

2024 WCSL



2024 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SOCCER LEAGUE

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Governing
The Women's Conference Soccer League Competition
Season 2024



PNG Football Association

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SECTION 1: PREAMBLE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Football is a global sport. It is governed and regulated internationally by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Football operates in accordance with Laws of the Game published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
- 1.2 Football must have Laws, rules and regulations which keep the game 'fair', as a crucial foundation of the beauty of the 'beautiful game' is its fairness – this is a vital feature of the 'spirit' of the game. The application of those Laws, rules and regulations and ensuring compliance with them is also important to ensure the integrity of the game.
- 1.3 As the national governing body of football in Papua New Guinea, the PNG Football Association has adopted and developed the Competition Regulations 2024 to govern the 2024 Women's Conference Soccer League (WCSL) Competition.
- 1.4 These Competition Regulations outline the Laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the Women's Conference Soccer League competition under the jurisdiction of the PNG Football Association.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of these Regulations is to:
 - a) Provide a protocol which sets out procedures, guidelines and sanctions for any Participant, Club or Match Official who is involved with the activities associated with the Women's Conference Soccer League.
 - b) Ensure that all Clubs, Participants and Match Officials observe the Regulations.
 - c) Ensure that football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with principles of true sportsmanship and in accordance with the Regulations.
 - d) Provide a safe and secure environment for everyone involved in Football Related Activities.

3. AUTHORITY

- 3.1 The Papua New Guinea Football Association (PNGFA) has granted the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee the mandate to be responsible for the organization, promotion, and regulation of football competitions in Papua New Guinea.
- 3.2 The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties, and not subject to challenge or appeal.

- 3.3 If any provision of these regulations is held invalid or unenforceable, then the remainder of these Regulations shall continue to be valid and enforceable.
- a) These Regulations apply to participants in the 2024 Women's Conference Soccer League season unless stated otherwise.
- 3.4 Clubs, Players, and Team Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of PNGFA, including but not limited to:
- a) The PNGFA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations
 - b) The PNGFA National Disciplinary Regulations
 - c) The PNGFA Code of Conduct and Ethics.
- 3.5 PNGFA may from time to time make variations to these Regulations.

4. MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 4.1 All Matches under the jurisdiction of these Regulations will be played in accordance with PNGFA regulations, codes, and directives, and under the IFAB Laws of the Game 2023/24, unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations.

SECTION 2: COMPETITION

1. CONFIRMATION OF LEAGUE

1.1 PNGFA will the following competition in the following League and grade:

League	Abbreviation	Grade
2024 Women's Conference Soccer League	2024 WCSL	Senior Women

2. COMPETITION SYSTEM

2.1 The Women's Conference Soccer League will consist of two stages:

- c) Conference:
 - i) Consisting of two rounds of home and away Matches or any other League format as approved by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee.
- d) Championship:
 - i) Consisting of knockout Matches in a format approved by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee.

3. COMPETITION CRITERIA

- 3.1 The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee shall call for Expression of Interest [EOI] from intending clubs and club must demonstrate their ability to fulfil all requirements as stated on the Application form.
- 3.2 Clubs must submit their EOI form for the 2024 WCSL by the stipulated deadline.
- 3.3 All Expression of Interest Form submissions received shall be compiled by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee and forwarded through the Office of the CEO and PNGFA Secretariat and on to the PNGFA Executive Committee for its consideration and acceptance.
- 3.4 Clubs shall be informed by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee if their EOI is accepted at least one month prior to the competition commences or kick-off.
- 3.5 The PNGFA Secretariat shall have the discretion to either accept or deny any late application.
- 3.6 All clubs must meet the required fees to be eligible to participate in the season's competition.

4. PARTICIPATING CLUB

- 4.1 Participating Clubs are required pay the season's club affiliation and player registration fee of Three Thousand Kina (K3,000.00) before the competition start date. Failure to pay these fees will result in the Team being deemed ineligible to

participate in the 2024 WCSL competition.

- 4.2 Football Clubs considered and endorsed to participate shall make sure the club has met all the requirements or meet all the requirements before or by the deadline imposed.
- 4.3 The privileges of Football Clubs are limited to Competition and Participation, and they are bound by this Competition Regulation.
- 4.4 Football Clubs shall organize and take responsibility for all its players' and officials' medical examination and insurance prior to the commencement of the league season.
- 4.5 The Football Club must show proof of the agreement between the club and the player and of the conditions of engagement. A copy of each agreement must be lodged with PNGFA along with the player's registration.
- 4.6 PNGFA encourages Football Clubs to have their own ground or demonstrate their intention to have their own grounds.
- 4.7 Football Clubs shall have the right to advertise and organize raffle ticket sales or any other Fund Raising and marketing strategies that it derived income from as long as that does not conflict with the major sponsor and or partners of the NSL and or PNGFA.
- 4.8 Football Clubs must have a social media policy.

5. CLUBS TRAVEL & LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 The PNGFA shall subsidize 30% of the total accommodation and internal transport hire costs to assist teams travelling for away matches.
- 5.2 Airfares apply to where there is no road access with the most economy rate shall apply.
 - a) PNGFA is responsible for airline bookings for Football Clubs traveling by air away from home. Team Management shall forward the travelling team list with **eighteen (18) names clearly marked by Tuesday, close of business for the preceding Friday as the date to travel.**
 - b) The eighteen (18) names shall be the same names as listed on the Master List and which shall consist of sixteen (16) players and two (2) officials.
 - c) If Football Clubs want to have more than eighteen (18) players and officials travelling, then they are responsible to meet costs for travel and any other costs involved for extra travelling team members.
- 5.3 Land and Sea Transport between Provinces – NSL shall provide a Land and Sea transport subsidy cost for the travelling team at 30% of the total cost payable to the service provider. This subsidy will cover the costs from the Club's place of abode to the game venue and vice versa. Any cost above shall be the sole responsibility of the Football Club concerned.
 - a) Football Clubs is responsible to provide the Invoice for the transport service provider and must be submitted to the NSL office by Monday week prior to Friday Travel. The invoice must indicate the bank details of the service

provider.

- b) Sea Transport – Football club is responsible to provide an Invoice for the team's travel using a boat. The invoice must be submitted by Monday week prior to travel date. The invoice should provide the bank details of the service provider.
- 5.4 In the event where teams cannot travel by bus or boat in situations of force majeure, teams may be airlifted with the approval of the Chairperson of the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee.
- 5.5 Each Football Clubs shall be responsible for the booking and costs of all accommodation and internal transport for their players and officials.

6. MATCH SCHEDULE AND KICK OFF TIMES

- 6.1 PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will communicate the official Match schedule for all League.
- 6.2 PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will determine the venues of all Premiership, Championship and Cup Matches.
- 6.3 Final Match dates and kick-off times for all Matches will be determined by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee.
- 6.4 PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee may also schedule midweek Matches to accommodate washed out or deferred Matches.
- 6.5 Clubs will not arrange other Matches until after the official Matches are settled, nor improperly interfere with other Clubs' home competition Matches.
- 6.6 Any disputes between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangement of Matches will be referred to and decided by the PNGFA Competition Department. Any determination made by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee upon referral by the PNGFA Competition Department is final and not subject to appeal.
- 6.7 Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the PNGFA Competition Department reserves the right to alter or amend any Match after it has been published in the official Match schedule. The alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days' prior notice from the original Match scheduled date.
- 6.8 Failure to commence a Match at the scheduled times may result in a fine as outlined in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.
- 6.9 Teams must be ready to begin play by the scheduled kick-off time.
- a) If both Teams are not ready to begin playing fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the Referee may determine the competition Match as abandoned in accordance with Section 2 Article 18.
 - b) In circumstances where both Teams, the Referee and PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee representative agree, the Match may commence up to thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, provided it does not delay the kick-off of subsequent competition Matches, either at that ground or grounds to which the Referee is also appointed on that day.

7. DURATION OF MATCH

- 7.1 The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will communicate the official Match schedule for all League.
- 7.2 Duration of all Matches will be as follows of the League:

League	Duration of Match	Half Time	Minimum Time Allocated per Match
2024 WCSL	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 15 minutes	135 minutes

- 7.3 The Referee may cut short any competition Match (including reducing the length of each half before the commencement of the competition Match) if in the Referee's opinion playing conditions compromise Player safety, or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent competition Match from its scheduled kick-off time, only if:
- It is in line with the IFAB Laws of the Game; and
 - The Referee has consulted with the coaches of each participating Team before the start of the Match.
- 7.4 The Referee is the sole arbiter of time, and no protest may be lodged against the time as recorded by the Referee.

8. ADDED TIME

- 8.1 In all regular rounds, the Referee will play additional "injury and stoppage time" at the conclusion of each half in all Matches.
- 8.2 In Finals Play-offs Matches, the Referee will play additional "injury and stoppage time" at the conclusion of each half of normal time, and each half of extra time, in all matches.
- 8.3 In accordance with Section 2 Articles 8.1 and 8.2, added time will be at the discretion of the Referee.

9. EXTRA TIME AND RESULTS

- 9.1 Regular Round Matches do not require a result that determines an outright winner on the day. This means that at the conclusion of normal time, a Match result can be a draw.
- 9.2 There will be no extra time played in Regular Rounds in the event scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time.
- 9.3 The result of Championship Matches must be decided on the day of the Match. This means an outright winner is required and the Match cannot end in a draw.
- 9.4 Should scores be equal at the conclusion of a Championship Match, extra time will be played as follows:

League	Duration of Extra Time
Women's Conference Soccer League	Two Periods of 15 minutes

9.5 For all Championship Matches where extra time is required:

- a) There will be an interval of a maximum of five (5) minutes before the commencement of extra time; and
- b) There will be an interval of a maximum of two (2) minutes between the whistle ending the first period of extra time and the whistle starting the second period of extra time.

10. DETERMINING THE WINNER BY PENALTY KICKS

10.1 If the result of a Championship Match is still a draw after the two (2) periods of extra time, alternate kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

11. COMPETITION POINTS

11.1 Points will be allocated as follows for all League:

Result	Competition Points Awarded
Win	Three (3) points
Draw	One (1) point for each Team
Loss	Zero (0) points
Bye	Zero (0) points
No Result	Zero (0) points and zero (0) goals for each team

11.2 The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee reserves the right to record a competition Match as a 'no result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Regulations.

12. PREMIERSHIP RANKINGS IN A COMPLETED SEASON

12.1 If the Regular Rounds is completed, the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will use the following process when determining the ranking of Teams within each League:

- a) Greater number of points obtained in the Regular Rounds.
- b) If two (2) or more Teams are equal based on the above criteria, their place will be determined as follows:
 - i) Greater goal difference resulting from all Regular Round Matches.
 - ii) Greater goals scored from all Regular Round Matches.
 - iii) Greater number of points obtained in the Regular Round Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head).

- iv) Greater number of goals scored in the Regular Round Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head).
- v) Greater number of goals scored in away Regular Round Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head):
- vi) The team with the lowest number of Red Cards (direct and indirect) received during all Regular Round Matches.
- vii) The team with the lowest number of Yellow Cards (including Temporary Dismissals) received in all Regular Round Matches.
- viii) A play-off Match between the Teams concerned under arrangements approved by PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee.

13. CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

- 13.1 The format of the Championship series in all League (as listed in Section 1 Article 1) will be at the sole and absolute discretion of the PNGFA Competition Department.
- 13.2 All Championship series Matches will be played in accordance with the knockout system, single Match, in a venue to be chosen by the PNGFA Competition Department.
- 13.3 For the purposes of allocating a home Team, the Team appearing first in the format below will be considered the home Team for each respective Match in the Championship series.
- 13.4 The following format will be used for the Championship series Matches of the 2024 WCSL competition:

Round	Match No.	Title	Teams
1	1	Semi Final	1st v 4th
	2	Semi Final	2nd v 3rd
2	3	3 rd & 4 th Play off	Loser SF1 v Loser SF2
	4	Grand Final	Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

- a) The winner of the 2024 WCSL competition grand final match will qualify to represent PNGFA at the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) Women's Champions League Competition (conditions apply).

14. PENALTIES FOR YELLOW AND RED CARDS

- a) A player receiving a yellow card (single or double) in a match is liable to pay Two Hundred Fifty Kina (K250.00) per card prior to taking the field in the following match.
- b) A player who has received two cautions during the same game equating to a red card shall automatically receive a one match suspension plus a fine to the value of two yellow cards.
- c) A player who is sent off directly with a red card from the field of play by the referee shall automatically receive a two-match suspension and shall be fined Five Hundred Kina (K500.00). The fine must be paid prior to the player taking the

field.

- d) If the player who is offended and penalized under Section 2 Article 14 (c) returns to play, and thereafter re-offends with a red card then the player shall automatically be suspended for two (2) matches and the club shall pay a fine of One Thousand Kina (K1,000.00) before the player is eligible to play, unless the Disciplinary Committee deems the seriousness of the player's offence harsh then it may impose a lighter penalty.
- e) All fines referred to in Section 2 Articles 14 (c) and (d) are applicable to the 2024 WCSL competition.
- f) All penalty fees shall be paid into National Soccer League Operating Account and bank deposit slip submitted to the Competitions Department's Office.
- g) Spectator violence
 - i. A single team's spectator found guilty may lose the right of hosting home matches.
 - ii. Both teams' spectator violence will see both teams lose the right to host home matches, including having no spectators.
- h) In the event a Team Official receives a yellow card then the Club will pay a fine of Two Hundred and fifty Kina (K250.00) and a fee of One Thousand Kina (K1,000.00) and a suspension of one (1) match if the Team Official receives a red card.

15. CLUBS /TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM COMPETITIONS

15.1 In the event of any Club / Team being removed or withdrawing from the competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competitions to proceed:

- a) Removed or withdrawn before the competition has started:
 - i. All Matches involving a Club / Team that has been removed or withdrawn before the competition has started will be treated as a bye, unless Competition Department decides to adjust the competition in some other way that will allow the competition to continue in a fair manner.
- b) Removed or withdrawn during the first round of a competition:
 - i. For all opposing Clubs / Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Club / Team (for the complete first round), points and goals against the withdrawn Club / Team will be deleted from their records and will be credited with a bye result.
 - ii. Clubs / Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn Club / Team will obtain a bye result.
 - iii. A round of a competition refers to a full complement of Regular Round Matches, where each Club / Team plays each other an equal number of times.
- c) Removed or withdrawn during the second or subsequent round of a

competition:

- i. All points and goals acquired will be retained by opposing Teams for the completed first round (or second round if fully completed, and a third round forms a part of the competition).
- ii. Points and goals acquired against the withdrawn Club / Team will be lost and bye results will be credited for Matches that were played prior to the removal or withdrawal.
- iii. For all opposing Clubs / Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Club / Team (during a second or subsequent incomplete round), points and goals against the withdrawn Club / Team will be deleted from their records and will be credited with a bye result.

15.2 Any Player or Team Official infringements (i.e. red / yellow cards) in all Matches involving a removed or withdrawn Club / Team will be upheld.

16. FORFEITS

16.1 A Team will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:

- a) They fail to fulfill an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time, or venue; or
- b) They refuse or fail to begin a Match fifteen (15) minutes after the stipulated kick-off time; or
- c) They field less than seven (7) of their registered Players at the start of any Match; or
- d) At any point during the Match, they cannot field at least seven (7) of their registered Players.
- e) An ineligible Player as defined in these Regulations participates in the Match; or
- f) Any other scenario within the Regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.

16.2 In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, the following procedure will take effect:

- a) Three (3) points and three (3) goals will be allocated for the Match to the opposition Team, with the forfeiting Team receiving zero (0) points and three (3) goals against, unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is greater than three (3), in which case the score will remain the same, with goal scorers for the forfeiting Team to be removed. The forfeiting club may be fined One Thousand Kina (K1000.00)
- b) Where a forfeit has been applied:
 - i) The statistics (goal scorers and Matches played) of the non-offending Team will be retained; and
 - ii) The statistics (goal scorers and Matches played) of the offending Team will be removed.

- c) The offending Team will be fined the prescribed amount as outlined in Schedule 4 of these Regulations.
 - d) Where the offending Club is the away Club, they will be liable to pay compensation to the opposing Club for any reasonable expenses incurred and such compensation will be determined by the PNGFA Competition Department.
 - e) Where a Match is forfeited within 24 hours of the scheduled kick off time, the offending Club is required to pay all appropriate Match Officials fees, whether they were the home or away Club for the Match.
- 16.3 In the event a Club should forfeit a second Match during the season League, the offending Club may be deducted a further three (3) competition points from the League table of each League, the club may be fined a further One Thousand Kina (K1,000.00) and have 3 points subtracted from the league table, in addition to the procedure outlined in Section 2 Article 16.2.
- 16.4 In the event a Club should forfeit a third Match during the season in any League, the offending Club may be fined a further One Thousand Five Hundred Kina (K1,500.00), disqualified from participating in the competition, and be required to show cause to the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee why they should be invited to compete in the competitions in the following season, in addition to the procedure outlined in Section 2 Articles 16.2 and 16.3.
- 16.5 Should a Team forfeit its last scheduled Regular Round Match without prior written advice from PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee permitting the Match to be rescheduled, the Team that causes the Match to be forfeited will not be eligible to participate in the Championship series.
- 16.6 Should a Club forfeit all scheduled Matches in one round of the competition, the Club will be fined the prescribed amount as outlined in Schedule 1 of these Regulations and may be further referred to the Ethics and Disciplinary Committee.
- 16.7 On the competition ladder, a forfeit will count as a Match played.

17. POSTPONED MATCHES

- 17.1 Matches may only be postponed by the Referee or the PNGFA Competition Department.
- 17.2 A Match may be postponed if:
- a) The lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Referee it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play.
 - b) The Referee determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason; or
 - c) A significant injury occurs where a Player cannot be moved and an ambulance is required to attend, with the delay being longer than thirty (30) minutes.
- 17.3 In the event of any Match not being played, where neither Club has any control:

- a) The Match must be played within fourteen (14) days of the first postponement.
- b) Clubs will be given forty-eight (48) hours after the postponement to determine the new date, time, and venue.
- c) If Clubs cannot reach an agreement, or fail to comply, the PNGFA Competition Department will determine the new date, time, and venue to play the postponed Match. Such a decision is not open to appeal or review.

17.4 After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to any reason as outlined in Section 2 Article 17.2 and the Match cannot be completed in full, the following principles will apply:

- a) If eighty percent (80%) or more of normal time of a Match has been played, then the score at the time of postponement may stand.
- b) If the Match is postponed prior to half time and the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee has approved the Match to be rescheduled, then the Match is to be replayed in full.
- c) If the Match is postponed at or after half time and prior to eighty percent (80%) of normal time of a Match being played, and the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee has approved the rescheduled Match, the Match will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. In this circumstance, the following occur:
 - i. In the event a Match is postponed in accordance with Section 2 Articles 16.2 (a) or (b), the Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed, unless a Player has received a suspension in Matches conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match.
 - ii. In the event a Match is postponed in accordance with Section 2 Article 16.2 (c), the Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes as when the Match was initially postponed:
 - A. With the exception of the injured Player referenced in Section 2 Article 16.2 (c) who may be replaced by another Eligible Player, if the injured Player provides a medical certificate or similar document stating they are unfit to participate in the rescheduled Match.
 - B. With the exception of a Player who has received a suspension in Matches conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match.
 - iii. Should a Player have received a suspension in a Match conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match:
 - A. The Player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match.
 - B. The Player will not be able to count the Match as a stand down in relation to any Match suspension.
 - C. The Club will not be permitted to replace the Player on the Team sheet.

- D. If the Player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement, the Player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the Team sheet as long as the Team has available substitutions as per the Regulations.
 - E. If the Player was a substitute, the number of available Players to substitute will decrease and the Player cannot be replaced.
 - iv. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the Team sheet.
 - v. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was postponed.
 - vi. Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced.
 - vii. The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will endeavor to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however, may appoint replacements at its discretion.
 - viii. The Match Official is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the Match Official.
- 17.5 Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the Match was postponed, the PNGFA Competitions Department will treat the Match as postponed.

18. ABANDONED MATCHES

- 18.1 Matches may only be abandoned by a decision of the Referee. In the absence of a Referee, the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee shall have the designated authority to recommend the abandoning of any Match as deemed necessary by the PNGFA Competition Department.
- 18.2 A Match may be abandoned if:
- a) It is determined that the conditions for Players, coaches, Match Officials, and or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason; or
 - b) Both Teams refuse or fail to begin a Match fifteen (15) minutes after the stipulated kick-off time.
- 18.3 In cases where a Match has been abandoned by the Referee, the Disciplinary Tribunal may investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and impose such sanctions as it deems fit on Clubs, Club Officials, Players and/or spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment.
- 18.4 When a Match is not played or abandoned for any reason over which neither Club was responsible, the Match will be replayed on a date to be arranged at the earliest reasonable opportunity by the PNGFA Competition Department, in accordance with these Regulations.
- 18.5 Should a Club, Club Official, its Players, or spectators be found to have caused the

abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition.

- 18.6 Should both Clubs be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will not be replayed, and the outcome of the Match will be recorded as a no Match result in accordance with Section 2 Article 9.1.

19. PROTESTS

- 19.1 Protests must be lodged and received by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee no later than two (2) business days after the Match was played.
- 19.2 Protests will only be considered by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee for obvious breaches or errors of the IFAB Laws of the Game. For clarity, the decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether a goal is scored and the result of the Match, are final and cannot be protested.
- 19.3 No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered by the PNGFA Competition Department in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials.
- 19.4 Protests must be accompanied by an administration fee of Five Hundred Kina (K500.00) to be considered. The administration fee must be lodged together with the written protest. A refund will apply at the discretion of PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee if a protest is upheld.
- 19.5 A decision by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee in respect of a protest is final and binding on the parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.

20. WET WEATHER AFFECTED MATCHES

- 20.1 In all instances, where rain preceding a Match raises fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules are to apply:
- a) Day/s prior to the scheduled Match Day:
 - i. The home Club is to contact the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee if they believe their ground will not be fit for play on the scheduled Match Day.
 - b) Day of the scheduled Match/es:
 - i. The home Club is to:
 - A. Inspect their ground two (2) hours before the first scheduled kick off and should they believe the ground is not fit for play, contact the PNGFA Competition Department. The Club may also be requested to email photos of the affected areas of the pitch to the PNGFA Competition Department.
 - B. The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will advise the home Club of the appropriate next steps.
 - ii. Should Section 2 Article 20.1 b) i) A. not occur:
 - A. The Match Official is to inspect the ground prior to the scheduled kick

off and decide whether the Match can take place.

- B. Should the Match Official deem the Match unable to be played, they will advise the home Club of the decision, along with contacting the PNGFA Competition Department.
- C. The home Club is required to contact the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee and advise of the decision.

21. RESCHEDULING OF MATCHES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND

GROUND UNAVAILABILITY

- 21.1 Rescheduling of Matches affected by adverse weather or ground unavailability will be arranged by the relevant Clubs in the first instance.
- 21.2 Matches are to be rescheduled, subject to ground availability and weather conditions, to be played within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date.
- 21.3 Clubs will be given forty-eight (48) hours after the postponement to determine the new date, time, and venue.
- 21.4 The home Club is required to submit the report after confirming details with the away Club.
- 21.5 Failure to comply with Section 2 Articles 21.2 and 21.3 may result in PNGFA determining the new date, time, and venue to play the Postponed Match. Such a decision is not open to appeal or review.
- 21.6 A change of grounds is to be permitted for good reasons (i.e. venue becomes unavailable or adverse weather) up to the Thursday evening prior to weekend Matches, or at least two (2) days before mid-week Matches. In circumstances where such change is required, the following should occur:
 - a) The home Club is to notify the away Club that a change is required.
 - b) The home Club is required to submit the report, outlining the new Match details; and
 - c) The home Club is to contact the PNGFA to advise of the alteration.

22. TRIAL PERIODS

- 22.1 The home Club is required to submit the report after confirming details with the away Club.
- 22.2 Official trial periods will be communicated to Clubs in each respective League prior to the season commencing.
- 22.3 Clubs are to notify the PNGFA of their proposed trial dates by emailing the Competitions Department.
- 22.4 Trials are to conclude by the identified finish date. No trials are to be conducted prior to the advertised dates.

23. TRIAL MATCHES

- 23.1 Clubs will not arrange trial Matches without first submitting the Trial Match Request Form to PNGFA at least seven (7) business days prior to the requested trial Match date.
- 23.2 The Match can only be conducted upon receipt of written approval from the PNGFA Competitions Department. Trial matches may not be sanctioned, or their sanction status revoked for the following reasons.
- a) Match Officials cannot be appointed by the PNGFA to WCSL trial matches.
 - b) High risk Matches as deemed by the PNGFA.
 - c) Any other circumstances that are deemed by the PNGFA.
- 23.3 Payment for Match Officials at trial Matches will be fifty percent (50%) of the normal fee for the highest graded Team participating.
- 23.4 For approved trial Matches where PNGFA appoints the Match Officials, all Match Officials' fees will be paid by the PNGFA directly to the Match Officials and the Club who submitted the trial Match for approval will be invoiced the Match Officials' fees.
- 23.5 Where Match Officials cannot be appointed by the PNGFA to WCSL trial matches, the trial match will not be sanctioned.

24. OVERSEAS TOURS AND TRAVEL

- 24.1 Clubs wishing to arrange overseas tours and travel for football activities must obtain the written approval of the PNGFA not less than eight (8) weeks prior to departure. Should a Club submit the form less than eight (8) weeks prior to departure, the Club will incur an administration fee of Two Thousand Kina (K2,000.00).
- 24.2 The overseas tours and travel should not interfere with Matches of other Clubs in PNGFA competitions. Any overseas travel that may interfere with Matches must be played prior to overseas travel and arranged fourteen (14) days in advance by the departing Club. Failure to do so will result in overseas travel not being sanctioned by the PNGFA and forfeits applied.

25. REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

- 25.1 National Players registered in the FA COMET system, Status and Transfer Regulations will be eligible to represent PNG in representative Matches, training camps or tours.
- a) Each such Player will make themselves available for training, preparation and participation in representative Matches, training camps, or tours, when requested by the PNGFA.
 - b) All Clubs must release Players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative Matches camps or tours, when requested by the PNGFA.

SECTION 3 ELIGIBILITY & MOVEMENT

1. ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1.1 Eligible Players:

- a) An eligible Player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of these Regulations.

1.2 Ineligible Players include:

- a) A Player not registered in the Master List of the Club which they have participated with.
- b) Suspended Players.
- c) A Player who plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required, unless communicated otherwise.
- d) A Player who is required to stand down for receiving a suspension as a result of caution accumulation.
- e) A Player who is required to stand down for receiving a suspension as a result of Temporary Dismissal accumulation.
- f) A Player that has been expelled from a Match or suspended as a result of caution accumulation on the day/s prior to a Match but prior to receiving their Notice of Suspension, in accordance with the PNGFA Statutes.
- g) A Player that has been expelled from a Match on the same day as the Match but participated earlier in the day.
- h) A Player that is deemed ineligible due to any Article of these Regulations or pursuant to the PNGFA Statutes.

1.3 A Team will automatically lose a Match on forfeit if an ineligible Player participates in the Match.

1.4 Additionally, the Club, Team Official/s and / or Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the PNGFA Statutes.

1.5 Any Player who knowingly plays as an ineligible Player may be suspended for up to four (4) Matches and further sanctions may be applicable under the PNGFA Statutes.

1.6 For clarity, it is the Club's absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible Players in any Match.

1.7 Where a Club plays an ineligible Player:

- a) Any participating Club can make a claim on Player ineligibility to PNGFA.

- b) Any claims of ineligibility must be received within two (2) business days of the final whistle of the Match in question.
 - c) If the PNGFA finds that a Club has played an ineligible Player outside of the timeline in Section 3 Article 1.7 b), then the Club and Player may still be sanctioned in accordance with the PNGFA Statutes and Section 3 Articles 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of these Regulations.
- 1.8 Where a Club can prove to the satisfaction of PNGFA that an administrative error resulted in rendering a Player ineligible, PNGFA may deem the Player eligible.

SECTION 4 REGISTRATION

1. PLAYER STATUS

- 1.1 All Players in the 2024 WCSL competition must be registered as Amateur Players.
- 1.2 Clubs are required to ensure each Player has registered on the COMET system.
- 1.3 All Football Clubs must register their players before the deadline of Registration of players.
- 1.4 Players Registration fees must be paid to the PNGFA NSL bank account before a player is eligible to play.
- 1.5 A registration number shall be provided by the Comet system to all players registered and this registration number shall also become the player's identification number during the competition.
- 1.6 Each Football Club is eligible to register a maximum of forty (40) players. However, only twenty (18) players shall be listed in the Match Start List to play during any one match.
- 1.7 All registration of players must be on the prescribed form provided by the Comet System.
- 1.8 Registration of foreign players shall be dealt with in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status & Transfer of Players.
- 1.9 Any disagreement over registration of a player must be made on or before the close of business of the last working day prior to the first technical meeting or prior to the start of the competition. The NSL shall deal with this matter before commencement of the competition and no player is allowed to play without full clearance.
- 1.10 Window Transfer period is specifically for the transfer of already registered players from one Franchise Club to another. The Competition Manager or the Competition Coordinator shall inform all participating Clubs of the dates of the Window Transfer Period.
- 1.11 Any Franchise Club that is found guilty of fielding an unregistered player for whatever reason shall be imposed with a fine of One Thousand Kina (K1,000.00) and shall also forfeit the match points to the opposing team in the event of a win or a draw. In this case, the score shall be three (3) goals to nil (0).
- 1.12 Players are only allowed to participate in one PNGFA-sanctioned competition.
- 1.13 All copies of existing Player & Club Agreements/Contracts must be provided to the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee.

2. AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL PLAYER

2.1 This section is not applicable for the 2024 WCSL season.

3. REACQUISITION OF AMATEUR STATUS

3.1 A Player registered as a Professional Player in another competition cannot re-register as an Amateur Player until at least thirty (30) days after their last Match as a Professional Player.

4. REGISTRATION PERIODS

4.1 There are three (local) transfer window periods per the regulations.

- a) The first transfer window is prior to the commencement of the 2024 WCSL season. This transfer window closes one week before the commencement of the 2024 WCSL season's competition.
- b) The second transfer window opens two weeks prior to the completion of the regular competition matches and closes at the commencement of stage two of the 2024 WCSL competition.
- c) The third window transfer is at the end of the 2024 WCSL competition.
- d) All players' transfers between the football clubs shall be governed by the FIFA regulation on player status and transfers.
- e) Any player playing for any Football Club or team in the WCSL whose agreement has expired or is terminated can apply back to be registered to play in the PNGFA local competition upon satisfying the conditions and showing proof of termination of his agreement and a letter of release from the former franchising club. Football Clubs have no right to set conditions for the release letter for a player upon the termination of agreement of play.
- f) No transfer of players shall be allowed for any Football Club outside of the Transfer Window period.
- g) Administration fees for the transfer of the player prior to or during the competition shall attract the following fees imposed by PNGFA.
 - i. Current National Players – K500.00.
 - ii. Other Players – K250.00 across the board,

The Club requesting the transfer of a player shall pay 40% of the Transfer Fee to the PNGFA and the remaining 60% to the Club releasing the player.

- h) No player shall be permitted to play any match with his new club until all required transfer formalities have been met including payment of fees and a transfer certificate is completed by the Association and the player's old and new club.
- i) If the player transfer fee is paid directly to the PNGFA then PNGFA will have to transfer the 60% component of this fee to the releasing club. In the event a

player is not transferred from any other Club then the full amount shall be paid to PNGFA.

5. REGISTRATIONS OUTSIDE REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 5.1 An exemption may be provided by the PNGFA to a Club to register a Player outside of the registration period.
- 5.2 The PNGFA may approve an exemption for a Player to register outside of the registration periods if:
 - a) That Player is a goalkeeper and PNGFA has been satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence.
 - b) That Player is returning from a major injury and PNGFA has been satisfied that the Club has provided appropriate evidence.
 - c) At the commencement of the season, a Team has registered less than twenty-five (25) Players, and has contacted the PNGFA Competitions team via email prior to the pre- season registration period closing to advise; or
 - d) During the season, a Team's numbers are reduced as a result of season ending injuries to less than twenty-five (25) Players, and the Club has provided appropriate evidence.

6. REGISTRATION PROCESSES

- 6.1 Players:
 - a) A Player may only be registered with one (1) Club in each form of the game (i.e. eleven- a-side football) at any one time, in accordance with the Competition Regulation.
 - b) A Player registered with the PNGFA can play only for the Club nominated by that Player.
 - c) A Player registered to participate in the 2024 WCSL competition.
 - d) Amateur Players:
 - i. All Amateur Players must be registered via the COMET System.
 - ii. The Player must register via the COMET System and the Club shall then approve that Player's registration.
 - iii. The registration of an Amateur Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club.
 - iv. If a Player is registering to any Club for the first time, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original NID birth certificate, current passport, or a similar form of identification. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure this process is adhered to, including that

the Player is eligible to play in the 2024 WCSL competition to which they have been registered.

6.2 Club and Team Officials:

- a) All Club and Team Officials (including but not limited to coaches, managers, physiotherapists, and Club committee members) are required to register via the COMET System.
- b) The Club and Team Officials must register via the COMET System and the Club shall then approve that individual's registration.

7. SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATIONS

- 7.1 All registrations must be submitted via the COMET System, and a passport style photo (head and shoulders ONLY) is to be uploaded into the Player, Club Official or Team Official's profile within the communicated registration periods.
- 7.2 All Clubs must submit registrations for all Players, Club Officials or Team Officials as listed in these Regulations.

SECTION 5 MATCH-DAY

1. MATCH BALLS

- 1.1 The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will supply ten (10) match balls of the same brand, color, and weight for the various competition venues. At the conclusion of the matches, the Match balls must be returned to the Competition Department.
- 1.2 PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee are to ensure that Match balls provided are of a suitable quality.
- 1.3 Match balls are to be provided to the Match Officials no later than thirty (30) minutes before kick-off.

2. IDENTIFICATION

2.1 Players:

- a) Player identification (Passport or NID & Birth Certificates from the Civil Registry) are to be provided before the commencement of the competition to enable positive identification to participate.
 - i. Should it be determined that the Team has fielded an ineligible Player, the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee is to be contacted immediately for further guidance to determine if the Match is to continue or if it will be immediately forfeited in favor of the Team that did not breach the regulation.
 - ii. Should it be determined that both Teams fielded an ineligible Player, PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will determine whether the Match is to be replayed, void and if any sanction should be imposed on the Clubs, Club Officials and / or Players involved.
 - iii. Should any Team Official or Player refuse to follow the above procedure, the Match will immediately be forfeited to the opposing Team to the Official or Player that has refused to cooperate.
- b) Any Club, Team Official and / or Player that is found to have breached this Article may be sanctioned pursuant to the PNGFA Statutes.
- c) Failure of Teams to produce the Players Identification on request will result in a fine of One Thousand Kina (K1,000.00).

2.2 Team Officials

- a) All registered coaches and Team Officials will be issued identification passes.
- b) Only registered coaches and Team Officials in receipt of their official Competition identification pass will be permitted entry into the technical areas

(Team benches), field of play, dressing rooms and tunnel during Match days.

- c) Only the official Competition identification pass embossed with the correct year of competition will be eligible for use in that season.
- d) From the time of entry to the ground, coaches and Team Officials are required to have their official Competition identification pass clearly displayed on a lanyard on the outside of their clothing.
- e) Prior to kick-off, the 4th Official, the Referee, is required to check the technical area of both Teams and request any non-playing individual without an official Competition identification pass to leave the technical area. Should the individual refuse, the Match will immediately be forfeited to the Team that has not breached the Regulation. Any individual that causes a forfeiture in this regard may be subject to further sanctions pursuant to as per the PNGFA statutes.
- f) Failure to comply with any part of this Article will result in a fine of K1,000.00.

3. WARMING UP

- 3.1 The home Club, in conjunction with the Referee and/or PNGFA Competition Representative, where applicable, may determine if warm-up on the pitch is to be allowed as well as the location of the warm-up. This decision must consider time constraints, the weather and ensure such action does not cause detrimental impact to the quality of the playing surface for the Match.
- 3.2 During play, a maximum of five (5) Players from each Team may warm up at the same time, assisted by two (2) Team Officials, without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), in the identified warm-up area within the pitch perimeter fence.
- 3.3 The identified warm-up area is located behind the goal line nearest to the Team's own technical area. Should this space be deemed not suitable at a particular ground by the Referee, the secondary identified warm-up area is located along the touch line beside the Team's technical area, provided the substitutes are wearing bibs that are clearly contrasting, in accordance with Section 5 Article 4.5.

4. TECHNICAL AREA

- 4.1 For Matches, in all competitions, the technical area must be clearly marked out as stipulated in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 4.2 Seating will be supplied and placed in a position by the home Club in sufficient quantity to seat nine (9) people from each Team.
- 4.3 Only currently registered and eligible Players, Coaches and Team Officials are allowed in the technical area during Matches. For clarity, a Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the technical area.
- 4.4 All Team Officials in the technical area must wear their identification card at all times.
- 4.5 All Players in the technical area must wear a bib that contrasts with the colors worn by Players of both Teams, Match Officials and the bibs of the opposing Team.
- 4.6 All Team Officials in the technical area must wear clothing that contrasts with the kit

of the Players and Match Officials on the pitch. Should their clothing clash, they are required to wear a bib that does not clash with the colors of the Players and Match Officials.

4.7 Registered Team Officials must be listed on the Match Start List specific to the Match they are in the Technical Area for.

4.8 For the Technical Area:

- a) A maximum of seven (7) substitutes who are listed as substitutes on the Team sheet for that Match are permitted.
- b) A maximum of six (6) Team Officials (such as the coach, assistant coach, goalkeeper coach, trainer, team manager, doctor), who are listed on the Team Officials list for that Match are permitted.
- c) Seating shall be supplied by the home Team for nine (9) persons.
- d) All persons within the technical area must remain seated as per the IFAB Laws of the Game, except in special circumstances with the Match Official's permission.

4.9 As per Section 5 Article 3.2, substitutes are permitted to leave the Technical Area for the purposes of warming up.

4.10 Occupants of the technical area are always subject to the authority of the Referee at all times.

5. SUBSTITUTION

5.1 Substitution:

- a) The procedure for substitution is in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game. Substitutes can only enter the field of play during a stoppage in play, at the halfway line, after the Player being replaced has left and after receiving a signal from the Referee.
- b) Any substitute not named on the Match Start List prior to the Match may not take part in the Match.
- c) Each Team may, at its discretion, substitute five (5) Players across three (3) opportunities during a Match, including extra time.
 - i. Substitutions made at half time do not count towards the three (3) substitution opportunities.
- d) Once a Player is substituted, they cannot return to the field of play to participate in the Match.
- e) Substitute Players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the Match Official.
- f) Only Players that take the pitch are deemed to have participated in the Match.

- g) During the Championship series, should a Match go to extra time, one (1) additional substitution opportunity will be permitted, if Players are available (whether or not the Team has already used the full number of opportunities in accordance with Section 5 Article 5.1 c)).
- h) Any Club who makes more substitutions than allowed under Section 5 Article 5 will forfeit the Match, in accordance with Section 2 Article 16, regardless of whether the Match Official permits the substitution during the Match.

6. PLAYING STRIPS / CLASH OF COLOURS

6.1 Playing strips:

- a) The playing strips of a Club in the WCSL competition shall be as nominated by the Club prior to the commencement of the competition and endorsed by PNGFA Competitions Department.
- b) All Teams must nominate two (2) entirely different main and alternate playing strips to avoid any potential color clashes. Clubs may only play in their nominated Club strips, unless otherwise approved by the PNGFA Competitions Department.
 - i. No part of the alternate playing strip may be the same as the main playing strip.
- c) The PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will predetermine the playing strips to be worn by all Clubs for all regular round matches and Championship Matches.

6.2 Clash of colors:

- a) In the event that the Referee deems there to be a clash of colors with the predetermined strip, the home Team is required to change into an alternate strip. Away Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their main and alternate strips to ensure the clash is resolved.
- b) In the case of goalkeeper's colors clashing with either the opponent's field Players, goalkeeper, or the Match Official's kit, the Referee will determine which goalkeeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the away Team should change.
- c) In the case of a combination of main and alternate strip colors of both Teams with the Match Officials, the Referee will determine the final colors to be worn by all Players and Match Officials.

7. BALL PERSONS

7.1 Regular Round Matches and Championship Matches

- a) Where possible, for all matches, it is recommended that the PNGFA Competitions Department should provide eight (8) ball persons.

7.2 Ball person requirements:

- a) Ball persons may be 12-15 years of age.
 - b) Ball persons are to wear colors (i.e. a bib) that are distinct from those worn by the Players of both Teams and the Match Officials.
- 7.3 Regulations in Section 5 Article 7 may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Should this happen, the PNGFA Competitions Department will communicate any changes as required.

8. MATCH COMMISSIONERS

- 8.1 PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee may appoint Match commissioners to all Competition scheduled Matches.
- 8.2 A Match commissioner is an independent person who is appointed to observe the Match.
- 8.3 The Match commissioner will escort the Match Officials to and from the field of play prior to the game, and at both half and full time, unless security is appointed to the Match.
- 8.4 A Match commissioner is required to submit a report to PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee on the Club's compliance with the Regulations and ground compliance.
- 8.5 Should a Match commissioner report non-compliance, the Club may be sanctioned in accordance with the PNGFA Statutes.

9. MATCH START LIST

- 9.1 For all competition matches, PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee will use the COMET system.
- 9.2 All Match Start List for all Matches are to be completed online using the competition management system (COMET).
- 9.3 Each team must submit their Match Start List selection by 2:00pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled weekend Match. A failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of One Thousand Kina (K1,000.00).
- 9.4 When making their Player selection, Clubs are required to confirm the shirt number of each Player in the competition management system (COMET). This information will then appear automatically on the Match Start List next to the Player's name.
 - a) No Players from the same Team will be permitted to wear the same number on their playing strip.
 - b) All Players must have a shirt number listed on the Match Start List that corresponds with the number on their shirt.
- 9.5 Both Teams are required to double check, that their Player and Team Official selection information in the Match Start List is correct, and if required make amendments to the information on the Match Start List at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.

- 9.6 Each Team is required to review and confirm the opposition Team's Player and Team official selection information in the Match Start List is correct at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
- 9.7 Changes to the Match Start List will be permitted any time until ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time, at which time the following shall apply:
- a) Should a listed Player be removed from the starting line-up, that Player may only be replaced by a Player listed as a substitute on the Match Start List. The formerly starting Player may then be listed as a substitute. However, no other Player may be added to the Match Start List to replace any Player.
 - b) Should a listed substitute Player be removed from the Match Start List, the Team will not be permitted to list another Player on the Match Start List and the number of available substitutes will be decreased by one (1).
- 9.8 A maximum of eighteen (18) Players per Team are permitted to be listed in the Match Start List.
- 9.9 A COMET Administrator from each team is required to review the Match Start List at the completion of the Match to confirm the information listed is correct, including.
- a) Half time and full-time scores
 - b) Goal scorers are marked against the correct Player.
 - c) Disciplinary sanctions listed are marked against the correct Player.
- 9.10 Regardless of the competition, no Player is permitted to be listed on more than two (2) Team sheets on any Match Day.

10. CAUTIONS, EXPULSIONS AND TEMPORARY DISMISSALS

- 10.1 Clubs will receive the following automatic fine of Two Thousand Kina (K2,000.00).
- a) When five (5) or more Players or Team Officials from the same Team receive a caution, temporary dismissal or send off in the same Match.
 - b) When three (3) or more Players or Team Officials from the same Team are sent off in the same Match.
- 10.2 Failure to adhere to these directions may result in the imposition of further penalties issued by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee under these Regulations or other sanctions pursuant to the PNGFA Statutes, Articles 57, 58 & 59.

11. GROUND, FACILITIES AND PITCH REQUIREMENTS

- 11.1 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to
- a) Provide a venue that complies with the minimum requirements for all competitions as prescribed and promulgated by PNGFA from time to time.
 - b) Provide a safe environment for Players, Match Officials, Club Officials and

spectators.

- c) Ensure that the facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose.

11.2 All Clubs will be required to nominate to the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee a suitable ground/s to be used by their Teams for the season. All grounds are subject to approval by the PNGFA.

- a) Should any ground be deemed unacceptable for use for any reason during a season, PNGFA reserves the right to set the most appropriate course of action to conclude the season, including but not limited to rescheduling Matches to the “away Club” venue, setting Matches to a neutral venue, or forfeiting the Matches against the home Club.
- b) In all instances covered by Section 5 Article 15.2, any costs incurred in the rescheduling of Matches will be the responsibility of the original home Club.
- c) Unavailability of any ground due to neglect, non-payment of accounts or any other reason for which the home Club is responsible will result in a forfeit against the home Club.

11.3 Ground Set Up:

- a) Line markings must be clear, accurate and within the dimensions specified below:
 - i. For all Matches, a minimum length of 100 meters and a minimum width of 60 meters is required.
- b) In all Matches sanctioned by PNGFA, the home Club shall dress and undress the ground and ensure adequate line-marking, the nets are attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal and that corner flags are in place. All equipment needs to remain in place for the day.
- c) A home Club whose Match is postponed or abandoned due to failing to have the ground line marked or dressed appropriately will forfeit the Match.

11.4 Goals:

- a) All football goals that are installed as a permanent structure on a football pitch must be properly secured, installed at the regulation width and height as per the IFAB Laws of the Game and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.

11.5 Property damage and ground cleanliness:

- a) Any Club found guilty of causing damage to property at any ground shall be required to pay the total cost of repairing such damage or the total cost of replacement of such property and shall be subject to other such penalties and/or sanctions as PNGFA sees fit.
- b) Home Clubs or other such Clubs designated by the PNGFA must collect litter and leave grounds, spectator areas, dressing rooms, toilets and pavilions in a satisfactory condition and empty all bins into the supplied litter bin, or they shall pay cleaning costs and any further applicable sanction.

12. SMOKING AND DRINKING OF ALCOHOL AT VENUES

12.1 Smoking:

- a) Participants and spectators must adhere to the smoking guidelines for individual venues where they exist.
- b) Alternatively, it is prohibited for anyone to smoke within 10 meters of the field of play, change rooms and spectator amenities.

12.2 Should any person not adhere to any part of Section 5 Article 12 of these Regulations, both the individual, and if the person is a Club Official, that person's Club, may be fined in accordance with Schedule 1 of these Regulations and face disciplinary action.

13. SECURITY / POLICE

13.1 The home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behavior of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, Players and other officials during match days.

13.2 Where a report is made to PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee about spectator misbehavior having a material effect on the result of a Match and PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee validates the report, PNGFA may declare the Match result void and order the Match to be replayed on such ground, date and conditions as the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee determines. Additionally, the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee can deduct a maximum of up to three (3) points from the offending Club and/or impose such other sanctions as the PNGFA determines.

13.3 In the event of a Match being abandoned due to field invasion, the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee shall have the power to have the Match replayed, allow the result to stand, award a forfeit or declare the Match a no result for either Team. In determining sanctions, PNGFA will consider any reports submitted by the Match Officials or participating Clubs, with reports to be lodged with the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee no later than 5:00pm of the second working day following the date of the Match.

SECTION 6 MATCH OFFICIALS

1. MATCH OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 The appointment of all Match Officials officiating at Competition match fixtures shall be vested in the Management. Management is authorized to enlist the assistance of such persons as necessary and adopt such procedures as it deems most beneficial.
- 1.2 Non-compliance with the provisions in this section pertaining to appointments of match officials and match official fees, by Clubs or individuals, will be treated as a breach of the regulation.

2. MATCH OFFICIAL POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

- 2.1 The Match Officials are required to carry out all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 2.2 Unless otherwise stated, the Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.
- 2.3 The Referee may postpone or abandon a Match in accordance with any relevant articles of these Regulations.
- 2.4 At the conclusion of each Match, the Referee shall consult with their other Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Match information before completing and signing the Team sheet.
- 2.5 Match Officials are required to submit the necessary send-off reports and incident reports as per the Competition regulation.
- 2.6 Referee Assessors will submit to the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee a report on the performance of the Referee within three (3) days of the conclusion of the Match, should one be appointed to the Match.

3. WELFARE OF THE MATCH OFFICIALS

- 3.1 The Home Club will be solely responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the ground, until the time they depart the ground. Failure to carry out this requirement may result in a sanction and referred to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

4. MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

- 4.1 Prior to the commencement of the competition, the PNGFA will communicate to all Clubs and Referees the approved Match Officials fees for the season. These fees will come into effect immediately and are subject to change at any time.

- 4.2 Match Officials fees for all Championship Matches will be paid directly by the PNGFA to the Match Officials.
- 4.3 In the case of forfeits, postponements, and abandonments, where a Team is deemed to be at fault, the Match Officials fees will be due and payable by that Team.
- 4.4 Where Matches are postponed and abandoned through no fault of either Team, the Match Officials fees are payable by the PNGFA.

5. ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS

- 5.1 Match Officials appointed for their respective match must arrive at the ground no later than 45 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off of their first appointment. Failure to do so may result in sanctions being applied.

6. CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS FOR TEAM OFFICIALS

- 6.1 The Referee may take action against Team Officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and can issue a warning or a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surroundings (including the technical area).
- 6.2 If the offender cannot be identified, the senior Coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.
- 6.3 If a Medical Team Official commits a sending-off offence, they may remain in the technical area if the Team has no other medical person available, and act if a Player needs medical attention.
- 6.4 Failure to adhere to these directions may result in the imposition of further penalties issued by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee under these Regulations or other sanctions pursuant to the PNGFA Statutes, Articles 57, 58 & 59.

SECTION 7 AWARDS

1. TROPHIES & MEDALS

1.1 The awards offered to teams playing in the Finals Series and are officially declared winners are subject to the PNGFA Competition Standing Committee's determination and are as follows.

a) Team Awards

- i. Champion
 - A. Winner's Cup
 - B. Gold Medals
- ii. Runner-up
 - A. Runner-up Trophy
 - B. Silver Medals
- iii. 3rd Place
 - A. Consolation Prize
- iv. 4th Place
 - B. Consolation Prize

b) Individual Awards

- i. Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award winner for each conference
- ii. Golden Boot Award winner for each conference
- iii. Golder Glove Award winner for each conference

SECTION 8 GENERAL

1. CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH

- 1.1 Any breach of these Regulations or failure to comply with any direction given by the PNGFA may result in the imposition of a penalty issued by the PNGFA Competitions Standing Committee under these Regulations or other sanctions pursuant to the PNGFA Statutes, Articles 57, 58 & 59.

2. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

- 2.1 All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, spectators, or any person participating in a PNGFA sanctioned Match or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the PNGFA Statutes, Articles 57, 58 & 59.

3. MONIES OWING TO PNGFA

- 3.1 Monies owing by a Club:
- a) All amounts owed by a Club to the PNGFA must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice being issued by the PNGFA.
 - b) For monies still owed, after 30 days from the date of invoicing, a reminder notice will be sent to the Club.
 - c) For monies still owed after a period of 90 days from the date of invoicing, a notice will be sent to the Club stating they are unfinancial and will be unable to accumulate any regularseason points from that time, in any League.
 - i. Clubs may request a payment plan with the PNGFA to pay back those debts that remain unpaid beyond 90 days from invoicing. Where a payment plan is agreed to by the PNGFA:
 - A. The Club entering the agreement will be determined to be financial and may continue to play for points provided they abide by the terms of the agreement.
 - B. Where an agreement is not complied with, any points accumulated by the Club from 90 days from the date of the invoice/s to which the agreement relates will be deducted and removed.
 - ii. A Club subjected to this penalty will be notified in writing as to when the deduction of points will take effect.
 - iii. Clubs who are unfinancial, and have not entered into an agreement with PNGFA, will be ineligible for finals and unable to participate in any competitions.

- d) Notwithstanding Section 8 Article 3.1 a) & b), the PNGFA may, in its absolute discretion, either offset any transfer or compensation fees owed to the PNGFA by an unfinancial Club to the extent of the amounts owing or expel a Club if it does not comply with these Regulations.
- e) Clubs who are in debt to the PNGFA, where any of the debt amount is outstanding at any time after 31 October each year:
 - i. May at the absolute discretion of the PNGFA, be suspended from all competitions in which that Club competes.
 - ii. Have any rights or privileges in the activities of the PNGFA relating to that Club's participation suspended until all debts and obligations have been discharged, except where a dispute over fees remains unresolved.
- f) Where a Club has been suspended under Section 8 Article 3.1 e) i), the opposing Team will be awarded a forfeit, and the score will be recorded as 3-0.

3.2 Monies owing by an Individual:

- a) All amounts owed by an individual to the PNGFA must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by the PNGFA in relation to that amount.
- b) For monies still owing after the expiry of 30 days from the date of invoicing, individuals will be deemed ineligible for participation in any PNGFA sanctioned competitions.

4. STRICT LIABILITY OF CLUBS

- 4.1 A Club is liable for the misconduct of its participants under the PNGFA Statutes.

5. PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT FIXTURES

- 5.1 Where an international Match is scheduled for PNG, the PNGFA may determine that no competition fixture or sanctioned Match shall take place at the same time.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- 6.1 The PNGFA will have the power to consider special circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the Regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the game.
- 6.2 The decision by the PNGFA to review and consider special circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.
- 6.3 Nothing in these Regulations will prevent the PNGFA from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations.

7. SAVING AND TRANSITION

- 7.1 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Regulations, the PNGFA Competitions

Standing Committee have all the powers, authorities, duties, and functions in relation to the Premier League competition immediately prior to the commencement of these Regulations.

SECTION 9

ENDORSEMENT



For the PNG Football Association Executive Committee

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John Kapi Natto
President

..... / / 2024

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Gordon Manub
General Secretary

..... / / 2024

.....

Dan Kakaraya
Legal Counsel

..... / / 2024

Papua New Guinea Football (Soccer) Association Inc. (PNGFA)

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