an option of taking the online multiple-choice end of course assessment (for which two attempts are permitted within the paid course fee). If this is achieved, then they will be issued with a Certificate of Course Achievement issued by the UK Grounds Management Association (GMA)

- d) **Referees Award** - Each Affiliate is expected to support the training of two young people to join the pool of referees and referee assistants to manage the NYFDL on match days. The NYFDL Referee Course is designed to equip new referees with the key skills and knowledge they will need to be able to referee grassroots football matches safely and effectively. It is for people aged 14 and over who want to referee mini soccer, 9 v 9 and/or 11 v 11 football.

##### Course Content

Online Learning - The online learning has five sections (modules) and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. There are lots of videos to demonstrate how the Laws should be applied, activities to help reinforce the important points and, at the end of each module, there are some questions to test what you've learned.

#### Module 1 - Before the Match

This module covers the referee's pre-match responsibilities and includes ensuring players' kit is safe, how to carry out the coin toss and what a referee needs to take to a match with them.

#### Module 2 - Signals and Communication

This module contains short video clips (GIFs) which show every signal the referee and assistant referee might give during a match.

#### Module 3 - 'Getting it Right'.

This module deals with foul challenges, violent conduct, handball, unsporting behaviour, DOGSO offences and advantage. It uses video clips from football at different levels to show how the referee should manage common scenarios.

#### Module 4 - Offside

This module also uses video clips, this time to demonstrate what is and is not offside and how the referee should manage offside offences. The clips, like those used in the 'Getting it Right' module, are voiced over to explain the decisions the referees make.

#### Module 5 - Managing Restarts and Set-Piece

This module covers restarts and set pieces, including goal kicks, corner kicks, throw-ins, free kicks and penalty kicks. It uses both video and illustrations to clarify what players must do at each restart and set piece and explains what the referee should do if players don't comply with the Law.

- e) Anybody who works with children and/or their families, no matter how frequently, is required to have knowledge of how to safeguard children. This training course is suitable for anybody who fits this criterion and is required to take training as part of their role.

### Safeguarding: Course content level 1

Module		Description
1	Introduction	What is safeguarding, who commits abuse, why safeguarding training is important, your responsibilities, and laws and guidance.
2	Recognising Abuse	What is child abuse, types of abuse, neglect, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse.
3	Recognising Further Types of Abuse	Online abuse, grooming, child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation (including county lines), bullying and cyberbullying, radicalisation and extremism, honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation, child trafficking, harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment, and peer-on-peer abuse.
4	Recognising Parental Risk Factors	Parental mental health and parental substance misuse.
5	Responding to a Disclosure	Recognising concerns, disclosures from a child, why children don't disclose information, why adults don't take action, and taking action.
6	Reporting a Concern	Your responsibilities, how to report a concern, preserving evidence, when to report a concern, what to report, check existing reports, talking to a child's parents, next steps, and further action.
7	Recording Information	The importance of good record keeping, when to record concerns, and what to record.

## Safeguarding lead training level 3: Course content

Module		Description
1	Introduction	Defining safeguarding, why training is important, who has responsibilities and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
2	Safeguarding Structure and Guidance	The Children Act 1989, the Education Act 2002, Every Child Matters 2004, the Childcare Act 2006, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Working Together to Safeguard Children, the single assessment process, universal services, early help/prevention, child in need and child protection concerns.
3	Your Responsibilities	The role of social care, your responsibilities and scenario exercises.
4	Recognising and Responding to Abuse	Recognising abuse, why children don't disclose information, children's responses to abuse, behavioural responses, disclosures from a child, recording information and why adults don't act.
5	Responses Under the Safeguarding Structure	What response is needed, Early Help Assessments, children in need, significant harm, factors which influence the response, contacting social care and what happens next.
6	Working Together and Sharing Information	Resolving disagreements, what to do if you don't agree with the decision, key principles, why professionals don't share information and sharing information.
7	Recording Information	What to record, record keeping tips, your continued involvement, serious case reviews, Peter Connolly and shared responsibility.

## e. Health & Safety Level 2: Course Content

Unit 1 - Health and safety legislation	In this first unit of the course, we will consider what health and safety is and the reasons why health and safety precautions are taken. We will also look at the origins of health and safety legislation to get a strong background knowledge of where this area of law came from. The Health and Safety at Work Act will be explored in full as well as the 'Six Pack' regulations, Health and Safety Executives and Approved Codes of Practice.
Unit 2 - Risks in the workplace	In this unit, you will be introduced to the concepts of hazard and risk and the key differences between the two. The unit covers various hazards as well as methods to minimise these. Next we will move on to hazard control, fire hazards, accidents and incidents before finishing up with a look at welfare at work
Unit 3 - Assessing risk	This unit will introduce the meaning of risk assessment and what the law requires. You will also consider what constitutes a suitable and sufficient risk assessment. Here we will look at the steps involved in risk assessments and how to work out the probabilities of accidents happening. This probability will then be used to show how precautions can be put in place to ensure that high level risks are sufficiently minimised.
Unit 4 - Equipment in the workplace	This unit will explore different types of equipment that can be used in the workplace and the risks involved with each of these. Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) will be covered in this section of the course, and we will take a good look at a variety of different types of machinery you may come across. We will then look at PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) that can be used with this machinery to reduce the risks involved with these
Unit 5 - Manual handling and ergonomics	This unit will consider the meaning of ergonomics and the associated hazards. candidates will cover manual handling and workstations which includes display screen equipment. Various manual handling techniques and risks will be covered here as well as types of PPE that can be used to reduce risk. Display Screen Equipment will also be covered and the ways in which workstations should be laid out to avoid injuries to workers

#### f. Risk Assessment for Football Event Course

This online course is for anyone responsible for managing health & safety for your organisation. It will teach you both what Risk Assessments are, as well as how and when to perform them. Understand the benefits of comprehensive risk assessments and comply with basic legislation.

Risk assessments are essential for ensuring that any incidents that have previously occurred do not occur again.

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the 5 steps of a risk assessment, as well as how to create a plan of action for the hazard you find
  - Identify hazards.
  - Assess the risks.
  - Control the risks.
  - Record your findings.
  - Review the controls
2. Show your commitment to The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations
3. Learn when you should fill out a risk assessment and when they are not necessary

This course will end with a 20-question multiple choice test (certificate received upon completion of 90% pass mark).

Modules

1. Risk Management Principles
2. Legal and Ethical Issues in Sports
3. Emergency Action Planning
4. Insurance and Liability in Sports
5. Crisis Communication in Sports
6. Safety and Security in Sports Facilities
7. Risk Assessment in Sports
8. Event Management and Risk

Venue: Online/Blended - Duration: 120 hours - Minimum Age: 16

#### g. Introduction to First Aid for Football Course

About the course - Introduction to First Aid in Football is an online course suitable for anyone looking to develop their knowledge and understanding of first aid care for players of all ages.

Venue: Online - Duration: 90-120 minutes - Minimum Age: 16

Course structure

##### 1. Online learning modules

Introducing First Aid in Football is split into six online learning modules. Each module has some knowledge checks built-in, as well as a short final assessment to check candidates' understanding. Candidates will need to complete each module before unlocking the next:

Module 1: Introduction

Module 2: The A-E Approach

Module 3: Delivering CPR

Module 4: Medical Emergencies

Module 5: Concussion in Football

Module 6: Assessment

##### 2. Resources

Alongside the online learning modules, candidates will be given checklists, manuals, videos and more to help support candidates throughout the course. They can use these resources as they work through the course, and in their own time

#### Emergency First Aid in Football Course

This course raises the standard of first aid provision within football and goes beyond generic first aid.

Course type: Offline - Duration: One day - Minimum age: 18

About the course - The overall aim of our Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAiF) course is to raise the standard of first aid provision within football. It goes beyond generic first aid and includes elements specific to football.

Learning programme

The course will cover:

- The role of the First Aider in football
- The jaw thrust as an airway opening technique for a contact sport such as football
- The A-E approach of the injured footballer (inclusive of the unconscious footballer)

- Emergency Action planning for football Preparation for action for sudden cardiac arrest in the young
- Recognition, BLS with AED
- The FA Concussion guidelines and concussion management from a first aid perspective for football
- Dispelling the myths of first aid in football
- The football specific first aid kit and record keeping
- Duty of care in football
- Medical emergencies in football
- Focusing on those illnesses that can lead to life threatening injuries in football
- Limb threatening injuries in football
- Wounds and bleeding / Fracture management for football
- Acute soft tissue injury management in football
- Spinal injuries in football, manual in line stabilisation and assisting the ambulance crew with a log roll
- Paediatric elements to all of the above

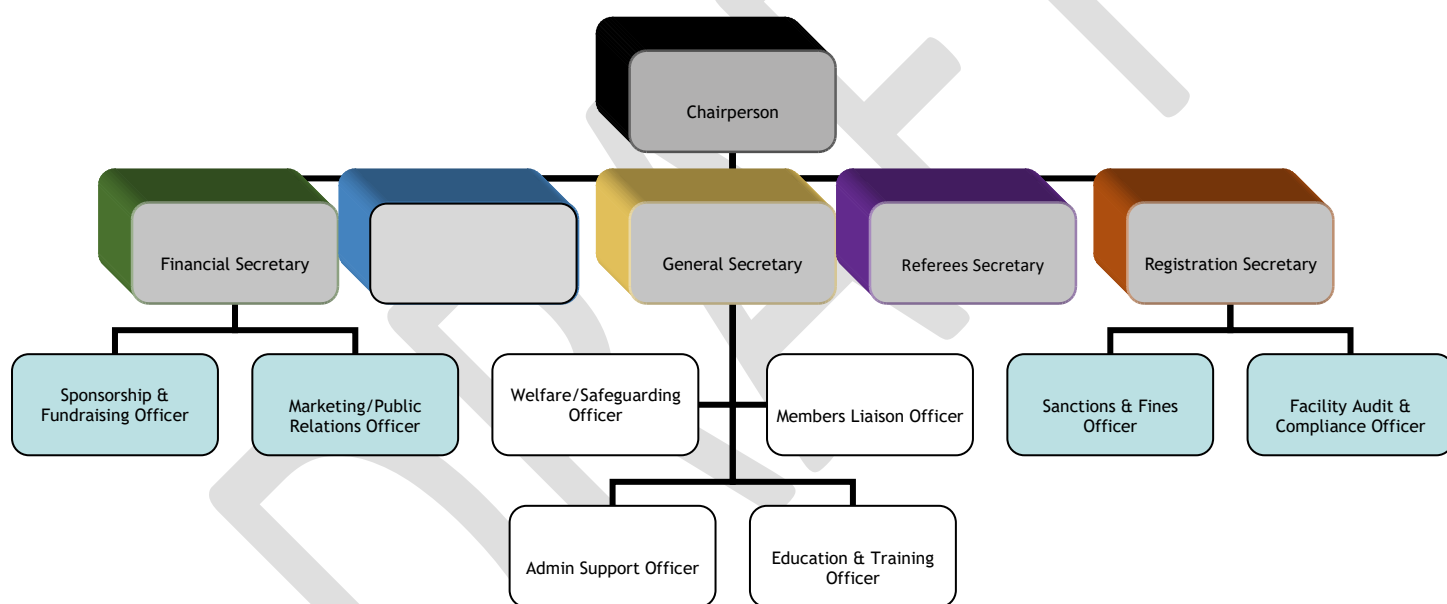
#### Outcomes

This course will provide candidates with the knowledge, practical skills and confidence to:

- Attend a conscious or unconscious casualty
- Ensure that appropriate care is given until the emergency medical services arrive and take over, or until an alternate healthcare professional assumes responsibility for the casualty.

## SCHEDULE H

### STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD (The League Management Board)



As a minimum, the above roles MUST be filled by each State League Management Board. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it is sufficient to run a successful league in the state.

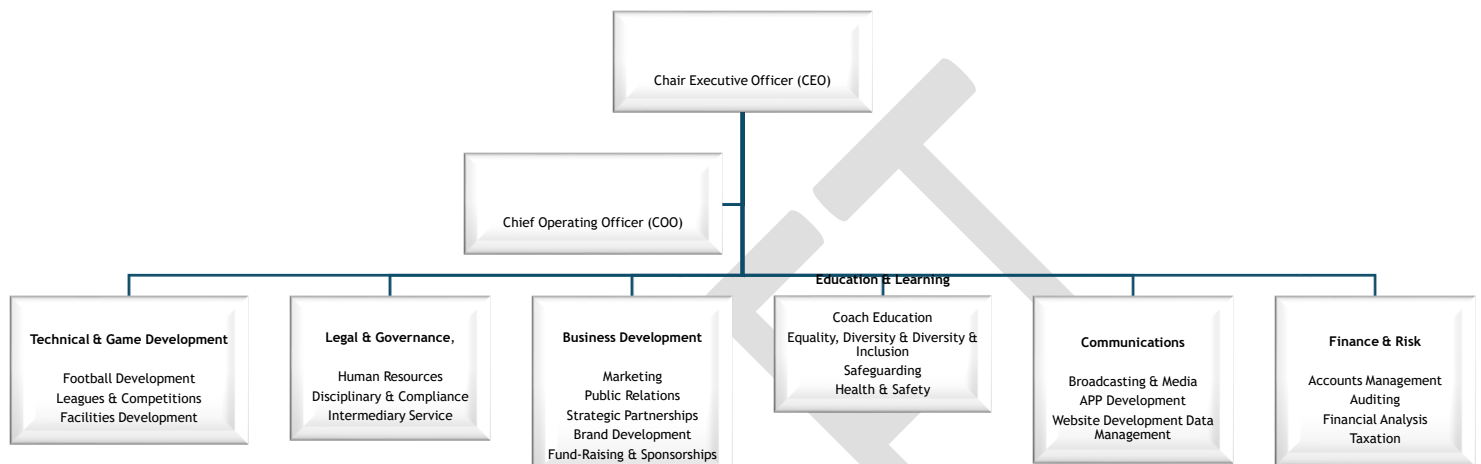
### Functions of the State Executive Board - The League Management Board

The State Executive Board is the League Management Team (LMB) that is the principal decision-making body of the NYFDL at the local level. The team's primary tasks are to:

- conduct the proper day to day business of the NYFDL at the local level and resolve upon or confirm matters of policy and administration in respect of the NYFDL.
- develop and implement the NYFDL Strategic Plan, and to monitor its progress of implementation and delivery of outcome.
- manage of all NYFDL competitions at the local level.
- oversee the disciplinary powers delegated to the NYFDL by The National Executive Board in respect of players and Teams.
- co-ordinate the administration of all state and local government Activities by the arrangement of specialised administrative assistance and any necessary premises.
- To promote and contribute content for the NYFDL website, ensuring that timely information it is kept up-to-date, and it is informative with league contents like league and cup fixtures, results, courses, new guidelines, transfer news, international and pre-season friendly dates as well as general calendar of activities.
- To supervise and manage the promotion of the NYFDL and the game of Football throughout the NYFDL jurisdiction, the press and such other media outlets and publications as may be required.
- To support and the activities of obtaining financial assistance through sponsorship etc as agreed with the League Management Team
- To manage the agreed delegated budget, as provided and authorised by the League Management Team
- To liaise with the NYFDL Development Officers to manage pro-actively and co-ordinate their services in relation to:

- the actions needed to deliver the NYFDL.
- The NYFDL Strategic Plan (playing, coaching, and officiating):
- a Coach Development Recruitment programme for Affiliates.
- Affiliate Accreditation scheme.
- the identification of teams that are “at risk” and the steps needed to assist those teams, including the arrangement of visits by the Officers and Executive committee of the NYFDL.

## National Executive Board



The above are the departments within the National Executive Board. The roles of the officers of the Board will be fall broadly into one of these categories or departments

## Functions of the National Executive Board

1. Promote and govern youth football with integrity and enforce the rules and regulations of the game by developing a rigorous eligibility and registration process aided by technology to stop age fraud and corruption in the game.
2. Ensure compliance with participation through a range of sanctions including the ability to fine participants, ban participants from the game and impose mandatory education courses.
3. Prepare and implement a vision and strategic plan for youth football and determine how it will be implemented nationally, regionally and locally.
4. Manage the rules and regulations of the game, including age fraud, anti-doping, safeguarding, equality and inclusion
5. Implement a governance framework for youth football nationally and administer officials of the game.
6. Establish and maintain links with the national and the international governing body / federations for youth football.
7. Encourage and grow participation.
8. Develop coaches, athletes, officials and participants.
9. Develop, Organise and maintain a seasonal calendar of competitions and tournaments.

## Functions of the CEO.

- Work with the Board of Directors, the National and State Executive Boards to manage the activities of the NYFDL, sub-committees, and task groups.
- Collaborate with investors, partners and other external stakeholders, working with various departments to ensure procedures operate properly and policies are implemented effectively.
- Appoint and manage the officers of the National Executive Board, manage the operations of NYFDL, allocating resources, and serving as the main point of communication between the board of Trustees and the organisation.
- Formulate business objectives and make strategic decisions and ensure that teams work toward achieving the business goals.
- Agree and support the appointment of NYFDL Representatives to such other representative bodies as may from time to time occur, the composition of NYFDL Committees and Task Forces and to ratify their composition.
- Develop and monitor the NYFDL rules, procedures and policies and agree all expenditure in the name of the NYFDL and authorise the expenditure of any item in excess or outside the agreed budgets of any part of the League.

- Support and agree a succession plan for appointments to the NYFDL, executive boards and its sub-committees; and to provide all necessary support and assistance to its affiliated members, in respect of team and game development, and to promote their sound governance in accordance with generally recognised sports governance best practice.
- To encourage and implement best practice in the NYFDL Leagues and competitions ensuring that each member or affiliate are well governed and demonstrate integrity.
- To ensure that there is a cohort of sufficiently well-qualified, competent, and experienced individuals to fill the roles within the NYFDL Working Parties.
- To identify talent and prospective members of the leadership team from within its affiliated membership, and once recruited and appointed, to assist with their development as NYFDL officers, including through the provision of a succession plan.

### Additional Responsibilities.

- Work with the National and State Executive Boards to Support the activities of the NYFDL in the state or region.
- Support the appointment of NYFDL officers into the league management team(LMB) in the state or region and to such other representative bodies as may from time to time occur.
- Ensure a credible selection and registration process for teams wishing to affiliate with the NYFDL leagues and competitions in line with laid down guidelines by the National Executive Board.
- Develop and monitor the NYFDL rules, procedures and policies and agree all expenditure in the name of the NYFDL and authorise the expenditure of any item as agreed with the National Executive Board.
- Support and agree a succession plan for appointments to the NYFDL, LMB and to provide all necessary support and assistance to its affiliated members, in respect of Team and game development, and to promote their sound governance in accordance with generally recognised sports governance best practice.
- To encourage and implement best practice in the League's teams, ensuring that each are well governed and demonstrate integrity,
- To ensure that there is a cohort of sufficiently well-qualified, competent, and experienced individuals to fill the roles within the NYFDL LMB in the state or region.
- To identify talent and prospective members of the leadership team from within its affiliated membership, and once recruited and appointed, to assist with their development as NYFDL officers, including through the provision of a succession plan.

## Functions of the National Executive Board Department/Teams

### Technical, Game Development, Education & Learning

#### Composition

- Football Development Expertise
- Game & Competitions Expertise
- Coach Education Expertise
- Safeguarding, Health & Safety Expertise

#### The Aims & Objectives are to:

- actively encourage and grow participation in the game of Football within Nigeria.
- oversee player recruitment, selection, and draft management for the league.
- support the coaching, refereeing, and playing of the game.

- raise standards (better organised teams, better coached players)
- oversee and manage the pre-season friendly games against grassroots football teams and state Affiliates.
- oversee, monitor, and select players for the league select team to play in domestic and international exhibition matches.
- oversee the coach and referee education programme; and
- develop the NYFDL's member teams, ensuring that the fundamentals of player safety and safeguarding are carried out to the highest level.
- encourage and implement best practice by NYFD's member Affiliates, ensuring that each are well governed and demonstrate financial integrity, and investment within member teams.

#### Requirements

1. Brand management and marketing expertise
2. Negotiation expertise
3. Business Intelligence expertise
4. CRM software proficiency
5. Commercial Awareness, Mergers and acquisitions expertise
6. Lead generation expertise

#### Primary Role:

The Business Development Team will guide and support the establishment and growth of NYFD Business Development function.

#### The functions of the Business Development Team are to:

- provide the support, direction and focus for NYFDL's Business Development function.
- provide a challenge function to draft proposals, tenders, or speculative service ideas;

### Business Development

- share networks and contacts to establish opportunities for introducing NYFDL, presenting speculative proposals or establishing service design and delivery partnerships.
- transfer and communicate the income generation targets set out in the Options Appraisal and Implementation Plan to meaningful income generation targets and a work plan.
- bring commercial expertise and ethos to NYFDL where it is required to generate earned income.
- ensure that the move towards additional income generation remains aligned with NYFDL's Strategy and consistent with its values and ethos.
- Develop a football scratch-card game to generate operational and investment income.
- Identify and generate new business opportunities, building relationships with potential clients and driving revenue growth.



## Communications

### Requirements

- Content Creation Expertise
- Public Relations expertise
- Technology Proficiency & Expertise
- Proficiency in digital marketing tools and platforms

### Tasks

- Develop and implement a communications strategic plan which is in line with and supports the goals of the NYFDL strategy 2025-2030. - The communications strategy will be underpinned by the vision, mission, and values of NYFDL.
- Set targets, monitor progress on this plan and realign goals accordingly.
- Advise on communications activities.
- Support the development of effective links, networks and resources.
- Advise and guide NYFDL's communications function and advise on progressing any actions
- Drafts briefings, remarks, talking points, motivational messaging, video scripts, correspondence, social media, board messages and slide presentations and supports the CEO at on site events and engagements
- Work closely with cross-organisational functions to deliver internal and external stakeholder communications, events and campaigns in line with the organisational strategy
- Apply clarity, conciseness, and consistency in all communication with stakeholders and staff

- Identify and maximise PR, advocacy, lobbying opportunities.
- Consolidate and enhance brand and branding.
- Creativity to navigate complex narratives and foster dynamic, inclusive communication landscapes
- Copy writing, Crisis Communication and Reputation Management

### Reporting:

The Communications Team will:

- Report to the Chief Executive on a monthly, quarterly basis, and the BOT on a annual, and three-year targets, progress and issues arising and any additional information.
- Make recommendations to the Board.

The Communications Team's Function will consider the communications activities to include:

- Internal and external
- Print
- Digital / Registration Portal
- APP Development
- Website
- Lobbying
- Broadcasting (TV/Radio)
- Social media

## Finance, Audit & Risks

### Requirements

1. Financial forecasting & budgeting expertise
2. Risk Management Expertise
3. Financial Reporting Expertise
4. Regulatory Compliance expertise

The Finance Team's role is to ensure the prudent management of the NYFDL's budget, and that the NYFDL discharges its financial responsibilities correctly and remains financially viable at all times.

### Main responsibilities:

- the development of the NYFDL's budgeting and financial planning.
- to agree annually budgets for each of the Sub-Committees or Task Groups, and
- to monitor the expenditure of these agreed budgets.
- the creation of the NYFDL's financial internal controls, including the setting of delegated spending budgets.

- to monitor, on behalf of the NYFDL such financial assistance as may be dispensed from national resources.
- to act as an auditing committee for all NYFDL expenditure.
- the preparation and distribution to the NYFDL members of timely, accurate, and user-friendly financial reports.
- to prepare an Annual Return of the NYFDL financial activity for submission to regulators in the territory and
- the implementation of safeguards to protect the NYFDL's assets.
- analyse budgets, monitor financial transactions, calculate important metrics like return on investment (ROI), perform predictive analytics and make purchasing and procurement decisions

## Legal & Governance

### Requirements

1. Legal Expertise (contracts, employment, statutes etc)
2. Football Governing Bodies Policy & Constitutional Expertise (FIFA, UEFA, CAF, WAFU, NFF).
3. Football Law Expertise
4. Governance & HR Expertise

The Legal & governance Team is responsible for developing and implementing policies guiding the General conduct of members of NYFDL bodies and NYFDL employees and ensuring all relevant policies are up to date and procedures are adhered to. It shall

- a) Oversee the governance of the National Executive Board and State League Management Boards
- b) Conduct board assessments and spearhead board performance evaluations.
- c) Review the qualifications for board recruitment, board nominations, and succession planning.
- d) Complete annual audits and recommend to the board the best practices for corporate governance applicable to the NYFDL.
- e) Administer governance framework to ensure board compliance with regulatory requirements.
- f) Provide intermediary services and oversee the legal rights of players involved in contractual negotiations with professional clubs.

NYFDL compliance policy 1. General principles.

The legal & governance Team shall ensure that during their work and as part of their functions, members of NYFDL bodies and NYFDL employees shall do everything possible that is conducive to fulfilling its objectives and refrain from any action that could be detrimental to those objectives. Inside and



outside NYFDL, they shall know and comply with all applicable laws and regulations, as well as with NYFDL's internal rules and regulations, such as the constitution, the NYFDL Code of Ethics & Conduct and the NYFDL Disciplinary Code.

#### Eligibility checks

Ensure that pursuant to the relevant provisions of the NYFDL Statutes, all members of the National Executive Board and the State Executive Boards and officials fulfil eligibility checks in accordance with NYFDL constitutional guidelines.

Support the Board of Directors and the National Executive Board to maintain its strategic focus throughout and conduct annual reviews of its governance. The team shall be dedicated to strategic discussions on issues of high relevance for Nigerian Youth football as provided for in the NYFDL Statutes, with a particular focus on:

- |                         |                           |                            |                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Football Development | b. Leagues & Competitions | c. Governance & Compliance | d. Health & Safety      |
| e. Laws of the Game     | f. Integrity of the game  | g. Diversity & Inclusion   | h. Education & Training |
| i. Safeguarding         | j. Girls Football         | k. Social responsibility   | l. Careers & Employment |

### Legal & Governance (Disciplinary & Compliance)

#### Requirements

- Legal expertise
- Relationship Management expertise

The Disciplinary & Compliance Executive's purpose is to administer NYFDL rules, which provides the framework for dealing with all disciplinary and compliance matters.

"The overriding objective of the function is to maintain and promote fair play, protect the health and welfare of Players (and others involved in the Game), ensure that acts of non-compliance, Foul Play and Misconduct (on and off the field of play) are dealt with expeditiously and fairly by independent means within the Game and that the image and reputation of the Game is not adversely affected."

A Sub-Committee shall be appointed to operate independently of the National Executive Board. However, the Executive shall serve on the Committee; and the Committee will submit regular reports to the National Executive Board on its decisions.

**Aims & Objectives:** The Disciplinary Function is required to:

- hold Disciplinary hearings as required and to determine any further action to be taken, subject to appeal to the NYFDL, for infringement against legal obligations, relevant league rules, laws of the game and any conduct which is considered to be prejudicial to the interests of the game under and for citing.
- maintain a consistent disciplinary policy in accordance with the NYFDL Disciplinary Regulations
- assist and advise Teams and Players in the discipline process in respect of the NYFDL, including coaches, officials, and spectators.

#### Note:

For disciplinary hearings, the Sub-Committee will operate as a tribunal, with the three members appointing one of their number to act as Chair.

The Sub-Committee will be supported by the league secretary, and for hearings, also by the admin support officer (note taker). The Sub-Committee shall always act impartially and base its decisions on the evidence that is presented to it, under the principle of the 'balance of probability'.

## NYFDL Compliance Audit Checklist

### 1. The Nigerian Youth Football Development League (NYFDL)

Organisations involved in the football industry is no different from any other organisation carrying out their day-to-day business when it comes to managing their finances, looking after their employees, and protecting people's data. However, several more factors come into play as we navigate grassroots and youth football in preparation for the professional game. Affiliate schools, clubs and associations must consider:

**Financial compliance:** NYFDL affiliates must handle their finances transparently and responsibly. This includes keeping accurate financial records, following tax regulations, and complying with financial reporting standards.

**Employment laws:** Compliance with employment laws is crucial. This means understanding and following minimum wage laws, employment contracts, and working hours regulations and providing a safe working environment for all staff, including players and coaches.

**Data protection & privacy:** Members and associations often handle sensitive personal data belonging to players, staff and supporters. Data must be collected, processed, and stored securely, with the individuals' consent, according to the data protection regulations in the territory.

**Accessibility & inclusivity:** Events or matches must be accessible to everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, etc. Affiliates must also ensure their policies and procedures are not discriminatory. The NYFDL will offer some guidance.

**Health & safety:** Compliance with health and safety regulations is vital to provide a safe environment for athletes, staff, and spectators during events, matches and even training sessions. This includes issues such as crowd management, fire prevention, emergency exits and first aid facilities. The Health and Safety Executive will highlight what affiliate members need to think about.

**Insurance & risk management:** NYFDL will ensure affiliate members must have proper insurance coverage for players, staff, and themselves to mitigate potential risks and liabilities that they can incur. To register with the NYFDL leagues and competitions, each affiliate MUST have (employers liability (b) public liability insurance and (3) professional indemnity insurance.

**Anti-doping regulations:** Sports organisations must comply with the anti-doping regulations set by international and national sports governing bodies. This includes regular drug testing and ensuring athletes do not use banned substances.

**Anti-corruption:** There have been several high-profile match-fixing scandals, spanning numerous sports. Sanctions can include large fines, bans and demotion. The NYFDL will ensure affiliate members must have robust measures in place to prevent corruption, bribery, and match-fixing to preserve the integrity of the sport.

**Player eligibility & transfers:** The NYFDLs must comply with player eligibility and transfer rules, ensuring they conduct transfers ethically and according to the NYFDLs' regulations.

**Intellectual property:** Intellectual property includes trademarks, logos, badges or crests and other copyrighted materials. The NYFDL will ensure that affiliates members understand what they need to do to protect themselves against illegal use and what authorisation they need to use other members intellectual property.

**Advertising & sponsorship:** Advertising and sponsorship regulations can vary depending on local laws. NYFDL will ensure affiliate members are aware of any restrictions- especially when dealing with alcohol, tobacco, or gambling-related sponsors.

## 2. Under-18s in Football:

Compliance within football is particularly critical to safeguard under-18s. Young players are often the most vulnerable members of the sporting community, so affiliate schools, clubs and associations must create a safe and nurturing environment for minors that ensures their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Several regulations govern child protection in sport. These and other steps to protect future talent include:

**Safeguarding & Child Protection:** The NYFDL will ensure that affiliate members have robust child protection and safeguarding policies to ensure young participants' safety and well-being. This includes clear procedures for reporting and handling any concerns or suspicions of abuse, neglect, or harm. For a belt and braces approach, clubs should also actively promote awareness of child protection issues to all stakeholders - including parents, coaches, and other members.

**Working with minors:** Staff, coaches, and volunteers who work with minors must undergo mandatory background checks and complete relevant safeguarding children and vulnerable adults training to ensure they are suitable to work with children. To create a safe and inclusive environment for minors, the NYFDL will ensure affiliate members establish a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and harassment. The NYFDL safeguarding in sport's anti-bullying policy has more information. Note also that workplace bullying and harassment of anyone, regardless of age, will not be tolerated and can result in legal action.

**Parental consent:** NYFDL will ensure that affiliate members have proper parental or guardian consent before under-18s take part in NYFDL leagues, competitions and activities, especially because there is imminent risk associated with football which is a contact sport. If the sport is considered to be risky.

**Health & medical considerations:** The NYFDL will ensure that affiliate members have proper medical consent forms and procedures for dealing with medical emergencies. They should also be aware of any specific health conditions or allergies young people may have.

**Academic & schooling obligations:** Under-18s and under-16s may still have academic commitments. The NYFDL must ensure affiliate members make sure that any scheduled activities do not interfere with schooling.

**Working time regulations:** Where applicable, the NYFDL will provide guidelines on specific working-time regulations which affiliate members may apply if they employ under-18s, for example, as part-time staff or an apprenticeship. During term time, 14-year-olds can only work two hours on weekdays and Sundays and five hours on Saturdays. However, the hours can be increased during school holidays, while older children can work longer.

**Privacy & data protection:** NYFDL will ensure **clubs take special care when handling minors' personal data**, including receiving parental consent where required.

## 3. Supporters and spectators

Supporters and spectators are a crucial part of sports, and affiliate members must make sure they provide a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. The NYFDL Sports Ground Safety guide will highlight several regulations, while key compliance considerations include:

**Accessibility:** Venues will be designed and equipped to accommodate people with disabilities so everyone can enjoy the NYFDL sporting events.

**Anti-discrimination:** Affiliate members must actively promote an environment free from stereotyping, bias and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, etc. and have appropriate measures to address and prevent incidents.

**Security measures:** Events or matches can attract large crowds. Affiliate members must implement appropriate security measures to prevent potential threats or disruption.

**Emergency response plan:** To ensure spectator safety, affiliate members must also have a clear emergency response plan in the event of any unexpected incidents or emergencies.

**Public health considerations:** As seen during COVID-19, affiliate members must comply with relevant regulations and guidelines to ensure the safety of spectators and prevent the spread of infectious diseases during a pandemic or other public health concerns.

**Protecting minors:** Special attention will be given to ensuring the well-being of all under-18s attending matches or events. Policies will include supervision, access control (If the event includes age-restricted, violent or mature content), and preventing alcohol sales.

**Alcohol & concessions:** Although not recommended, if selling alcohol on match days to adult supporters, affiliate schools and clubs must comply with alcohol licensing laws. They should also ensure concession stands meet food safety and hygiene standards.

**Subscription & pricing transparency:** Affiliate members must ensure subscription fees and ticket prices are transparent and do not deceive or mislead people.

**Intellectual property & broadcasting rights:** Spectators and supporters will be made aware of any restrictions regarding photography, recording, or broadcasting to protect the NYFDL's intellectual property and broadcasting rights.

**Privacy & data protection:** If the NYFDL or affiliate member collects supporters personal data, for example, for marketing, it will ensure it meets data protection laws regarding consent, use and storage.

**Keeping sports safe for everyone:** To ensure everyone can enjoy sports, it's essential that members stay up to date with the relevant laws and regulations, both at the national and international levels. The NYFDL will ensure there is plenty of information - covering a range of compliance issues - on its website. If unsure, affiliates should consult the NYFDL secretariat or seek legal advice to ensure they fully understand and comply with the sports' specific requirements.

## NYFDL Board of Directors



Leon Osahon  
CEO



David Doherty  
President

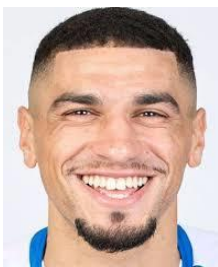


Omotara Alade-Yusuf  
Vice President

## NYFDL "Sponsor a Child" Ambassadors



Victor Moses



Leon Balogun



Eberechi Eze



Rinsola Babajide



Ayisat Yusuf



Desire Oparanozie

## NYFDL "Girls in Football" Ambassadors

## NYFDL YOUTH PANEL

WEST

EAST

SOUTH\_SOUTH

NORTHWEST

NORTHEAST

NORTH CENTRAL



LAGOS

FCT ABUJA

MIDWEST

SOUTHEAST

MIDDLE BELT



## NYFDL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



**Janet Ajoje**  
Secretariat/Governance



**Isreal Ajoje**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Afolayan Oluwatoyosi**  
Public Relations



**Justus Kurotams**  
Media & Digital Press



**Daniel Amuzie**  
Education & Learning



**Chioma Nwankwo**  
Safeguarding & Inclusion



**Fikayo Opakunbi**  
Legal & Compliance



**Ayodeji Ayeleru**  
League & Competitions



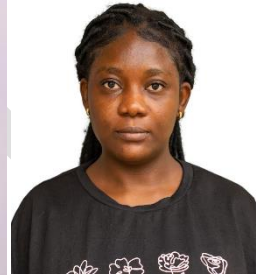
**Moses Etana**  
Marketing



**Fidelis Egbe**  
Game & Technical Development



**Isiaq Gbemi**  
Administration



**Paula Oko**  
Communications



**Vacant**  
Finance



**Vacant**  
Girls Football



**Vacant**  
Health & Safety



**Vacant**  
Cyber Security



## NYFDL STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRPERSONS



Jideaka Azubuike  
FCT Abuja



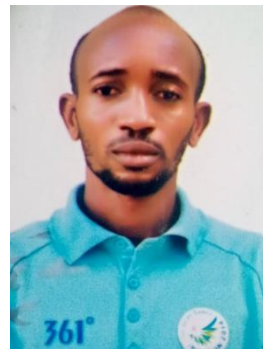
Samuel Odubanjo  
Lagos State



Dr Samson Adeolu Oderanti  
Osun State



Adeniyi Emmanuel Ayobami  
Oyo State



Lawrence Sime  
Nasarawa State



Osasinwin Aighobahi  
Edo State



Dr Garba Sanni  
Kano State



Clement Shobore  
Adamawa State



Isaac Tama  
Rivers State



Confidence Chidom  
Rivers State SG



Ojo Samuel  
FCT Abuja SG



Benjamin Obasola  
Oyo State SG



Afolabi Nicolas  
Lagos State SG



## MEMBERS / AFFILIATES INDEX

Affiliate	Address	Main Contact	Team Colours
<b>ABUJA FCT</b>			
1		E: T:	H: A:
2		E: T:	H: A:
3		E: T:	H: A:
4		E: T:	H: A:
5		E: T:	H: A:
6		E: T:	H: A:
7		E: T:	H: A:
8		E: T:	H: A:
9		E: T:	H: A:
10		E: T:	H: A:
11		E: T:	H: A:
12		E: T:	H: A:
<b>LAGOS STATE (Island, Epe)</b>			
1		E: T:	H: A:
2		E: T:	H: A:
3		E: T:	H: A:
4		E: T:	H: A:
5		E: T:	H: A:
6		E: T:	H: A:
7		E: T:	H: A:
8		E: T:	H: A:
9		E: T:	H: A:
10		E: T:	H: A:
11		E: T:	H: A:
12		E: T:	H: A:

### Board Members

FCT Abuja Executive Board Members		Lagos Island & Epe Executive Board Members	



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

Benue State Executive Board Members			Kogi State Executive Board Members	

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Ebonyi State Executive Board Members		Enugu State Executive Board Members	
Affiliate	Address	Main Contact	Team Colours



**NIGER STATE**

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A:
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

## KWARA STATE

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A::
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

[illegible]

Affiliate	Address	Main Contact	Team Colours
TARABA STATE			
1		E: T:	H: A:
2		E: T:	H: A:
3		E: T:	H: A:
4		E: T:	H: A:
5		E: T:	H: A:
6		E: T:	H: A:
7		E: T:	H: A:
8		E: T:	H: A:
9		E: T:	H: A:
10		E: T:	H: A:
11		E: T:	H: A:
12		E: T:	H: A:
ADAMAWA STATE			
1		E: T:	H: A:
2		E: T:	H: A:
3		E: T:	H: A:
4		E: T:	H: A:
5		E: T:	H: A:
6		E: T:	H: A:
7		E: T:	H: A:
8		E: T:	H: A:
9		E: T:	H: A:
10		E: T:	H: A:
11		E: T:	H: A:
12		E: T:	H: A:

Taraba State Executive Board Members		Adamawa State Executive Board Members	
Affiliate	Address	Main Contact	Team Colours

## KANO STATE

1			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
2			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
3			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
4			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
5			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
6			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
7			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
8			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
9			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
10			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
11			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
12			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	

## JIGAWA STATE

1			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
2			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
3			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
4			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
5			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
6			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
7			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
8			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
9			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
10			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
11			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	
12			E:		H:	
			T:		A:	

Kano State Executive Board Members		Jigawa State Executive Board Members	

Affiliate

Address

Main Contact

Team Colours

## BAUCHI STATE

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A:
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

## GOMBE STATE

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A:
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

Bauchi State Executive Board Members		Gombe State Executive Board Members	

Affiliate

Address

Main Contact

Team Colours

## YOBE STATE

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A:
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

**BORNU STATE**

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A::
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

[illegible]

## KADUNA STATE

1			E: T:	H: A:
2			E: T:	H: A:
3			E: T:	H: A::
4			E: T:	H: A:
5			E: T:	H: A:
6			E: T:	H: A:
7			E: T:	H: A:
8			E: T:	H: A:
9			E: T:	H: A:
10			E: T:	H: A:
11			E: T:	H: A:
12			E: T:	H: A:

Kaduna State Executive Board Members				

The Nigerian Youth Football Development League (NYFDL) is the Primary Purpose Vehicle registered by Team Nigeria UK International with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Nigeria to develop and manage the FUSTAR Youth League and competitions nationwide.